



BROOKS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

November 18, 2024

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

Mayor: Daniel Langford

Council Members Present: Kay Brumbelow
Scott Israel
Todd Speer

Council Members Absent: Ted Britt
Brian Davis

The proposed Agenda for Monday, November 18, 2024, was emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Council Member Kay Brumbelow made a motion to approve the agenda; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The draft Public Hearing Minutes for Monday, October 21, 2024, were emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes; Council Member Scott Israel made a motion to approve the October 21, 2024, Public Hearing minutes, as presented; Council Member Todd Speer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The draft Council Meeting Minutes for Monday, October 21, 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 October 21, 2024, minutes, as presented; Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The draft Public Hearing Minutes for Wednesday, October 23, 2024, were emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Mayor Langford asked for a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes; Council Member Kay Brumbelow made a motion to approve the October 23, 2024, Public Hearing minutes, as presented; Council Member Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Public Hearing: - Opened at 6:35 p.m. / Closed at 6:40 p.m.

Second Reading – Ordinance to Limit Vehicular Traffic on Gable Rd.

Mayor Langford asked before opening the public hearing if there were any comments from staff or council.

M. Ungaro reviewed the proposed Ordinance 2024-02, reminding the council that this ordinance proposes to prohibit commercial “through” truck traffic only for sizes determined by the federal highway administration of an above Class 3 on Gable Rd, between McIntosh Rd and Highway 85 Connector. This would not prohibit anyone who lives in the area or on that street from accessing the street; if you are not driving a commercial vehicle, it does not apply to you; if you are making a delivery on Gable Rd., it does not apply to you. Again, this is for “through” traffic only; “through traffic” is classified as starting at the beginning of the street and ending at the end of the street with no stops in between.

Council Member Kay Brumbelow asked if anyone with a driveway off Gable Rd. can receive deliveries, Amazon deliveries, Post Office deliveries, or any deliveries to their house and use the road for their trailer, recreational vehicle, or anything they own.

M. Ungaro replied, “Yes, for hay deliveries transporting horses, if they have them, and for all personal deliveries.”

Council Member Kay Brumbelow reiterated that this only applies to commercial trucks that use the road as a “through” passage; M. Ungaro replied that this was correct.

Mayor Langford asked where the language of “through” traffic was stated, and M. Ungaro replied that it was in the first paragraph at the top.

Mayor Langford asked if there were any other comments from the council, staff, or the public.

The property owner at 968 Highway 85 Connector, Julie Harris, stated that the map presented is incorrect and that her property is actually across the road, so she wanted to make sure the map is corrected. In addition, she wants to ensure that deliveries can be made to those on Gable Rd. and that the through trucks will know that driving is prohibited.

M. Ungaro stated that the map presented is from the tax assessor's office, but it shows the road cuts through her property. This doesn't mean your property doesn't cross the road; it just shows where the road is located. Your property is on both sides of the road. Yes, deliveries can be made to those on Gable Rd; the ordinance only prohibits “through” trucks. A sign will be posted, and once it has been posted, it allows the Sheriff's Department to issue a citation; accordingly, it does not apply to delivery drivers nor the use of personal vehicles on that road.

Mayor Langford read the introduction to the ordinance: “An ordinance to prohibit all through trucks over FHWA Class 3 on Gable Rd., between McIntosh Rd and Hwy 85 Connector. So, a through truck, by definition, is a truck that turns off McIntosh onto Gable Rd without stopping to come out onto the 85 Connector. This does not stop deliveries or people needing to access their properties.

Council Member Kay Brumbelow stated this is necessary due to the trucks' weight. M. Ungaro agreed and stated that the road is only ten feet wide, it has a water main that runs underneath it, the pavement has only been on the road for eight years, and it does not have the compacted subbase to support excessive-weight trucks.

Resident Aaron Edge 113 McIntosh Rd. asked if there was a more specific definition of “through” traffic.

M. Ungaro replied that if you go from point A to point B and go through a little town to get to B if you stop to make a delivery, it is not classified as “through” traffic. Through traffic is traffic that doesn’t stop between point A and point B.

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

New Business

Review & Approve 2025 Council Meeting Dates

L. Spohr stated that the proposed 2025 Council meeting dates are the third Monday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, except Monday, January 27th, which is the fourth Monday of the month due to the MLK holiday, and Monday, February 24th, which is the fourth Monday of the month due to the President’s holiday.

Mayor Langford asked if there was any discussion or a motion regarding the council dates. Council member Todd Speer made a motion to approve the council dates as presented. Council Member Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Old Business

Ordinance to Limit Vehicular Traffic on Gable Rd.

Mayor Langford asked if there was a motion regarding the Ordinance to Limit Vehicular Traffic on Gable Rd. Council Member Scott Israel made a motion to approve the vehicular traffic limit ordinance for Gable Rd. as presented. Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports:

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Langford reported that he will attend a mayoral breakfast and a meeting this week on the new proposed property tax law.

Planning and Zoning:

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

Recreation:

Chris Moody stated BAR will be holding a Brooks Bash on November 24. The cheerleaders won first place in a competition and would like the Town to recognize their accomplishments.

Library:

K. Bradley reported a few new families had come in and checked out books, and the cemetery only has two lots and several cremation lots available for sale.

Town Clerk Report:

L. Spohr reported that the trees that fell across 115 Church Ally driveway had been removed, and the stumps ground, costing \$2,700. We are still having issues with AmWaste and their trucks not returning the trash can once it has been emptied. Please notify the Town Hall if this happens or if your trash was not picked up. The 2025 Business License renewals will be prepared and mailed out before December 1, 2024.

Finance Officer's Report:

L. Spohr reviewed the October financials. LOST revenue for October is up 0.35% compared to last October, and LOST YTD is up 7.95% compared to the previous year. 2023 SPLOST for September is up 1.76% compared to last September, and YTD 2023 SPLOST is up 13.32%.

Town Manager Report:**Transportation:**

The County's Safe Street For All online comment period has closed, but many good comments were received. We look forward to having a draft report by March.

The County Engineer was tasked with updating the County's Comprehensive Trail Plan and prioritizing identified projects that have approved funding. Note that funds are allocated for planning the rail trail project that runs through town.

Liberty Tech:

On November 9th, Liberty Tech had a school function. This caused some parents to park in the Brooks Memorial Cemetery, which conflicted with the ongoing funeral. When approached by Wayne Couch about their vehicles on cemetery property, one individual claimed that he "lives in Brooks, so why can't he park there?" I have previously met with the principal, Melissa King, when this happened this spring. At that time, I was open to allowing them to access an unused portion of the cemetery, provided a parking plan, and provided volunteers to manage the parking. None of that was forthcoming, and then this incident occurred. When I contacted her about this recent incident, she was aloof and agreed that there was fault on both sides.

As a result, I have received a list of school events for the rest of the academic year. Staff will install posts on both sides of the entrance, and a chain will be put up whenever the school has an event.

Brooks Market:

The Market had a great turnout, and most vendors reported very good sales. We may have been at maximum vendor capacity, too. Caldwell Farms sold a large quantity of grilled burgers, and the two bakers sold out.

Any Other Business:

None

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss this evening, Mayor Langford requested a motion to adjourn. Council Member Todd Speer made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Scott Israel seconded it. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorey Spohr
Town Clerk