

**BROOKS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, January 27, 2020**

Councilman Scott Israel led the invocation; Mayor Langford led the pledge, then called the meeting to order.

Mayor: Dan Langford

Council member present: Scott Israel
Ted Britt
Brian Davis
Todd Speer
Rick Bell

Council Members Absent: None

Prior to tonight's meeting, the proposed Agenda for Monday, January 27, 2020 was provided via email to the Mayor and Council Members for review. There were no changes or additions needed this evening. Councilman Scott Israel made a Motion to approve our Agenda; Todd Speer offered a Second. Vote was unanimous, all in favor.

Prior to tonight's meeting, the proposed Minutes of Monday, December 16, 2019 were provided via email to the Mayor and Council Members for review. Councilman Ted Britt made a Motion to approve; Brian Davis offered a Second. Vote was unanimous, all in favor.

This evening we welcomed Judge Scott Ballard to swear in 3 of our Councilmen who are beginning a new term. Judge Ballard swore in Todd Speer, Ted Britt and Brian Davis for their January 2020 - December 2023 term as Councilmen.

Proclamations & Resolutions - None

Public Hearing -

A. Variance - Mr. David Lane - 126 McIntosh Road - Maurice Ungaro, Brooks' Town Manager and Zoning Administrator, presented Mayor and Council information concerning this request. Mr. Lane currently owns several tracks of property totaling 11.2 acres; his personal residence is on a 2-acre track, plus an additional 9.2 (approximately) acres adjoining this property. He wishes to divide that property into 5.2 and 4.02 acre lots. The smaller parcel of land contains a house and outbuildings and is currently zoned RA. The property in question is bordered by McIntosh Road, the abandoned Norfolk Southern rail line and a large drainage ditch. After a lengthy review of all information, including survey maps, Mayor Langford called for a vote. Councilman Brian Davis offered a Motion to approve this division; Scott Israel offered a Second. Council vote was 4 in favor; Councilman Rick Bell abstained from vote.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business -

A. Sewer System Contractor of Record - In accordance with directives from the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District Audit, it is mandatory that the Town of Brooks select and retain a sewer system contractor of record. Mr. Robert Shockley has maintained the Brooks' system for a number of years and has agreed to continue in this capacity. Mr. Shockley's schedule of rates for labor was presented to Mayor and Council; he agrees to use the same rates for Brooks as he does for Fayette County. Town Manager, Maurice Ungaro, recommends approval of Mr. Shockley. Scott Israel offered a Motion to approve; Ted Britt offered a Second. Vote was unanimous, all in favor.

B. Brooks Woman's Club Compensation - The Brooks Woman's Club works closely with the Town of Brooks and assists the Town with many events, management of rental properties, cleaning, etc. Instead of paying the Woman's Club as bills are incurred, it was recommended by our Town Auditor, as well as our Financial Officer and Town Manager, that the Woman's Club be issued an annual stipend of \$1400.00. If additional bills are incurred, they will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for reimbursement. Ted Britt made a Motion to approve this annual payment; Brian Davis offered a Second. Vote was unanimous, all in favor.

Committee Reports (if any):

Mayor's Report - Mayor Langford stated his only current concern is a possible property tax freeze being discussed for Fayette County. There is worry that other taxes will increase, SPLOST and LOST monies that are paid to Fayette County cities/towns will be negatively impacted, along with other concerns as well.

Planning and Zoning - Maurice Ungaro states there are no new issues at this time, only the above Variance Public Hearing (above) with Mr. Lane.

Recreation – Mr. Holliman was not present from BAR. Financial information was received and distributed. There is a bit of concern that their profits seem to be down; hopefully Mr. Holliman will be present next month to answer questions.

Clerk's Report - Town Clerk, Kim Bradley, states most local business licenses have been renewed; 24 out of 30 from 2019. Currently working on Farmers' Market dates for the 4th Season. She is also working on updating Brooks Cemetery records. The Brooks Library is currently taking dog supplies and food donations for Royal Ridge Animal Shelter. A library patron requested we do so after news of a local animal abuse situation was in the national news; several items received already. Mrs. Bradley reminded Councilman Rick Bell about his upcoming training class in Tifton, GA on February 10-12th.

Finance Officer's Report - Ellen Walls was present and distributed current financial information to Mayor and Council, as well as the results of the FY2018-2019 audit. Mrs. Walls reviewed the Town of Brooks audit results which were very good. She also brought Mayor and Council up to date on current finances.

Manager's Report - Mr. Ungaro states that some repaving of the Connector will take place on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 to alleviate roadway issues. Permanent striping will not be in place for at least 30 more days. Work on other punch list items are still on-going. The retaining wall in front of the Chapel as well as a drainage issue at the old Mask & Gay plant have been completed. Mr. Ungaro also mentioned the proposed bill concerning a property tax freeze that is concerning. Complaints were received about buzzard activity near the Brooks Football Fields/Complex. It was discovered that several deer carcasses had been dumped in this area. The gate at the entrance is not functioning properly; Mr. Ungaro would like to coordinate efforts with BAR for a solution to prohibit this type of activity in the future. It was also noted that the owner of Sugarroots Hair Salon has reported a suspicious person around the parking lot next to Cutting Edge on several evenings when Sugarroots has been open late. The Fayette County Sheriff was notified and offered help to hopefully prevent any wrongdoing.

Other - Councilman Scott Israel brought forward a request by Whitewater High School to, once again, have use of the Brooks Chapel for their Spring String Concert in March. The date will be coordinated with Marge Counts of the Brooks Woman's Club. Mayor and Council are in agreement to allow the use of this facility for a free concert.

Any Other Business - Census representative, Lois Ricks, was present and spoke about her informational hiring sessions at the Brooks Library on Jan. 23, Jan. 29 and Feb. 2. She will be present to answer any questions about the upcoming 2020 Census.

Adjourn - Todd Speer made a Motion to adjourn; Ted Britt seconded this Motion. Vote was unanimous, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Bradley, Town Clerk

