

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2015 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. Mr. S. L. Jones was not present. 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 – Joseph Wheeler**

Planning and Zoning received a request from Joseph Wheeler, property owner, to change the zoning of 2 acres of a 40.5 acre parcel located on Valdosta Highway (State Route 133) in the Troupeville area. Mr. Wheeler is requesting the 2 acres be re-zoned from Agricultural (AG) to Highway Commercial (C-H). Petition was approved by Planning Commission on September 22, 2015 and recommended by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission planning staff recommends approval. Mr. Wheeler also currently lives on a separate portion of the 40 acre tract. There are some commercially developed properties in the area and all adjacent property is undeveloped land. The 2 acres is to be located along Valdosta Highway 133, near Dugong Lane.

Mr. Ariel Godwin, Planner, SGRC, presented the request; and informed the Board of approval by Planning Commission and SGRC staff. The subject property is within the “Major Highway Corridor” character area, which is described as “Developed or undeveloped land paralleling the route of a designated high-volume transportation facility, such as arterial roads and highways,” which gives supporting grounds for approval of the proposed zoning.

A sign-in sheet was prepared; but no one in attendance signed to speak for or against. Chairperson asked if any one present wanted to speak for or against the request. There were none. The public hearing closed at 5:03 p.m. to go into the Monthly Work Session.

### **WORK SESSION**

#### **Reports from Committees/Departments**

**A. Stephanie Hollifield – Extension/4-H** – Provided copy of Brooks County Ag Connection highlighting September in review and October at a glance. The month of September began and ended with many work hours devoted to hull scraping peanuts and the harvest of two Brooks County peanut applied research plots. Brooks County was visited by Dr. Wes Porter and UGA irrigation specialists on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The Extension Office continues to promote the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Brooks County 4-H Sporting Clays Tournament and 15<sup>th</sup> Annual 4-H Sportsman’s Banquet/Auction.

**B. Andrew Hodum – Recreation – Not Present**

**C. Tom Fields – Fire Department**

- This is the last meeting for Mr. Fields; as he will be leaving to accept a position in New Mexico. Thanked the Board for opportunity to serve; and he will truly miss Brooks County.
- Fire Department will continue going in right direction.
- Building at Pavo will be ready before elections in November.

**D. Public Works – Glenn Walker, Road Superintendent, reported on work completed for month of September:**

- 58 work orders completed; 10-911 calls; limbs are being cut.
- Mowed Airport and will start on Barwick Road.
- Two motor graders are down; and also the Bucket Truck.
- Working on Ochawilla, process is slow due to the rain.

**E. Ben DeVane – County Engineer**

- 2014 LMIG not complete; working at the intersection of Giddens and Dewey Road; has been too wet due to rain.
- CR 39, needs direction from Board as to whether or not to put out for bid or if Road Department will handle. Feels County can handle project; but up to Board.
- Guard Rail project has moved to the last site on Evergreen Church Road and Dixie-Barwick Road. Mr. DeVane emphasized to Board the need to continue this program.
- Sabal Trail obtained 14 applications for road crossings for seven dirt roads and seven paved roads. County only has control on County ROW for the depth of the pipeline; no control on private property. Will include use of polyethylene pipes.
- Mr. Cody working on acquiring ROW for CR 76 Old Thomasville Road and Son Wright Road,
- CR 39 Burton Road – Road Department is waiting on good weather to start the project.
- Mr. Maxwell working on ROW acquisition for Ferris Road.
- Dispute on property line by property owner on CR 173; researched done; will meet with property owner.
- Looked at CR 80 and CR 100, will need to acquire a borrow pit and ROW.

Chair closed work session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:25 p.m.

