



## BROOKS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES

**August 19, 2024**

Council Member Scott Israel led the Invocation, Mayor Langford led the Pledge, and then called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor: Daniel Langford

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

Guests: Kristie King – Fayette County Tax Commissioner  
Matt Flynn, Pond & Company Project Manager

The proposed Agenda for Monday, August 19, 2024, was emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. L. Spohr asked that the agenda be corrected to reflect Recreation under Committee Reports for this evening's agenda. Mayor Langford asked for a motion regarding the correction and agenda; Council Member Scott Israel made a motion to make the correction and approve the updated agenda; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The draft Council Meeting Minutes for Monday, July 15, 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 Todd Speer made a motion to approve the July 15, 2024, minutes, as presented; Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

#### **Introduction of Kristie King – Fayette County Tax Commissioner**

Kristie King introduced herself and wanted to provide an update on the Tax Digest status. Due to new software, the tax assessment notices were mailed out a month late. Her office will continue to work on merging the software and ensuring accuracy. The cities can advertise and hold meetings in October for their tax digest meetings, and then her office can submit the information on November 1<sup>st</sup> to the state for approval. Tax bills should be sent out in November with a January 2025 due date.

#### **Presentation by Pond & Company – Safe Streets for All**

M. Ungaro introduced Matt Flynn, the Project Manager for Pond & Company, which is working with Fayette County on a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program and a Safety Action Plan. Matt Flynn presented a presentation that included the project management team, the safe system approach, the project schedule, goals and priorities, and the primary analysis. He explained that the safe systems approach's core elements are safe road users, safe vehicles, safe speeds, post-crash care, and safe roads. Work program implementation includes FHWA implementation grants, ARC

TIP/LRTP, and GDOT programs, including policy changes such as establishing a vision zero committee, assessing and evaluating speed limits, creating neighborhood-based programs, education, and awareness programs, evaluation and monitoring via schedule vision zero committee meetings, comparison of systemwide crashes, high injury network trends and continuous opportunity for citizen input. The project schedule begins with an initial public meeting at the Fayette County Library on August 27, 2024. The project deliverables are to clearly identify a list of projects, policies, and programs for implementation while considering key safety challenges of safe road users, vehicles, speeds, roads, and post-crash care. FHWA requirements and countermeasures are speed management, intersection design/roadway departure prevention measures, high visibility, lighting conditions, and pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure. M. Flynn stressed the importance of participating in the first public meeting at the Fayette County Public Library, taking their survey, and using their interactive map at web address [https://planningatpond.com/fayette\\_ss4a](https://planningatpond.com/fayette_ss4a) to mark areas they feel are a concern and should be reviewed.

**Public Hearing:**

**Annexation Request – Parcel ID 0409064 – Second Reading:**

Mayor Langford opened the public hearing at 6:58 p.m.

M. Ungaro stated that the applicant seeks to annex an 8-acre landlocked parcel with no existing point of access. The property is bounded by Agriculture Residential zoning in the County to the north and west and adjacent to Residential Agriculture zoning in the town to the east and south. The applicant wishes to annex the 8-acre parcel for the purpose of a single-family lot. The proposed annexation/rezoning would not impact traffic safety or congestion and would not impact safety from fire or other dangers. It will not be a deterrent to the value of the adjacent properties. The requested zoning is consistent with the county zoning and is identical to the town zoning in place on adjacent land. Currently, there are no plans to build on the property.

Mayor Langford asked if there were any questions from the council or the public. With hearing none, Mayor Langford closed the public hearing at 6:59 p.m.

**New Business:**

**Annexation Request – Parcel ID 0409064:**

Mayor Langford asked if there were any questions or comments, and hearing none, Mayor Langford asked for a motion regarding Resolution 2024-001, the annexation of Parcel ID 0409064. Council Member Brian Davis made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-001, as presented; Council Member Scott Israel seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Committee Reports:**

**Mayor’s Report:**

Mayor Langford reported he was asked to speak at two engagements this past month; due to his availability, he could only speak at one of the events, the Retired Citizens meeting in Peachtree City. M. Ungaro represented the Town of Brooks at the Fayette County Board of Realtors membership meeting on his behalf.

**Planning and Zoning:**

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

**Recreation:**

D. Holliman introduced Chris Moody as the new President of BAR. Darby will remain with BAR during the transition until next spring. Football Opening Day will be this Saturday, August 24, with no home games until September. Baseball will begin September 1st. Mayor Langford thanked Darby for his dedication and long relationship with BAR.

