

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, August 7, 2017 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. Willie Cody; and Mr. S. L. Jones; and Mr. James Maxwell. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; and various residents.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 5:00 P.M.**

**A. REQUEST FOR ZONING CHANGE – ALAN SIMPSON** – Planning and Zoning received a request from Mr. Alan Simpson to Change Zoning of 7.25 acres of land along the Valdosta Highway and Troupeville Road from Agricultural Use (AG) to Highway Commercial (CH). The property is located at 19664 Valdosta Highway, Map 146, parcel 11-A. SGRC Staff presented the request to the Brooks County Planning and Zoning Commission on July 25, 2017 and was recommended for approval by that Board. The request is not expected to interfere with surrounding properties as many have been or recently changed to similar zoning types.

Ms. Sherry Davidson, Senior Planner, SGRC, presented the request stating it meets the zoning and the Comprehensive Plan requirements of Brooks County. Chair asked if any one present wish to speak for or against the zoning change; no one was present to speak. Chair closed Public Hearing at 5:03 p.m. to go into the Work Session.

**WORK SESSION** – Chair Exum called Work Session to order.

**Reports from Committees/Departments**

**A. Jordan Smith – Fire Department** – Mr. Smith he has been busy since assuming position of Fire Coordinator building the Fire Department.

- Training Center is well underway; the Fire Department symbol has been placed in concrete; and should be in building in two months.
- New volunteers are still needed; and can join anytime.
- 12 new volunteers have been added across the County.
- The full-time Fire Fighter, Eli Hemingway, will be leaving at end of the month. That position will change from full-time to part-time; which will allow for 4 Fire Fighters to be on duty at all times.
- Requesting the Board amend the Budget by \$4,000; to make the switch from two full-time to one full-time; and three part-time.

**B. Glenn Walker – Public Works** – Mr. Walker presented updates for month of July 2017.

- There were 95 work orders, 29 for motor grading and 9 for roads. 15 trees were removed; 11 side armed roads.
- 23 – 911 calls; 15 for trees; and 8 for signs.
- 4 roads with pot holes were filled; 64 bags of sand used.

- Completed rounds with mowers.
- Spare Motor Grader has transmission problems; eventually will be back on duty.

**B. Ben DeVane – County Surveyor/Engineer** – presented project updates.

- Bids were opened on July 13<sup>th</sup> for the 2017 LMIG. Four bid packets were submitted. Estimated cost is 1,160,949.00.
- H & H Paving had lowest bid of \$1,052,429; which was recommended by Mr. DeVane.
- Working on survey for the water main extension on Madison Highway and Johnson Short Road. The County and City will share the cost; as it is for the landfill.
- Working on the TSPLOST with Administrator; which has to be submitted by August 31, 2017.

Chair closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:19 p.m.

**1. Call to Order** – Ms. Exum called meeting to order.

**A. Prayer & Pledge** – Brother Jim Pitts, Morven Baptist Church, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**A. August 7, 2017 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. Cody, seconded by Mr. Wingate, the Board unanimously approved the following minutes:

- A. Work Session & Regular Meeting July 10, 2017
- B. Special Called Meeting and Executive Session August 1, 2017

**4. Appearances**

**A. CJ & Betty Keel – Road Closure Request (Portion of Dean Road)** – Administration received a request from Mr. CJ Keel concerning a request to close portion of Dean Road. Dean Road runs west to east from Tallokas Road to Branch Road. Mr. Keel's family owns land on the north side of Dean Road and would like to see the entire road closed but would settle for just the portion that runs adjacent to their property.

Administrator has been contacted by one of the property owners along the road, Mr. Zane Robinson, who is against the road closure.

Mr. Keel is requesting that the County consider starting the Road Closure process. The process includes a public hearing and direct letters mailed to all property owners on Dean Road.

Mr. CJ & Betty Keel presented their request to close a portion of Dean Road. They stated no one will be denied access to their property. There are no houses, postal service or school buses that travel the road. Mr. Wingate stated he has received calls against the road closure; and that farmers use the road. He stated he feels no need for public hearing.

The request by Mr. & Mrs. CJ Keel was denied on a motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Brooks County Touchdown Club- Request for Use of Facilities (Courthouse Grounds)** – The Brooks County Touchdown Club submitted a request to use the Courthouse Grounds to hold an event to honor and recognize the 2017 Trojan Football Team. The requested use is for August 12<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mr. Calvin Williams appeared and stated he had spoken with Chamber of Commerce regarding use of the Gazebo. The event is a “meet the Trojans Football Team day” and to encourage club membership for further team support. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the use of the Courthouse Grounds on August 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to recognize the 2017 Trojan Football Team, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Amy Swails – Zika Virus Overview** – Administration received a request from Ms. Amy Swails from the Southern Health District to provide information to the Board regarding the Zika Virus. Ms. Swails stated she wanted to provide information, outreach, education; and prevention of Zika Virus.