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

**A. Prayer & Pledge** – Pastor Ronnie Averett, Calvary Christian Center, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**A. October 5, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting** –Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the agenda as is, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Maxwell; the Board unanimously approved the minutes as presented for:

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| A. Work Session & Regular Monthly Meeting | September 14, 2015 |
| B. Special Called Meeting                 | July 30, 2015      |
| C. Special Called Meeting                 | September 21, 2015 |

**4. Appearances**

**A. Facilities Request (Ag Annex) – Fodie Church of God in Unity** – Mr. Willie Cody requested on behalf of Fodie Church of God in Unity permission to use the Ag Annex Building on February 20, 2016, for a church banquet from 6pm to 9 pm. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request to use the Ag Annex Building on February 20, 2016 for a church banquet from 6pm to 9 pm. Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Facilities Request (Courthouse)–Brooks County ECHOES Program–Janie Jones** - Administration received a request from Ms. Janie Jones, Brooks County ECHOES Director, for permission to use the Courthouse square on October 22, 2015 for two-three hours for the “Lights on Afterschool” celebration. The event will start at 4 pm and conclude at 5:30 pm. Ms. Jones has provided additional information. Administrator has verified with the County Clerk of Courts that there are no trials or hearings are currently scheduled for that day. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate for Ms. Jones to use Courthouse square on October 22, 2015 starting at 4 pm and concluding at 5:30 pm, seconded by Mr. Cody, vote was unanimous

**C. Sharon Powell – Road Comments/ Concerns** - Administration received a request from Sharon Powell, resident of 1120 Bethlehem Church Road, to discuss issues and ongoing concerns she has been having with the road. She is concerned regarding the ability to get her concession trucks into and out of the property and along the road as well as the general upkeep of Bethlehem Church Road. Ms. Powell did not appear; but will reschedule for December regular meeting.

**5. New Business**

**A. Request for Zoning Change – Joseph Wheeler**

Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the zoning change request of Mr. Joseph Wheeler to re-zone two acres of a 40.5 acre parcel located off Valdosta Highway (State Route 133) in the Troupeville area from Agricultural (AG) to Highway Commercial (C-H), second made by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Special Request – Horse Creek Winery** – Administration received a request from the Horse Creek Winery to sell wine and provide taste testing at the 2015 Skillet Festival. Because the Skillet Festival is held on County property, the Board must approve the request to allow wine on the property. Previously, the Board approved a similar request in 2013 and 2014 for last year's festival. On a motion made by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved the request from Horse Creek Winery to sell wine and provide wine tasting at the 2015 Skillet Festival to be held on October 17, 2015, seconded by Mr. Cody.

**C. Agreement for Services – Eggers Professional Services** - Administration has worked with Tom Eggers, of Eggers Professional Services, to create an agreement for Fire Administration Services not to exceed 3 years. The agreement will start in November and will be for a fee of \$14,300 per year. Mr. Eggers is willing to handle the administrative duties of the position of Fire Chief and to also be available on scene. In the agreement, Eggers will provide Brooks County continue support and efforts to decrease ISO ratings and expand coverage area.

County Attorney advised changing the terms from an Agreement for Services to a Memorandum of Understanding to serve as interim Fire Chief while Board look for replacement. Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve Mr. Tom Eggers, Eggers Professional Services, to serve as interim Fire Chief for the Brooks County Fire Department, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**6. Unfinished Business – None**

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments**

**A. De-obligation of EIP Funds – Elec-Tec, Inc.** - Administration received information that Elec-Tec, Inc., located in the former Micro-Craft building on Highway 84, will no longer be needing the assistance of the County's EIP grant from the Department of Community Affairs. The owner of Elec-Tec found alternative financing that will not lock his company into the EIP agreement and job creation and has, therefore; decided that EIP funding is not the best option for his company at this time.

The County will need to de-obligate the funds back to DCA with a letter, and also make a funds request to cover any outstanding fees that the SGRC may have for Administration. On a motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Maxwell; the Board unanimously approved the de-obligation of EIP funds for Elec-Tec, Inc. to Department of Community Affairs; and for funds to cover any outstanding fees that SGRC may have incurred for Administration fees.

**8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

- A. **Joe Wingate - District 1** – Commented on acquiring better working tools for Road Department; and commented on the type of sand being used.
- B. **S. L. Jones, District 2** – Not present.
- C. **Willie Cody, District 3** – Commented on curve on Hassell Road; and continuing work on Old Thomasville.
- D. **Myra Exum, District 4** – Reminded everyone of the upcoming Skillet Festival on October 17<sup>th</sup>; and the Annual Appreciation Dinner held by SGRC on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- E. **James Maxwell, District 5** – Thanked Road Department on cutting limbs, bushes on Livingston and Minnow Farm Road.

9. **Executive Session** – None

10. **Adjournment**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 5:47 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

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