**Library:**

K. Bradley reported that the Brooks Library Summer Book Bingo ended on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and four \$25.00 Amazon gift cards were awarded. For the 9-13-year-old age group, Kaia Cuttie was the winner with a full bingo card. In the 4-8-year-old age group, Mara Cuttie and Aubrey G. won for their full bingo cards. The winner with the most bingos was Shaun Cavender. Congratulations to all the winners.

**Town Clerk Report:**

L. Spohr reported that the quarterly trash bills were mailed out the first week of July, and the missed pick-ups have decreased.

**Finance Officer's Report:**

L. Spohr reviewed the July financials; LOST increased compared to July 2023. LOST YTD has risen by 7.60%. June 2023, SPLOST was up 1.25% compared to last year's 2017 SPLOST, and for YTD, the 2023 SPLOST is up 2.43% compared to the previous year's 2017 SPLOST.

The upgrade and repairs to the Brooks Library have been completed; however, due to unforeseen items, the cost to do the repairs increased by \$3,018. The unexpected items were cutting and repairing the sidewalk to run drains, removing the current waterproofing barrier, additional masonry repairs to the foundation and structural brickwork, and removing an 8' concrete platform. The mold remediation was completed, and the Brooks Library sign has been freshly repainted, along with new awnings.

**Town Manager Report:****Transportation:**

M. Ungaro reported proposing an alternative route for Liberty Tech drop-off and pick-up traffic. This configuration would allow for more stacking distance (up to 98 cars vs 91) and alleviate the gridlock on the Hwy 85 Connector. The traffic flow would enter the Football Park and continue to the end of the parking area. At that point, traffic would continue on a gravel drive for 600'. The path of the drive would punch through the hedgerow and turn left to follow the perimeter of the upper cemetery area. Council Member Kay Brumbelow asked how quickly this could be done. M. Ungaro could possibly do it by Christmas, but there is no guarantee. M. Ungaro asked the mayor and council if he should move forward, speak with Liberty Tech, and propose this alternative route. The Mayor and Council agreed that M. Ungaro should speak with Liberty Tech and report to the Mayor and Council with full details, including cost and potential completion date.

The traffic light planned for the intersection of GA 85 and Hwy 85 Connector has cleared another hurdle – the acquisition of a small strip of land at the northeast core of the intersection to accommodate a right turn/accel lane.

**Stormwater:**

Lawnsmith has reconstructed the failed portion of the cell tower site stormwater stabilization project.

M. Ungaro stated that he received a complaint from a resident on Price Rd. concerning the condition of the roadside ditch in relation to a property owner’s driveway culvert. The owner asked the County to come out and use machinery to clear the ditch. Upon inspection of said ditch, it was found that the issue stems from organic material not being cleared out during regular lawn maintenance. Though there is a right of way along each town-owned road, it is incumbent upon each property owner to properly maintain their own driveway culvert by not letting organic material and debris obstruct it and compromise its function.

**Brooks Market:**

The Market experienced a great turnout for August.

**Any Other Business:**

L. Spohr stated that Bishop Watts would like to provide an update on the proposed 115<sup>th</sup> Brooks History celebration. B. Watts shared that the event is to celebrate Brooks's first charter (1910) and Brooks's first ballot since the reincorporation of the charter (1965). The suggested date for the event would be early fall of 2025 and possibly coincide with trunk or treat to attract a larger audience. The locations for this event could include Hardy Hall, Brooks Chapel, Town Hall, Church Alley, Market Hall, and possibly the Brooks Christian Church parking lot. As for events, the town would like to hold two cook-offs, Brunswick Stew and Chili, with each event having a prize of \$250.00. Also planned is to have a variety of vendors and food trucks, involving mayors of surrounding cities, the Fayette County Chamber, the Fayette County Historic Society, and representatives from Spalding and Coweta counties. At this time, the estimated expenses would be about \$5k. The proposed committee members would be B. Watts, historian, Mayor Langford, historian, M. Ungaro, Town Manager, L. Spohr, Finance Office, and another individual to be determined. The Mayor and Council said the proposed plans sound good and look forward to more details as they become available.

Mayor Langford asked if there were any other questions, comments, or business to address, and after hearing none, Mayor Langford requested a motion to close the public portion of the meeting to begin the Executive Session on the agenda. Council Member Kay Brumbelow made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the public portion of the meeting was closed at 7:28 p.m.

**Executive Session:**

The Executive Session opened at 7:33 p.m. At 7:46 p.m., Mayor Langford asked for a motion to close the Executive Session; Council Member Brian David made a motion to close the Executive Session, and Council Member Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to discuss this evening, Mayor Langford requested a motion to adjourn. Council Member Kay Brumbelow made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Ted Britt seconded it. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lorey Spohr  
Town Clerk