

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson; Mr. Joe Wingate, Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. S. L. Jones. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Luke Mitchell, Assistant County Attorney; and various residents.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS –SIGN-IN SHEETS PROVIDED**

**A. ZONING CHANGE FROM R-20 TO AG – MIKE RANDALL**

Julia Shewchuk, Regional Commission, presented the request received from Planning and Zoning for Petition by Mike Randall to change the zoning on a 5.5 acre tract of land on the Madison Highway from R-20 zoning to AG. The property is currently the location of the Hopes and Dreams Riding Facility and Mr. Randall also has a request for Special Exception Request to allow them to have a personal care home at the location, pending the outcome of this request.

The SGRC recommended approval and was passed by the Planning and Zoning Commission for AG.

Chair asked if anyone was present that is for or against the request. Mr. Randall stated that the facility needs to grow due to the changes with Veteran Affairs and their desire to serve more vets. There was no one to speak against the request.

**B. Special Exception Request – Mike Randall**

Julia Shewchuk, Regional Commission, presented the request received from Planning and Zoning for Petition by Mike Randall for a Special Exception on a 5.5 acre tract of land on the Madison Highway. The property is currently the location of the Hopes and Dreams Riding Facility and Mr. Randall requests this exception to allow them to have a personal care home at the location. This request is contingent on his request in 5-A being approved, as the property is currently zoned R-20, which does not allow for the exception.

The request was recommended by the SGRC and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Chair asked if anyone present wished to speak against the request; no one was present.

**C. Special Exception Request – Nancy Serena Johnson**

Julia Shewchuk, Regional Commission, presented the request received from Planning and Zoning for Petition by Ms. Nancy Serena Johnson to allow Special Exception at 125 Roberts Road for a Commercial Kennel to be owned and operated on their 24 acre parcel, currently zoned AG. The kennel has already been approved by the State.

The request was recommended by the SGRC and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. No one was present to speak for or against.

**D. Road Abandonment – Scout Road**

Administration received a request from Mr. Kenny Robinson, for the closure of Scout Road that runs between Hilda Road and Dixie Road. Mr. Robinson owns the property on both side of Scout Road, and the closure would not prevent any other residents in the area from accessing a paved road, either County Road 78 or the Dixie Road. Mr. Robinson states that motorist that use Hilda Road as a cut through are littering and the litter becomes a problem for him as he owns all the property there and wishes the County would consider closing this road.

No one present spoke for or against the closing of Scout Road.

**E. Road Abandonment – Bentley Circle**

Administration received a request from Leslie Marasco, daughter of Ms. Martha Bentley, to request the County consider their request to begin the road closure proceedings for Bentley Circle. There is only a single residence on Bentley Circle, which serves Ms. Bentley's home, and the remaining property does not utilize Bentley Circle for access, it uses the Adel Highway, Highway 76.

No one spoke against the road closing.

Chair closed Public Hearings at 5:36 p.m.; and went into the work session.

**WORK SESSION**

**Reports from Committees/Departments**

**A. Stephanie Hollifield – UGA Extension** – Ms. Hollifield was not present; but provided copies of monthly newsletter; which included review of activities for April.

**B. Glenn Walker - Public Works** – Glenn Walker, Road Superintendent, reported on work completed for month of April:

- 6-911 calls; 14 side arm jobs completed; and 14 pot holes repaired.

- 37 roads graded; Burton Road is complete. Will be completing Blease Road on Tuesday; will start Ochlawilla and Rocky Ford Road by Wednesday.
  - 1997 Excavator needs repair, will cost \$87,754. Board advised to look into the purchase of a new Excavator.
  - Commissioner Cody asked about mowing in his area.
- C. Ben DeVane – County Engineer**
- 2015-2016 LMIG has been advertised and three bids were received for 15.7 miles of widening, leveling and resurfacing.

Chair closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:36 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** – Ms. Exum called meeting to order.
  - A. **Prayer & Pledge** – Bro. Jim Pitts, Morven Baptist Church, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
  - A. **May 2, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting** - Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Maxwell seconded; vote was unanimous.
3. **Approval of Minutes**  
 On a motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate; the Board unanimously approved the following minutes:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| A. Work Session & Regular Meeting & Executive Session | April 4, 2016  |
| B. Special Called Meeting                             | April 12, 2016 |

4. **Appearances**
  - A. **Roy Kirkland – Facilities Request (Courtroom and Courthouse Grounds)**  
 Administration received a request from Mr. Roy Kirkland, a movie producer from Valdosta, for permission to use the Courthouse grounds and the Courtroom starting June 16 until June 19. Mr. Kirkland's outfit, RKDS Entertainment has worked with other county/city agencies in the past and also filmed in other County Courts. Mr. Kirkland's movie will be a story about Spook Bridge and the story of an out-of-town reporter who visits Quitman to investigate recent crimes and the legend of a curse.

Administration has already spoken with the Clerk's office and there are no scheduling conflicts with the requested dates at the courthouse. Administration recommends off-duty deputies accompany Mr. Kirkland's crew when present in

the courthouse, as two of the days requested are on the weekend. The grounds will be used for some exterior shots in his film.

The motion was made by Mr. Jones to approve the use of the Courtroom and Courthouse grounds starting June 16<sup>th</sup> until June 19, 2016 by Mr. Kirkland to produce a film about Spook Bridge, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Armogene Natson – Crusaders for Christ Church Day Camp**

Ms. Armogene Natson submitted a request to appear and discuss a summer program and activities for youth in Brooks County, provided by her church. Ms. Natson stated the Day Camp will offer Christian based curriculum, free breakfast and lunch; youth classes; pre-teen classes; helping hands classes and teen challenge classes.

