



## BROOKS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES

December 18, 2023

Mayor Langford called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m., Council Member Scott Israel led the Invocation, and Mayor Langford led the Pledge.

Council Member present: Ted Britt  
Brian Davis  
Scott Israel  
Todd Speer

Council Member absent: Kay Brumbelow

Town Attorney present: Rick Lindsey

The proposed Agenda for Monday, December 18, 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 Scott Israel made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The draft Council Meeting Minutes for Monday, November 20, 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 Todd Speer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, with Council Member Ted Britt abstaining.

The draft Executive Session Minutes for Monday, November 20, 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 Brian Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, with Council Member Ted Britt abstaining.

#### **New Business:**

##### **National Register Historic District Update by Bishop Watts**

Resident Bishop Watts presented a PowerPoint presentation called Finalized Brooks Station Historic District Proposal. The proposal reviewed what a national historic district is, the location of the finalized district, raising awareness, the results of a survey conducted, and the next steps. After the presentation, B. Watts asked the Mayor and Council to consider writing a letter addressed to the National Historic District in support of being included with the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form he will be submitting. Council Member Brian Davis asked how many responses were received from the 34 surveys sent out; B. Watts responded that 19 responses were received, which resulted in 79% of the survey takers being in support of the creation of a national historic district, while 21% of the survey takers are against it. Mayor Langford commented that any citizen could apply for historic status with or without the specific blessing of the Town and with

the additional information provided by B Watts. Mayor Langford stated that with his understanding, there are no legal restrictions and that he is more comfortable with it than when initially presented. Council Member Scott Israel asked about the grants that will be available. B. Watts replied that the pamphlet that was mailed with the survey lists them; the most important caveat is that if you apply for a grant, the grant's guidelines must be followed. M. Ungaro asked B. Watts asked if a resident is within the district, is there a requirement to apply for a grant? B. Watts responded, no. Mayor Langford asked if there were any additional questions, and with none, Mayor Langford asked for a motion regarding a letter of support that could be written and included with the nomination form. M. Ungaro stated that he would draft the letter for review and approval by the Mayor and Council if the motion is approved. Council Member Scott Israel motioned to move forward with the nomination letter; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Langford reported that he was pleased with the successful tree lighting at the Christmas Market and that he received a Christmas card from Piedmont Paving. In addition, he was invited to multiple events, which, unfortunately, he could not attend due to scheduling conflicts. Mayor Langford said he was saddened by the news of Mayor Ed Johnson's mother and Tony Parrott passing away.

### **Planning and Zoning:**

M. Ungaro stated he had nothing new to report for November.

### **Recreation:**

D. Holliman was not present; M. Ungaro reported on his behalf, stating that the demolition of the concession stand is well underway; EMC is slow-moving but will bury all powerlines. March 16, 2024, is Opening Day, and BAR is hopeful to get all construction done by that date.

**Library:** K. Bradley reported that the library has been slow due to the holiday season, and she continues de-accessing old and outdated books. K. Bradley requested the approval to de-access 171 books with copyright dates ranging from 1965 to 1996, valued at \$229.89. Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve the deaccession of the 171 library books. Council Member Todd Speer made a Motion to approve the deaccession of 171 books, and Council Member Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

**Town Clerk Report:** L. Spohr reported business license renewals would be sent out the week of December 18th, and the Q1 2024 trash bills will be sent out the first week of January, which will include a business-size card listing all of the 2024 approved Council meeting dates. Town Hall will be closed on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, December 26th, in observance of Christmas.

**Finance Officer's Report:** L. Spohr reviewed the November financials; LOST was at an increase versus November 2022. LOST YTD is at an increase of 6.30%. October's 2023 SPLOST was down 2.97% vs. October's 2017 SPLOST of last year, and for YTD, the 2023 SPLOST is down 10.09% vs. last year's 2017 SPLOST. The FY2023 audit should be completed on time and submitted to the Department of Audits and Accounts by the deadline date of December 31, 2023. Copies of the final audit will be provided at the Council meeting in January 2024.

### **Town Manager Report:**

M. Ungaro stated he had nothing new to report at this time.

**Any Other Business:**

None

Mayor Langford stated that with no further business to discuss, Mayor Langford asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. Council Member Scott Israel made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous; the public portion of the meeting was closed at 6:56 p.m. to begin the Executive Session.

The Executive Session was opened at 6:57 p.m. and closed at 7:32 p.m. by a Motion made by Council Member Scott Israel and seconded by Council Member Ted Britt; the vote was unanimous.

The public Council meeting was reopened at 7:32 p.m.

Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve a settlement offer presented to the Town by Cherokee Brick Company for paving damages that occurred in 2022; Council Member Todd Speer made a motion to approve the settlement as presented; Council Member Ted Britt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

**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 Scott Israel offered a Motion to adjourn; Council Member Brian Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lorey Spohr  
Town Clerk