

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, March 6, 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. James Maxwell; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. S. L. Jones. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; and various residents.

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

**A. Request for Zoning Change – Clay Browning 19664 Valdosta Highway**

Building and Zoning received a request from Clay Browning to change the zoning of a 69.18 acre parcel located at 19664 Valdosta Highway in unincorporated Brooks County from BR (Business Retail) to CH (Highway Commercial). Ms. Sherry Davidson, Planner, SGRC, presented the request and stated SGRC Staff recommends approval of the Petition by Mr. Browning to change the zoning. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval on during their meeting on February 21, 2017.

Board had no questions; no one present spoke for or against the request.

**B. Request for Zoning Change – John E. Culpepper, Sr. 5519 Grooverville Road**

Building and Zoning received a request from John E. Culpepper, Sr. to change the zoning of a 1.1 acre parcel located at 5519 Grooverville Road in unincorporated Brooks County from AG (Agricultural) to BR (Business Retail). Mr. Culpepper wishes to establish a retail store in the community. Ms. Sherry Davidson, Planner, SGRC, presented the request and stated SGRC Staff recommends approval of the Petition by Mr. Culpepper to change the zoning. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval on during their meeting on February 21, 2017.

Board had no questions; no one present was in opposition of the request.

Chair closed the Public Hearing at 5:04 p.m.; and went into the Work Session.

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

**Reports from Committees/Departments**

**A. Glenn Walker - Public Works** – Glenn Walker, Road Superintendent, provided report on work completed for month of February:

- Four 911 calls; three involving trees, 67 work orders with Motor Grader and Side Arm; 18 potholes; used. 103 bags of sand.
- Have spent 16 days picking up trees from storm;
- Mowing tractor is down; is at John Deere place; repair estimate is \$9,000. Working on getting other estimates from vendors.
- Administrator informed Board of letter from DOT regarding bridge replacement on Old Madison Road (CR 245) over Piscola Creek. DOT will provide preliminary

engineering, construction and half of the cost of right-of-way. County will provide support and agree to pay for the remaining cost of any right-of-way needed for the project. Board agreed to support project.

- B. Ben DeVane – County Surveyor/Engineer** – presented project updates.
- Barwick Road has been striped and is complete.
  - 2015-2016 LMIG will be completed in approximately 30 days.
  - Working with FEMA for storm damage assessment; working on 66 sites; 43 are on one road. FEMA will come on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Complimented the Road Department on good job done during a bad situation.
  - Citizens have complained to Mr. Maxwell regarding Liberty Church Road; asked Mr. DeVane to take a look at to put on the construction list.
  - The intersection of Empress Road and Johnson Short Road needs signs and/or rumble strips to slow traffic down.
- C. Jordan Smith – Fire Department** – Was on fire call. Administration informed the Board that Fire Class started last week; 15 possible new members. He stated things are going well with the department.
- D. Tiffany Holmes – Development Authority** – Provided updates:
- Improvements are being made to downtown area.
  - Camelia week was huge success.
  - Expecting big announcement from Governor's Office on March 9, 2017.
  - Potential interest in solar project; working with a company to improve Christmas decoration; improving medians downtown; and pressure washing sidewalks.

Chair closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:27 p.m.

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

**A. Prayer & Pledge** – Gwen Jarriel, Pastor, Quitman Church of God, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**A. March 6, 2017 Regular Monthly Meeting** – Chair advised the Board of change to the Appearance section to include Dana Watson, Brooks County Health Department, by adding Item D to the agenda. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Cody 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

February 6, 2017

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 6, 2017

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**4. Appearances**

**A. Facilities Request – Lovejoy Chapter #246 for Courthouse Grounds** – Lovejoy Chapter #246 submitted a request to use the Brooks County Courthouse for April 8, 2017 for their annual Easter Egg Hunt from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve Lovejoy Chapter #246 request to use the Courthouse grounds on April 8, 2017 for their annual Easter Egg Hunt from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Facilities Request – Eddye Averett (Ag Annex Building)** - Administration received a request from Ms. Eddye Averett for permission to rent the Ag Annex Building June 10, 2017 for a memorial service honoring the late Rev. Ronnie Averett. Rev. Averett was the pastor of Calvary Christian Center located in Quitman. The request from Ms. Eddye Averett to rent the Ag Annex Building on June 10, 2017 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. was approved unanimously on the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Jones.