**5. New Business**

**A. Zoning Change from R-20 to AG – Mike Randall**

Mr. Jones made the motion to approve the zoning change request on a 5.5 acre tract of land currently the location of Hopes and Dreams Riding Facility on the Madison Highway from R-20 to AG, Mr. Wingate seconded; vote was unanimous.

**B. Special Exception Request – Mike Randall**

On the motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board unanimously approve the special exception request on a 5.5 acre tract of land; currently the location of Hopes and Dreams Riding Facility, to allow them to have a personal care home at the location.

**C. Special Exception Request – Nancy Serena Johnson**

Motion was made by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody to approve the special exception request to allow a Commercial Kennel on 24 acre parcel located at 125 Roberts Road. Vote was unanimous.

**D. Road Closure Request (Scout Road) –** Mr. Wingate made the motion, Mr. Maxwell seconded, to approve the request to abandon Scout Road; the road no longer serve public needs. Vote was unanimous.

**E. Road Closure Request (Bentley Circle) –** Motion made by Mr. Wingate to abandon Bentley Circle; due to the road no longer serving public needs, Mr. Jones seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**F. Bid Approval/Budget Amendment – Repairs to DeVane Road Bridge**

Road Department requested bids from several contractors for repairs needed to the DeVane Road Bridge. Two separate incidents occurred where vehicles struck the railing on the bridge. GDOT inspectors have reviewed the site and determined there is no structural damage; but repairs are needed. One bid was acquired from Southern Concrete Construction for \$10,200; and can be approved from SPLOST 5 if funds are not available from general fund. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve bid received from Southern Concrete Construction to repair bridge on DeVane Road; and funds will come from contingency; Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**G. Bid Approval/Budget Amendment – FY2016 LMIG Project**

Three bids were received:

1.	H & H Paving	\$1,919,163.60
2.	Reames	\$2,304,082.88
3.	Scruggs	\$2,409,547.45

On a motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously awarded the bid for FY2015 and 2016 LMIG to H & H Paving; funds will come from SPLOST 5.

**H. Bid Approval – Multi-purpose Building Roof** – One bid was received from Roof Services, out of Albany, GA, in the amount of \$39,456; second bid received was not a complete bid package. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the bid for \$39,456 for the roof project at the Multi-purpose Building; and the funds will come from contingency; seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous.

**I. Bid Approval – Road Department Office Roof** – One bid was received from Roof Services, Albany, GA, for \$7,276. Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the re-roof project for Road Department Office in amount of \$7,276 with funds coming from contingency. Mr. Maxwell seconded; vote was unanimous.

**J. Bid Approval/Budget Amendment – Electrical Work for Hwy 76 Radio Tower** – 911 Director, Mike Smith, received bids for electrical work to be done at the proposed site for the north Brooks County radio tower site. 911 has \$10,000 available in General Fund budget for equipment that can be used; as the radio equipment will not probably be available until next budget year. The low bid was J & J Heating and Air for \$2,592; second low bidder was Cowart for \$2,695. Funds may also be used from SPLOST 6 if budget needs change. On the motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board unanimously awarded bid to

J & J Heating and Air for \$2,592 for electrical work at proposed site for North Brooks County radio tower site.

**6. Unfinished Business**

**A. Zoning Change from DR-20M to AG – Patsy Mobley** - Planning and Zoning received a request from Patsy Mobley for a change in zoning type from DR-20M (residential) to AG (agricultural). On March 15, the Brooks County Planning Commission recommended that the most appropriate zoning for the property would be Rural Residential (RR), due to the residential character of the surrounding property. Classification as RR, would still entitled the owner to certain agricultural uses, but not open the property up to other farming techniques that could negatively impact surrounding properties. This item was tabled during April meeting.

Ms. Mobley informed the Board the proposed Buyer is no longer interested in purchasing the property. On the motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously approved the request for zoning change from DR-20M to Rural Residential (RR).

**B. Boat Ramp Request Update** - Administration received a request from Mr. Tony McRae to appear before the Board to request the County consider building a public boat ramp on the Withlacoochee River.

**Update 5/2/16:** Administration has spoken to Army Corps of Engineers concerning a permit for a new boat ramp. Administration has received the information, but to submit the application we would need to propose a location and prepare a design proposed for the application for a permit.

Administrator recommended contacting a Real Estate agent to see if they would assist in finding a suitable location for a boat ramp. The Board authorized Administrator to proceed with recommendation to find a Real Estate agency to see if they would assist; and continuing looking at other options.

**C. Animal Control Update** - Administration met with the City of Quitman at their last Regular Council Meeting to discuss an agreement for Animal Control. The City declined to work with the County, therefore if the Board wishes to move forward, administrator would need to request RFQs from third party agencies.

With a motion by Mr. Wingate, Board authorized Administrator to proceed with putting out a Request for Proposal to see if get any response; and to continue

pursuing options for animal control, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments - None**

**8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

**A. Joe Wingate - District 1** – Commented on good job by Road Department on Burton Road; and to continue the good work.

**B. S. L. Jones, District 2** – Commented on road conditions.

**C. Willie Cody, District 3** – No comments.

**D. Myra Exum, District 4** – No comments.

**E. James Maxwell, District 5** – No comments.

**9. Executive Session – None**

**10. Adjournment** - Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.; Mr. Wingate seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson

Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk