

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, February 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. S. L. Jones, Chairman; Mr. Joe Wingate, Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Howard Lawson; and Mr. Willie Cody. Others present were: Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; Mr. Mark Deatcher, Public Works Director; and various residents.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman called workshop to order.

### **Workshop – County Roads and Equipment Issues**

Public Works Director, Mr. Mark Deatcher, reported:

Pauline Church Road is in need of improvement, it is sinking. He advised Board if it is repaired, it would need to be redone two to three years. He recommended digging up pavement and resurface approximately 630 feet of the road. He acquired an estimate to remove concrete and apply new base form H & H Paving in amount of \$36,933.00. Board advised the project would have to be put out to bid, since the amount exceeds what is allowed according to Brooks County Purchasing Policy. County Engineer will call DOT to see how they would do it.

Mr. Ben DeVane provided Board with a final copy of the LMIG Project List for 2012 that will be sent to DOT.

Mr. DeVane also informed Board he spoke with DOT in regards to Ms. Donna Fuller's driveway. Ms. Sonja Thompson advised that DOT is not ready to release right-of-way, awaiting vegetation, it will be sometime in June.

Chairman closed workshop at 5:23 p.m. for recess until 5:30 p.m.

### **Call to Order/Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman called regular meeting to order; Mr. Wingate led all in attendance in Prayer and pledge of allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda and Amendments**

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board unanimously approved to amend the agenda to move Elections #6 to #1 to replace Destination Brooks Update under Appearances; move CDBG Grant (Sherry Davidson) to #6 under Appearances; and Staff Update to #7.

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Chairman closed regular meeting for Public Hearing.

**Public Hearing – Rezoning Application – AG Zoning District to CH Zoning District**

Ms. Sherry Davidson, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, presented a Petition by Gwen W. Rountree for the Ava S. Wheeler Trust for a change in zoning from AG (Agricultural) Zoning District to CH (Commercial Highway) Zoning District for speculative commercial uses on 32.58 acres on parcels 146-12 and 146-131 at 19451 Valdosta Highway (Highway 133).

Planning and Zoning meeting was held November 5, 2011. Staff reviewed the petition and determined it is in compliance with the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Powers. Staff recommended approval of the petition by Gwen W. Rountree for the Ava S. Wheeler Trust for a change from AG Zoning District to CH Zoning District with the following conditions:

1. All structural development shall be limited to the uplands portion of the property.
2. While there are several uses expressly and conditionally permitted under the CH Zoning District, some permitted uses may not be appropriate for this location due to the presence of wetlands and flood plains, and the potential environmental impacts those uses may have. Therefore, such uses as Parking Lots; Automotive Sales, Repair and Service; Farm Supply; Pest Control; Travel Trailer Park; Utility Trailer Rentals; and Flea Markets should be prohibited.

Chairman asked if there was any opposition to the petition, there was none. Mr. Lawson made the motion to approve the Petition, with conditions, to change AG Zoning District to CH Zoning District for the Ava S. Wheeler Trust for speculative Commercial uses on 32.58 Acres on parcels 146-12 and 146-131 located at 19451 Valdosta Highway, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman closed public hearing and returned to regular meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved the following minutes with corrections, if any:

Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting	December 5, 2011
Special Called Meeting	December 20, 2011
Special Called Meeting	January 5, 2012
Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting	January 9, 2012

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### **Appearances**

#### **1. Elections Supervisor – Security System**

Elections Supervisor, Mr. Ken Collins, presented a proposal for security system for Elections, per State requirement for electronic monitoring. On motion by Mr. Wingate,

seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board unanimously accepted proposal from ADT Security Services in amount of \$442.00; and \$35.99 monthly fee for electronic monitor for Elections.

## **2. Rosenwald School Marker**

Mr. Gerald Golden appeared to request Board assistance in acquisition of a historic marker for the Rosenwald School in Barney. Before and after pictures of the refurbished; renovated school were provided. Mr. Golden stated the cost of the marker is \$1,500.00, and asked for any support the Board can provide. County Attorney will look into as to whether or not the County can provide funding assistance. Ms. Sherry Davidson, SGRC, will check with Regional Commission/Historic Preservation and ask to contact Mr. Golden to see if they can assist with funding through a grant.