**C. Facilities Request – Eddye Averett (Courthouse Grounds)** – Ms. Eddye Averett submitted a request for permission to use the Courthouse Grounds on June 11, 2017 as part of the memorial service honoring the late Rev. Ronnie Averett. This request is for a Sunday event lasting around two to three hours. There are churches that have services Sunday morning and evening around the Courthouse and also use the parking spaces in that area, so Administration would advise that if the event is approved, that it be scheduled during a time when the other churches are not in service during the mid-afternoon. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the use of Courthouse grounds for memorial service to honor the late Rev. Ronnie Averett on June 11, 2017 from 2 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.; but no later than 5 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**D. Dana Watson, Brooks County Health Department** – Ms. Watson stated she had been with Health Department since June 2016; and just wanted to come and introduce herself to everyone.

**5. New Business**

**A. Request for Zoning Change – Clay Browning 19664 Valdosta Highway** – Mr. Jones made the motion to approve the request by Clay Browning to change the zoning of 69.18 acre parcel located at 19664 Valdosta Highway from BR (Business Retail) to CH (Highway Commercial), Mr Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. HB 170 TSPLOST Resolution** - Administration has received a request from GDOT for a resolution either supporting or not supporting a region call for a 1-cent sale tax like SPLOST to be established for transportation improvements. HB 170, passed in 2015, also known as the Transportation Funding Act of 2015, allow Counties that are in regions

where the original TSPLOST referendum failed, to once again try to establish it. More information is included in this item, but briefly:

- Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (HB 170 and HB 106)
  - OCGA 48, Chapter 8, Article 5A
  - Allows majority of counties in region to trigger regional transportation sales tax process.
  - Allows individual counties to levy single county transportation sales tax after July 1, 2017 (except in Atlanta region).
  - Amendments to HB 170 that only apply to single county transportation sales tax.

By passing a resolution, it would allow the creation of a regional roundtable, but does not mean tax is created. It must still be voted on by a majority of voters in the region. Should regional method fail, there is still the opportunity for a single county tax to be created. On a motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously approved proceeding with resolution to join the Regional Commission for TSPLOST Roundtable for consideration of imposing a one cent sales tax for the purpose of funding transportation infrastructure improvement in the region.

**D. Proposals for Box Culvert Repair on Magnolia Church Road** – Administration has received a request for immediate repair from Mr. Glenn Walker, Road Superintendent. The concrete box culvert on Magnolia Church Road is being undermined by flowing waters and is creating a future issue that the County should try to solve before additional damage is done. Mr. Walker has received proposals from two contractors, Griffin Concrete and Wilkes Concrete. Griffin submitted the low bid of \$8,400. Administration recommends the project be awarded to Griffin, as there has been issues with this culvert in the past and it is in need of a more permanent solution. Administration recommends funds to be used from the Road Department's Culvert/Pipe line item. On the motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved the proposal from Griffin Concrete, LLC in amount of \$8,600 for repairs to the concrete box culvert on Magnolia Church Road; and funds will come from Road Department's Culvert/Pipe line item.

**6. Unfinished Business** - None

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments**

**A. Possible County Property Surplus (Land)** – Administration has received a listing of properties currently owned by Brooks County by the Tax Assessor's Office. Properties highlighted in yellow are possible surplus properties that may be sold or currently no longer in use by Brooks County. We have highlighted ten properties that should be considered for surplus. After discussion, Administrator suggested bidding out the small parcels first; which includes: Voting Building at Hickory Head & Grooverville, Barney Voting House; Brooks County Voting Building in Pavo; and two tracts on Adel Highway. Mr. Cody made the motion to proceed with ad to accept bids on the five smallest

parcels of surplus land; Chair Exum called for a second two times; motion failed for lack of a second.

**B. Service Delivery Strategy Updates** – Administration provided copy of the updated Comp Plan for Brooks County and municipalities; which has been sent to the cities for review. He advised the Board they can make suggestions or add to it. Most of the changes reflected the cities, Morven, Pavo Barwick. A public hearing will be held on April 3, 2017 during the regular meeting. Mr. Wingate motioned to approve the submittal letter to be sent to DCA, Mr. Jones seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

**A. Joe Wingate - District 1** – Commented on work for Nichols Pond Road and Magnolia Church Road

**B. S. L. Jones, District 2** – Inquired regarding the status on the re-roof at Administration Building. Bids will be taken on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**E. James Maxwell, District 5** – Commented regarding trees on Peggy Wilson's property, on Hamlin Road, being cut down by private individual to move home down road. County Staff is not sure who that was or who gave permission.

**9. Executive Session – None**

**10. Adjournment** - Mr. Wingate made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:21 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

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