



BROOKS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

January 27, 2025

Council Member Kay Brumbelow led the Invocation, Mayor Langford led the Pledge, and then the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor: Daniel Langford

Council Members Present: Ted Britt
Kay Brumbelow
Brian Davis
Scott Israel
Todd Speer

Guest: Debbie Bell, Director, Planning & Zoning – Fayette County
Board of Commissioners

The proposed agenda for Monday, January 27, 2025, 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 motioned to approve the agenda; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The draft Council Meeting Minutes for Monday, December 16, 2024, 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 motioned to approve the December 16, 2024, minutes, as presented; Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Public Hearing: - Opened at 6:39 p.m. / Closed at 6:40 p.m.

Amendment of the CIE & STWP Brooks Comprehensive Grown Management Plan & Consideration of the Adoption of a Resolution to Submit the CIE/STWP to ARC and GDCA for Review.

D. Bell introduced herself as the Director of Planning and Zoning for the Fayette County Board of Commissions. She reviewed a presentation regarding the summary of Impact Fees for Fayette County, the Towns of Brooks, Tyrone, and Woolsey, and the Fayette County Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the Capital Improvement Element project update for FY2025-FY2029, and the schedule of improvements – STWP Addendum. She stated that the impact fees are for new construction and are restricted as to what the funds can be spent on. The STWP addendum includes fire training, future fire stations, and new trucks. An annual accounting of all fees is required and must be submitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (GDCA) for review. The resolution brought before the Mayor and Council is an annual update of the CIE and STWP covering the five-year period of FY2025 to FY2029. It will be submitted to ARC and GDCA for regional review per the requirements of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989.

Mayor Langford asked if there were any questions or comments, and after hearing none, he declared the public hearing closed.

New Business:

Resolution 2025-001 – CIE & STWP Transmittal Resolution

With no additional questions or comments regarding the CIE & STWP program, Mayor Langford asked if there was a motion regarding Resolution 2025-001 – CIE & STWP Transmittal Resolution. Council Member Scott Israel motioned to approve Resolution 2025-001 as presented. Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Hwy 85 Connector & McIntosh Rd. Intersection Project Costs.

M. Ungaro presented an overview of the proposed project of the Hwy 85 Connector & McIntosh intersection. The project would provide pedestrian access while crossing McIntosh Rd. The small painted median currently on McIntosh would be replaced with a cement median. Council Member Scott Israel asked if the median would be a raised median and if it would create any issues with traffic; M. Ungaro replied that the median would be a raised median located solely on McIntosh Rd. and would not cause any problems with traffic in either direction. The raised median would slow traffic down and make it an appropriate turning radius instead of extending as far as it currently does toward Hwy 85 Connector.

M. Ungaro stated that the funds used for this project would come from LMIG-restricted funds in addition to a 30% match, which would be paid for using the ARPA-restricted funds. Mallett Engineering put this project out for public bid and received four bids. M. Ungaro stated that CGS Waterproofing came in at \$68,100.35 (lowest bid), and he feels this was a fair price and is confident the contractor will perform the work correctly. Council Member Todd Speer asked what the other bids came in at. L. Spohr handed the bid listing to each Council Member and Mayor for review.

Council Member Scott Israel asked if there would be routing issues. M. Ungaro stated that the project would take no more than two weeks and would require traffic to be reduced to one lane while it was being worked on.

After continued discussion, Mayor Langford and the Council asked if this project could be tabled until the next meeting so that drawings of the intersection could be presented and discussed in further detail. M. Ungaro said this item will be placed on next month's agenda.

Cemetery Plot Market Cost

M. Ungaro presented a survey proposal for \$6,125.00 to relocate the existing lot markers at the Brooks Memorial Garden cemetery in the southern area. The purpose of relocating the existing markers is to provide 10x10 cemetery plots instead of 9x9 cemetery plots. Maintaining the 10x10 lot size is essential for uniformity and placement of burial headstones. Keeping it at 10x10 will provide more salable lots than if the lot size remains at 9x9. Until the markers have been reset, no cemetery lots can be sold.

Mayor Langford asked if there was a motion regarding the survey proposal for relocating the existing lot markers to reflect 10x10 lots. Council Member Scott Israel motioned to approve the \$6,150.00 survey proposal as presented. Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

115th Brooks Celebration Presentation

Bishop Watts, a 115th Brooks Celebration committee member, presented an overview of the Celebration's plans. The event will celebrate the Brooks First Charter – March 1910, the First Election Ballot after Revitalization – January 1965, the 2nd edition of Dan Langford's History of Brooks, and the winner of the Brooks Flag Competition. The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 15, 2025. It will be from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Events include but are not limited to Brunswick Stew & Chili cookoffs, history presentations, dancing in the streets, Church Alley lined with local vendors, and activities for kids.

