



BROOKS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

November 20, 2023

Mayor Langford called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and led the Invocation and Pledge.

Council Member present: Kay Brumbelow
Brian Davis
Scott Israel – arrived at 6:40 p.m.
Todd Speer

Council Member absent: Ted Britt

Town Attorney present: Rick Lindsey – arrived at 6:45 p.m.

The proposed Agenda for Monday, November 20, 2023, was emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve the agenda; Council Member Todd Speer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Council Member Brian Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The draft Council Meeting Minutes for Monday, October 16, 2023, were emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve the Council minutes; Council Member Kay Brumbelow made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

New Business:

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:

Council Member Brian Davis provided an overview of the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is updated and approved every five years in Fayette County. The Hazard Mitigation Plan prepares mitigation actions to minimize the effects of natural hazards. Writing a letter of support allows the Town to remain eligible for reimbursement if a disaster occurs. The Town of Brooks has written a letter of support and requests the Mayor and Council to approve its submission. Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve the letter of support addressed to Mr. Stephen A. Clark, Manager of the Hazard Mitigation Department of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency. Council Member Kay Brumbelow made a motion to approve the letter of support as presented; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Proposed Council Meeting Dates for 2024:

L. Spohr presented the proposed Council meeting dates for 2024, which occur on the third Monday of every month, except for January and February, due to federal holidays, at 6:30 p.m. Council Member Todd Speer noted that the date listed for the November meeting needed to be corrected. L. Spohr stated she would fix the meeting date for November and ask that the Mayor and Council

approve the dates with the correction. Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve the proposed 2024 Council meeting dates with the correction; Council Member Todd Speer made a motion to approve the 2024 Council meeting dates with the correction; Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports:

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Langford reported that he attended the monthly Mayoral breakfast last week.

Planning and Zoning:

M. Ungaro announced that he had nothing new to report for October.

Recreation:

D. Holliman was present and reported that the softball and baseball seasons are over, and the football and cheerleading seasons will finish on November 18th. Demolition is anticipated to start next week, and most of the funds needed for the project are in place. BAR aims to launch another small campaign in Spring to bring in additional funds. The “brick” fundraiser is being extended to December 1, 2023.

Library: K. Bradley reported she continues to de-access old and outdated books. K. Bradley requested the approval to de-access 329 books with copyright dates ranging from 1962 to 2002, valued at \$477.95. Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve the deaccession of the 329 library books. Council Member Kay Brumbelow made a Motion to approve the deaccession of 329 books, and Council Member Brian Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Town Clerk Report: L. Spohr reported she had the pleasure of being the Market Manager for the October market; vendors said sales either met or exceeded their expectations; K. Bradley did an exceptional job at promoting the market using the Town’s Facebook account. The next market will be on Sunday, December 3rd, and will include the opportunity to visit Santa in the Chapel. The market will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. At this time, it is not known if the Grinch will make its yearly appearance.

Finance Officer's Report: L. Spohr reviewed the October financials; LOST was at an increase versus October 2022. LOST YTD is at an increase of 6.7%. September’s 2023 SPLOST was up 3.67% vs. September’s 2017 SPLOST of last year, and for YTD, the 2023 SPLOST is down 0.51% vs. last year's 2017 SPLOST.

L. Spohr requested approval of a budgeted Christmas bonus for staff only; the Mayor and Council do not receive a Christmas bonus. Mayor Langford requested a motion to approve the budgeted Christmas bonus for staff only. Council Member Scott Israel made a motion to approve the Christmas bonus; Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Town Manager Report:

Hardy Hall:

Hardy Hall has received an upgrade in the form of a large flat-screen TV, which has been mounted to the north end of the main room. As this facility generates revenue for the Town, and since we utilize the space for meetings, an investment of \$569.00 for a 75” screen was made to attract

additional reservations for use as a meeting facility.

Transportation:

The October Transportation Committee meeting occurred in Hardy Hall on the 14th of this month; the new TV screen was put through its paces and performed well as a presentation device.

The Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a traffic signal for the GA85/Hwy85 Connector intersection, but word has yet to be given on when the installation will occur.

For some time, citizens have voiced concerns over needing more law enforcement presence in the Brooks area. The Sheriff's Office has recently been very visible and has issued numerous citations for speeding and other safety violations. Most of the tickets issued have been to Spalding and Pike County residents.

Christmas:

The Fayette County Fire Department assisted us today in setting up the Christmas tree; many thanks to the FD for making our task easier and safer. The Christmas lights will be hung by Coweta-Fayette EMC on Wednesday, with five of the old original lights placed in the center of town. Town Hall will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th.

Any Other Business:

David and Lieze Harris addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the war memorials currently residing on their real property. Mayor Langford informed the HARRISES that they were allowed five minutes to present and ask questions. L. Harris passed out a set of documents that reflect conversations via text messages and email regarding the war memorials. The HARRISES directed questions to the Town Attorney, Rick Lindsey, who said he would discuss the matter with the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Langford stated that with no further business to discuss, the public portion of the meeting closed at 6:58 p.m. to begin the Executive Session.

The Executive Session was opened at 6:59 p.m. and closed at 7:31 p.m. by a Motion made by Council Member B. Davis and seconded by Council Member Todd Speer; the vote was unanimous.

Adjourn: With no further business to discuss this evening and the Executive Session is closed, Mayor Langford asked for a motion to adjourn; Council Member Kay Brumbelow offered a Motion to adjourn; Council Member Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorey Spohr
Town Clerk