## **3. Presentation of Proclamation for CTAE Month**

February 1 through February 29, 2012 has been designated Career and Technical Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education. Mr. Don Morgan, Brooks County High School CTAE Department, presented a Proclamation for Chairman signature. Mr. Maxwell made the motion authorizing Chairman to sign Career and Technical Education Month Proclamation declaring February 1-29, 2012 as Career and Technical Education Month, Mr. Lawson seconded. Vote was unanimous.

## **4. Request to Name Pride Branch Bridge for Brooks County Citizen**

Mr. Robert Hallock, Savannah, GA, sent Board a letter to petition for consideration to name the new Dixie Road bridge over Pride Branch for his late father-in-law, Mr. Mack J. Bowen, who passed away in 2006. The letter stated Mr. Bowen was a quiet but influential and widely respected leader in Brooks County for almost 8 decades. Mr. Maxwell commented he does not see how Dixie Road Bridge can be separated from Pride Branch by attaching another name to it. The bridge goes with the Branch; connects as one. Mr. Cody also is against separating the two. County Attorney stated this has never been done before, if Board does it, they would have to come up with a policy on what process to go through. Mr. Wingate commented maybe the Board needs to look at, and when they do, Mr. Bowen will be considered, if Board decides on a policy. On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board tabled this issue for further review. Vote was unanimous.

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## **5. Bids for New 911 Center**

Sealed bids were received to replace the current enhanced 911 call system with a forward looking system that takes advantage of recent advances in technology. Three bids were received; but Mr. Smith requested once bids are opened he wants to have time to review the specs before bid is awarded. Bids were submitted by: Micro Data, Motorola, and Callworx. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate, the Board tabled awarding bids until Mike has time to go thru each one and compare the proposals apples for apples. Vote was unanimous.

## **6. Heating and Air Condition at Jail**

County Administrator asked J & J Heating to assess the air condition problems at the Jail. The average monthly cost is \$5,800.00; County has spent approximately \$139,440.00 in last two years on electric bill. With the repairs he is proposing; should save County approximately 20-25%. After discussion, on how to proceed and if need to go out for bid, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to table this issue, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

## **7. CDBG Grant – Few and Hassle Road**

Ms. Sherry Davidson, SGRC, advised Board to re-submit the CDBG Grant application; everything is in place, preliminary is done; will make any modifications needed for re-submission to DCA. On motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously authorized SGRC to re-submit the CDBG Grant application for Few Lane and Hassle Road to DCA.

## **8. Staff Updates**

**Tax Assessor** - Mr. Wayne Waldron, Tax Assessor Office, informed Board there are problems with the server in their office that was purchased in 2003. The memory is full; they have had to delete photos to increase memory. He presented a quote for a new server from SGRC for \$2,100.79. The server is vital to the Tax Assessor office being it holds all property data for Brooks County. Mr. Lawson made the motion authorizing purchase of new server in amount of \$2,100.79, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous. The funds will come from contingency fund.

**Building Inspector** – Mr. Billy Ingram, Building Inspector, updated Board on revenue for permits: FY 2011 revenue of \$52,000.00; and month of January \$3,650.00.

### **New Business**

#### **a. Family Connection**

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously approved to be Fiscal Agent for Family Connections for July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013.

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#### **b. Brooks County Board of Health Reappointment of Board Member**

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved to reappoint Dr. Michael Sopt to serve another six-year term on the Brooks County Board of Health, term beginning January 1, 2012 and will expire December 31, 2017.

### **Old Business**

#### **Recreation Board Members**

Mr. Mike Smith, Chairman, Recreation Committee, informed Board of the Committee's change to go by ACCG Handbook in the formation of a Recreation Board. Currently, the Recreation Board consists of three members, ACCG Handbook states no less than five members, therefore; two more members are needed for the Recreation Board. On

motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved the change to go to a five-member Recreation Board.

### **County Administrator Comments**

#### **Landfill Improvements**

City of Thomasville will provide dumpsters at recycling center; and landscaping. The building needs upgrading and site needs to be more accessible.

#### **County Fraud Policy**

Mr. Lawson made a motion to table this item until County Attorney has reviewed, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

#### **County Purchasing Policy**

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved an amendment to the Purchasing Policy:

Deletion in paragraph G of page 12: "the acquisition of professional services"

#### **Executive Session – None**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. S. L. Jones, Chairman  
Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, Administrator  
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk

