

**BROOKS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, January 28, 2019**

Councilman Lewis Harper led the invocation; Mayor Langford led the pledge, then called the meeting to order.

Mayor: Dan Langford

Council member present: Brian Davis
Lewis Harper
Todd Speer
Scott Israel
Ted Britt

Members Absent: None

Prior to tonight's meeting, the proposed Agenda for Monday, January 28, 2019 was provided via email to the Mayor and Council Members for review. Town Manager, Ellen Walls, had a few additions to add. Under Presentations, Floyd Jones (w/ Fayette County), Ms. Wortham (w/ Veterans Memorial) and Mr. Ric Geyer (purchasing Putman Hotel). Mayor Langford called for approval. Councilman Todd Speer made a Motion to accept the amended Agenda. Ted Britt offered a Second. Vote was unanimous, all in favor.

Prior to tonight's meeting, the proposed Minutes of the Monday, November 19, 2018 were provided via email to the Mayor and Council Members for review. Lewis Harper offered a Motion to approve; Todd Speer offered a Second. Vote was unanimous, all in favor. (T. Britt & S. Israel abstained from vote.)

Public Hearing - None at this time.

New Business/Presentations:

A. Mr. Floyd Jones w/ Fayette County - Mr. Jones was invited to speak before Mayor and Council regarding the voting problems that took place in November 2018. Mr. Jones states this was an unforeseeable problem with exceptionally high voter turnout for our area. Of more than 2000 registered voters, only approximately 500 voted early. Past elections show normally a 50-60% turnout; this election had over 70% participation. New voting machines are coming soon. Hopefully, the county will be able to offer additional machines and/or a space on the southside for early voting convenience.

B. 20-year employment recognition for Mr. Jerry Lynch - Ellen Walls presented Mr. Lynch with a card, gift card and candy as a token of appreciation for 20 years of dedicated service. Mr. Lynch is in charge of the Brooks Memorial Cemetery and is on-call 24hrs/7 days a week, including some holidays. His dedication and hard work are very much appreciated by Mayor, Council, and other TOB staff.

C. Cemetery Improvements - Survey of the property and title search completed; the town engineer has reviewed the area for the following work: Installing a parking area on the lower right side of the property to prevent cars from parking around edges and on top of graves. Approximately 10 loads of dirt from Julia's Crossing paving project have been added to this section to spread, level and gravel. Water Line will be extended from Highway 85 Connector/Charter School into Cemetery; add locked stand pipes for irrigation of landscaping. 3 companies were approached for bids; only 1 agreed to consider. T. W. Brown's bid for work is \$75,229.00. One Brooks resident has concerns as to how this will affect already poor water pressure; engineer will be asked to supply hydraulic report. Councilman Scott Israel offered a Motion to move ahead with this work contingent on water report. Brian Davis offered a Second. Vote was unanimous, all in favor.

D. Truck purchase/financing - As stated several months ago, the TOB would like to purchase a basic truck for town business, hauling, road cleanup jobs, etc. A basic Ford F-150 was priced at \$20,288 from Speedway Ford in Griffin. GMA will finance at 4.5-5% interest; Ford will finance at 6%. Money is available to purchase outright without financing. Truck will be marked with TOB logo & Caution information; will only be used by Town of Brooks employees. Insurance can be purchased through GIRMA along with building insurance we already have in place. Lewis Harper made a Motion to purchase truck outright, without financing. Brian Davis offered a Second. Vote was unanimous, all in favor.

E. Mr. George Ingram - Possible rezoning of property - Mr. Ingram came before Mayor, Council and Brooks

Residents to question the possibility of rezoning property at the corner of Hwy 85 Connector, Brooks Road and Butler Road to allow for a small grocery store. Many residents of Brooks spoke out against this project. There is also concern about fire with no water hydrants available in the area for a commercial building. Mr. Ingram thanked Mayor and Council for their time. If he wishes to pursue this request, he must do so in writing for Zoning Administration/Board consideration.

F. Ms. Wortham - Veteran Services - Mrs. Wortham spoke to all present about a Veteran's Memorial/Monument project that she is spearheading, along with Homefront Families. Donations are accepted from schools, churches, purchase of bricks/pavers, etc. Applications will be accepted through March 30th.

G. Mr. Ric Geyer - Putman Hotel Purchase - Mr. Geyer spoke to all present about his intentions of refurbishing the Putman Hotel. He should be closing on this purchase towards the end of February. The building needs much repair. There are no definite plans for the space yet; possible coffee house/art studio. Mr. Geyer understands he will need to check with Zoning Administrator before any major renovations take place.

Unfinished Business: None

Committee Reports (if any):

Mayor's Report - None

Planning and Zoning - Maurice Ungaro was present; 1 pending review for a guest house, at this time.

Recreation – No one was present from BAR. Financial information was received. Councilman Brian Davis, who is on the board of BAR, estimates opening baseball season parade will take place March 23; Brooks Day on May 11. Kim Bradley, Town Clerk/Librarian/Event Coordinator will email to confirm.

Clerk's Report - 20 local business licenses have been purchased for 2019. Looking at possible name change for Farmers' Market to Brooks Bazaar, as the Market has much more to offer than produce. Also looking to coordinate the Market dates with other activities in town (acting as Event Coordinator).

Manager's Report - Financial information was presented to Mayor and Council. Bids are still being acquired for downtown sidewalks. The paving of Julia's Crossing is complete; finishing work including leveling road shoulders, grass, straw and striping will be completed as weather allows. Cemetery information presented earlier in meeting; bid information is attached. The Downtown Parking lot is complete except for a bicycle rack to be added in one corner. Paving material was left over from project on Julia's Crossing; paving eliminated the need for weeding, replacing gravel, etc. Actual cost was \$5700.00 for paving, striping and installing curb stops. ADA Compliance, along with GDOT, is requiring a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Checklist. Previous responses were incomplete as the Town did not have a plan in action yet for sidewalks; this plan is currently underway. Job Description for Town Clerk is ready to post along with recommended hours and salary range if there are no changes by Mayor and/or Council. FY2018 audit has been completed.

Other - None

Any Other Business: Thank You card received from the Turner Family for donation in Mrs. Turner's honor.

Adjourn - Louis Harper offered a Motion to adjourn. Ted Britt offered a Second. Vote was unanimous, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Bradley, Town Clerk