L. Spohr presented the town's portion of the proposed event cost, \$5,000, to the Mayor and Council for approval. The amount would cover the cookoff trophies and prize money, activities for kids, porta-potties, traffic control, advertising, Brooks swag, and the Varsity food truck for three hours. L. Spohr shared that sponsorships and donations have already been committed for a live band, DJ, banners, the full cost of the Brooks Cookbook "old & new," and labor to organize and execute the event.

Council Member Brian Davis asked if the funds for the event would be FY2025 or FY2026. L. Spohr replied in FY2026.

L. Spohr asked for the Mayor and Council's approval to hold the celebration and for the Town to pay \$5,000.00 towards the event costs.

Mayor Langford asked if there was a motion to approve the event and the Town's expenditure of \$5,000.00. Council Member Scott Israel motioned to approve the event and the Town's expenditure of \$5,000 towards the event. Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

L. Spohr continued the presentation with a proposal to the Mayor and Council to create a "Brooksopoly" game board, representing the Town of Brooks as of 2025, to enjoy with family and friends. The game would be a self-funded project with a contribution of \$1,500.00 from the Town of Brooks for squares on the game board. L. Spohr explained that the project cost is \$9,700, the selling price of the manufactured game would be \$32.00 each, and the number of games to be manufactured would be 600. The game would be self-funded by selling board squares to local businesses, churches, and utility vendors who would like to be represented on the game board, the cards usually called "chance" and "community chest," would be sold as "fun cards and contingency cards," those cards would be available for purchase as well. The fundraising would begin on February 1, 2025, and end on July 21, 2025. If the sales of squares and cards are not met to fund the project, all revenue for the squares and cards received will be fully refunded. Revenue resulting from the game would aid future town projects.

Council Member Todd Speer asked if there were any copyright infringement issues. L. Spohr replied no; the game would be produced by an authorized company that makes personalized Monopoly game boards.

Mayor Langford asked if there was a motion to approve the creation of a “Brooks-opoly” and the Town’s purchase of board squares of \$1,500.00. Council Member Todd Speer motioned to approve the creation of the “Brooks-opoly” game and the Town’s purchase of board squares for \$1,500.00. Council Member Ted Britt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports:

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Langford reported that he had nothing new to report for this month.

Planning and Zoning:

M. Ungaro stated there was nothing to report at this time.

Recreation:

Chris Moody shared that softball and baseball registration is still open. Brooks Opening Day will be Saturday, March 15, 2025, and the new concession stand should be completed in time.

Library:

K. Bradley reported new patrons due to the recent snow; until the new cemetery area is opened, only five cremation lots will be available for sale.

Town Clerk Report:

L. Spohr reported that almost all 2025 Business License renewals have been received. The due date for the 2025 business license is March 31, 2025. A public notice about qualifying for the November 2025 election will appear in the January 29th edition of the Fayette News. Qualifying fees will remain at 3% of the position's salary. Posts one and two and the mayor's position will expire at the end of 2025. Four flag designs have been submitted, and we are looking for more over the next few months. Trash payments are due by Friday, January 31st. Payments received or postmarked after that date are subject to a penalty. The library back roll-up door and awning have been replaced. A truck driver damaged them in September 2024. The town has been reimbursed for replacing both items. Our next council meeting will be at the end of February (February 24th) due to the President’s holiday on February 17th.

Finance Officer's Report:

L. Spohr reviewed the December financials. LOST revenue for December is up 9.63% compared to last December, and LOST YTD is up 9.22% compared to the previous year. 2023 SPLOST for November is up 9.85% compared to last November, and YTD 2023 SPLOST is up 7.94%.

Town Manager Report:

Transportation:

Liberty Tech Alternative Access—M. Ungaro received word from the Fayette County Road Department that they could do the work for the alternative access for the cost of materials alone. This brings the town's cost to around \$17,500. Before moving forward, an IGA would be required with Fayette County and the Fayette County Board of Education.

Council Member Scott Isreal said that the Town owes it to the citizens to get the traffic off the road.

Safe Streets for All Audit – The draft report from the County’s consultant recommends only signage and marking improvements for the Hwy 85 Conn./Morgan Mill Rd. intersection. M. Ungaro recommends that the Town move forward with petitioning the other municipalities and the County to utilize 2017 SPLOST funds in conjunction with 2023 SPLOST funds to make any necessary intersection improvements.

Brooks Chapel:

The staff has replaced the handicapped ramp with composite deck material. A handrail and step tread tape still need to be installed.

Any Other Business:

Bishop Watts shared that he was given the original “Brooks District School” sign, which is approximately 14.5 feet long, and plans to give it a fresh coat of paint. He would be happy to donate the sign to the Town and hopefully have it hung in one of the Town's buildings. The original owner would appreciate a small plaque in memory of his uncle, who procured the sign when the building was demolished.

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss this evening, Mayor Langford requested a motion to adjourn. Council Member Brian Davis motioned to adjourn, and Council Member Todd Speer seconded it. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorey Spohr
Town Clerk