- Zika Virus can be spread through the bite of a mosquito; and also through sex.
- Best way to prevent Zika is to prevent mosquito bites.
- Zika is linked to birth defects (microcephaly, eye/ear defects, neurological deficiencies).
- Main concern is travelers infected with Zika that can spread the virus through mosquito bites.
- Mosquito biting season is May to October (Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus).

## **5. New Business**

**A. Request for Zoning Change – Alan Simpson** – The motion was made by Mr. Wingate; seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve the request from Mr. Alan Simpson to Change Zoning of 7.25 acres of land along the Valdosta Highway and Troupeville Road from Agricultural Use (AG) to Highway Commercial (CH). The property is located at 19664 Valdosta Highway, Map 146, parcel 11-A.

**B. Appointment to the Brooks County DFCS Board** – Administration received a letter from the Brooks Co. DFCS Board that the appointment for Jackie McLeod had expired on June 30, 2017 and that a replacement for Ms. McLeod would be required. Ms. McLeod represents District 4; which is Ms. Myra Exum's District. The new appointment will serve a 5 year term and meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Qualifications are included. Ms. Exum stated she does not have a recommendation at this time; but will bring back one to the Board at the September regular meeting. The Board unanimously tabled this item on the motion by Mr. Wingate; seconded by Mr. Jones.

**C. Purchase of Dodge Charger for Sheriff's Office** – Sheriff Dewey submitted a request to purchase a 2009 Dodge Charger from former Coroner, Mike Miller for \$8,000. The car has 66,000 miles and book value is \$10,000. The Sheriff will move his current vehicle to the department; and take the 2009 Dodge Charger. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve purchase of 2009 Dodge Charger from Mike Miller in amount of \$8,000; and funds will come from Contingency Fund, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**D. Bid Approval/Budget Amendment – New Backup Generator for South Radio Tower from SPLOST 6 Funds** - Administration received a request from 911 Director for replacement of the generator at the South Radio Tower. Three bids were received and the low bidder was Cowart at \$8,050. Funds can be used from SPLOST 6 Technologies Account. The switch board system is not operating as it should and needs to be replaced so that the transition to backup power is seamless. The generator itself is fine and can be relocated to another location like a fire station where immediate power is not necessary, however, in this year alone, the unit has failed to automatically switch to backup power, causing our 911 system to lose the south radio tower. On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously approved purchase of new Backup Generator for South Radio Tower in amount of \$8,050; and funds will come from SPLOST 6 Technologies Account.

**E. Bid Approval/Budget Amendment 0 FY2017 LMIG Project – H & H Paving** - The County received two bids, from Reames and H&H Paving for the FY2017 LMIG project. H&H Paving was the apparent low bidder, with a base bid of \$1,052,429. For 2017, GDOT LMIG funds were around \$625,000, which the County is required to provide a cash match of 30% or greater. H & H Paving was awarded the bid for the FY2017 LMIG Project in amount of \$1,052,429 with funds to come from GDOT LMIG and matching funds from SPLOST 6, on the motion by Mr. Wingate and seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous. Administrator also warned the Board that the matching funds from SPLOST 6 would be almost half of what was budgeted in the six year tax for roads.

**F. June 29<sup>th</sup> Special Called Meeting Minute Amendment** - Administrator requested the Board amend minutes from the June 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting to change wording to read that the Board voted to approve the General Fund Budget for \$10,025,721 and Special Revenues Funds, Expenditures and Revenues totaling \$2,298,981. Mr. Cody made the motion; Mr. Wingate seconded, to approve the amendment of the minutes from the June 29<sup>th</sup> Special Called Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

**6. Unfinished Business** - None

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments** – Administrator received a request from the City to participate with them again on the 2018 Okefenokee Occasion in Atlanta. Money was appropriated in this year's budget to participate. The cost for City/County is \$1,500 and will be split. Each agency will get 5 tickets. The Board approved to continue support in the 2018 Okefenokee Occasion with City of Quitman on the motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Jones. Vote was unanimous.

Administrator stated to the Board, due to the Labor Day Holiday on the first Monday in September; the regular meeting will be held the second Monday, September 11, 2017.

## **8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

**A. Joe Wingate - District 1** – Commented and complimented Administrator on the great job for the Back To School Block Party. He stated he has received requests from residents for the Georgia State Patrol to put a Post back in Quitman for driver license renewals. He mentioned of sign need for Timbo Circle for no outlet. Also, inquired about Solar regulations in Brooks County.

**B. S. L. Jones, District 2** – Trucks are tearing up Nankin Road to Clyattville Road causing it to hold water.

**C. Willie Cody, District 3** – Commented on not seeing Old Thomasville Road on the Work Order report for mowing. When road was graded on Morning Star Road; dirt was pulled in the driveway.

**D. Myra Exum, District 4** – Commended Administrator on great job on the Back to School Block Party; and hopes the event can be continued. Ms. Exum reminded everyone of school being back in; to look out for children, buses on the highway; and keep the dirt roads in good shape so can arrive safely home.

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

**9. Executive Session – None**

**10. Adjournment** - Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:07 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson  
Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator  
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk