



BROOKS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

May 15, 2023

Mayor Daniel Langford led the Invocation, Pledge and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council Member present: Ted Britt
 Kay Brumbelow
 Brian Davis
 Scott Israel

Absent: Todd Speer

The proposed Agenda for Monday, May 15, 2023, was emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Council Member Scott Israel made a Motion to approve the Agenda as presented; Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

The draft Minutes for Monday, April 17, 2023, were emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Council Member Brian Davis made a Motion to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Ted Britt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

The draft Executive Session Minutes for Monday, April 17, 2023, were emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Council Member Brian Davis made a Motion to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Public Hearing

Mayor Langford opened the Public Hearing at 6:46 p.m.

New Business

First Reading of the FY2024 Budget

L. Spohr presented the proposed FY2024 Budget and reviewed the General Fund revenue projections for FY2024. Projections include no millage increase; the current millage is 1.207 mills (current value of one mill is \$46,605); the millage value is subject to change based on the FCTA PT-32 report that will be available on July 31, 2023; revenue from property tax, sales tax, TAVT, and rental income will mirror the FY2023 budget amounts; the CPI (Consumer Price Index) for the Southeast is 5.3%, Metro Atlanta is at 7.2%, and the Town computer subscriptions are subject to an increase of 3% to 5%; Capital Improvements presented are for Brooks Chapel windows and/or Hardy Hall roof repair or replacement; the 2017 and 2023 SPLOST projects will be paid by monies generated by their perspective referendums. A 3% COLA increase for the Town staff was presented for consideration to the Mayor and Council. Council Member Brian Davis feels the COLA increase should be a minimum of 5.3% due to CPI (Consumer Price Index).

Rezoning Application for 185 Gable Rd:

M. Ungaro stated that the applicant is requesting a change in zoning for the 5.1-acre lot from RA (Residential Agriculture) to TR (Town Residential). If successful in changing the zoning, the applicant seeks to create two single-family lots. The lot is bordered on two sides by RA (Residential Agriculture) and is adjacent to TR (Town Residential). TR (Town Residential) zoning is also across Gable Rd from the lot.

Mayor Langford asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the FY2024 Budget or the Rezoning application for 185 Gable Rd.

A resident asked who would receive the COLA increase; L. Spohr replied that only the Town employees (5), Mayor, and Council would not receive an increase. L. Spohr reminded the attendees, Mayor, and Council that the second reading and adoption of the FY2024 Budget will occur at the next Council meeting on Monday, June 26, 2023.

Several residents voiced their concerns and worries regarding the rezoning application and that it could produce two single-family lots that could be either too close to other residents, create water pressure issues, ensure there would be sufficient and proper stormwater runoff and the value of the homes being built; one single-family home is preferred.

M. Ungaro reported that part of the development code ensures that the builder/owner or anyone cannot dump more water on someone else's property than currently exists.

M. Ungaro reminded the attendees, Mayor, and Council that the second reading, final plat, and vote will occur at the next Council meeting on Monday, June 26, 2023.

Resident Don Britt asked about water improvements for the Town and said that the Town should attend County Commission meetings to see about getting a grant for 4.5 million dollars. Mayor Langford reminded Don that, at this time, there is nothing the Town can do, and the Town is not in the revenue position to get a loan for that amount. M. Ungaro reminded Don that the Public Hearing is only for the FY2024 Budget and the Rezoning Application for 185 Gable Rd.

Mayor Langford asked if there were any further public comments or questions and, with none, closed the Public Hearing at 6:52 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Mayor's Report: Mayor Langford reported he attended the Open House for Lindsey & Lacy PC (Town's attorney) and is thankful for all the kindness and support he received regarding the passing of his mother-in-law.

Planning and Zoning:

M. Ungaro reported he had received multiple inquiries regarding the zoning laws for the 40-acre parcel for sale on Price Rd.

Recreation:

D. Holliman reported that Brooks Day had a great turnout and that this is the last week of baseball; then All Stars will start up and last until mid-June. The Building a Legacy campaign is doing okay but has fewer brick sales than hoped but will continue to push that campaign until the end of the month, and the Building a Legacy campaign will run throughout the summer. We are looking forward to football and cheerleading in July. We will continue to work hard to raise more money;

it is wonderful that everyone is very supportive, and we are thankful for the support of the Mayor and Council and the people who help out where they can. The bricks are \$100 for a 4x8 and \$250 for an 8x8, with about 80% of the money going towards the fundraiser.

Town Clerk Report: L. Spohr reported that a new commercial business license has been issued for an esthetician business called Cheek to Cheek, and it will be located in the rental offices of the Old Cannery building.

Library: K. Bradley stated that library traffic has picked up, and she has continued de-accessing outdated books (1957 to 2011). K. Bradley requested the approval to de-access 361 books valued at \$466.25. Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve the deaccession of the 361 library books: Council Member Kay Brumbelow made a Motion to approve the deaccession, and Council Member Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Finance Officer's Report: L. Spohr reviewed the April financials; LOST and SPLOST are at an increase over the same time last year. SPLOST YTD over last year is at an increase of 8.53%, and LOST YTD over this time is at an increase of 10.88%. All anticipated tax revenues are tracking well against FY2023 budget goals.

Town Manager Report:

Brooks Market:

The next Brooks Market will be held on Saturday, May 27th, and currently, 14 vendors signed up.

Transportation:

Blind Drive Sign update – similar to the flashing intersection signs installed on Hwy 85 Connector before the intersection with Morgan Mill Rd., a flashing “Curve Ahead” or “Hill Blocks View” sign can be installed for approximately \$1,600.

Morgan Mill Stop Sign – a traffic violation resulted in knocking down the flashing stop sign on the eastern portion of Morgan Mill Rd. After obtaining a Sherriff’s Office incident report, we successfully got the driver’s insurance company to pay for the replacement of the sign. The sign has been ordered, and we are waiting for delivery.

Storm Water:

There is an 18-foot-long 36’ culvert at the edge of Aubrey Evans Park that pipes the creek from Bob Vitale’s property to the open section of the creek behind the southern T-ball field. The corrugated metal pipe has corroded, and a sinkhole has formed close to the headwall at the western end of the pipe. Of the bids received to replace the pipe, the lowest was from a trusted vendor, Southern Classic Construction & Maintenance, at \$8,773.90. The next lowest bid was \$19,858.00. It is my recommendation that we award the project to Southern Classic Construction Maintenance. Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve the bid; Council Member Scott Israel offered a Motion to go forward with Southern Classic Construction & Maintenance to replace the culvert; Council Member Ted Britt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Any Other Reports: None

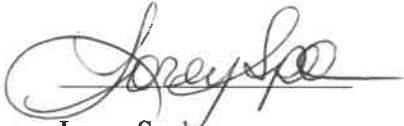
Any Other Business: Resident Don Britt expressed his feelings that the building at 124 Gable Rd needs to be torn down. M. Ungaro stated that the owner had applied for a demolition permit, which has since expired. Marge Counts of the Brooks Woman’s Club would like to propose using the Chapel and Hardy Hall to host a summer concert series, not every week but hopefully a few over

the summer. The Woman's Club would sponsor it and would like Mayor and Council's approval. Mayor Langford and Council Member Scott Israel think it's a wonderful idea. Resident Gary Stewart, who resides on Church Ally, complained about parking on Church Ally when Hardy Hall is rented and is requesting that something be done about it. M. Ungaro replied that the Town has made changes to the rental agreement reflecting that parking can only be on one side of the road, and if the policy is not followed, a Town employee will come out to enforce the policy if called on to do so.

Mayor Langford stated that with no further business to discuss, the public portion of the meeting is closed at 7:59 p.m. to begin the Executive Session.

Adjourn: There being no further business to discuss this evening, and the Executive Session is closed, Council Member Scott Israel offered a Motion to adjourn; Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lorey Spohr", written over a horizontal line.

Lorey Spohr
Town Clerk