



BROOKS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, May 16, 2022

Scott Israel led the Invocation, and Mayor Langford led the Pledge, then called the meeting to order.

Mayor: Daniel Langford

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

Absent: None

The proposed Agenda for Monday, May 16, 2022, was emailed to the Mayor and Council Members for review before tonight's meeting. Council Member Todd Speer made a Motion to approve the Agenda; Council Member Ted Britt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

The draft Minutes for Monday, April 18, 2022, were provided via email 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 Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. Council Member Scott Israel abstained, and the vote was 4-0 in favor.

Presentation of Candidate: Karen Mathiak, who is running for re-election for the office of Georgia House of Representative for the new District 74, attended the Council meeting to introduce herself to Mayor Langford and Council Members. She shared she has lived and worked in Spalding County for 34 years and is a Chiropractor by trade. She said she was honored to be at the Council meeting and to represent Fayette County and the small towns.

New Business:

Road & Stormwater Improvements: M. Ungaro discussed Traffic Calming, and Curb/Gutter work on the 85 Connector, north of the railroad tracks. M. Ungaro presented bids for two additional speed cushions, one on McIntosh Rd., near the cemetery and one on Hwy 85 Connector south of the Fire Station, and 8" ceramic domes that will be placed on the yellow gore striping at the intersection of McIntosh and 85 Connector, this will force people to slow down to make the left turn onto McIntosh. Scott Israel said he would be happy to assist in the speed bump locations. The bid also included curb/gutter retrofitting for the area south of the railroad tracks at the intersection of McIntosh & Hwy 85 Connector intersection. Since they have added pavement, there is a severe drop-off that could be a pedestrian hazard. The project cost of \$49,849.72 will be funded using LMIG monies and the Stormwater fund balance. Mayor Langford asked if there were any questions; Scott Israel asked when this project would be done if approved. M. Ungaro replied

it depends upon Piedmont's schedule; it could be a month out. Council Member Scott Israel made a Motion to approve the Road and Stormwater improvements as presented; Council Member Kay Brumbelow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

BAR: D. Holliman was present at the meeting to present floor plans for a new concession stand and restrooms at the park. He stated there have been discussions regarding issues around the existing concession stands, septic, and the whole drainage area in general, plus the improvement of restrooms. The BAR Board has been talking about either a remodel or just starting over. M. Ungaro has provided options to BAR for the septic issues, which need to get resolved before any decision is made. D. Holliman said the Town and County were trying to re-survey the area, and it has not been finalized yet; M. Ungaro stated that the County has not contacted him, but he is sure it is in the works. D. Holliman said the Board decided to move forward with a preliminary floor plan and received estimates to start fundraising. D. Holliman is requesting permission to move forward with plans and fundraising from Council since it is the Town's property. BAR anticipates starting the fundraiser campaign during the first of the fall season, the fall baseball/softball/football season. Depending upon the campaign, the project could begin before or at the end of the Spring season before we do anything; BAR is open to any suggestions, comments, and feedback.

M. Ungaro mentioned to Mayor Langford the potential funding to assist BAR if it was to be put on our 2023 SPLOST referendum, as this is a possible SPLOST project. Possibly cost share or fund it wholly. Mayor Langford asked if this is a demo and rebuild and not a remodel. D. Holliman replied, yes, he has two builders on his Board, and both came back stating it would be cheaper to knock it down as they looked at expanding and the permit process and it would end up spending the same amount without getting everything they want. Mayor Langford requested, when clearing the trees behind the park, not to remove or damage the rock platform. That is where the Cotton Gin used to sit on that platform. M. Ungaro suggested putting a plaque showing the Gin and a notice regarding the renovation with a picture so people can look forward to the updates.

Kay Brumbelow asked what kind of fundraising they plan on doing; D. Holliman replied, company sponsorship and Brooks Day 2023. Mayor Langford said that sounded good and possibly get some EMC funds in July or August. Mayor Langford said we should list the contribution to this on the SPLOST referendum so that people will know what the SPLOST is being used for when it is voted on. Brian Davis asked if SPLOST was approved could we advance the funds to the project; M. Ungaro replied we could use the General Fund and then reimburse the Town back with the SPLOST funds once approved. M. Ungaro said it would be best to ensure the SPLOST gets approved before advancing the funds.

Kay Brumbelow asked if the Town owns Railroad Street as it is in bad condition; M. Ungaro said the Town owns it. A resident stated that he moved into a new home on Railroad Street that Brian Corbin built and said the trench near his home is quickly deteriorating because of the gravel; the resident called Fayette County and asked if they would be paving it; they knew nothing about it. M. Ungaro spoke with the builder, and he is looking to find a paver to repair it. That area may be an LMIG project next year. The resident also wanted to inform Council that there are younger kids going faster than they should on the railroad tracks, and maybe they should add speed bumps to slow them down. Mayor Langford stated that it could take up to a year.

Ted Britt sent Council an email regarding a pickup truck full of baseballs. He said the resident continues to get a lot of baseballs in their yard; they were found when cutting grass, and maybe it was time to consider a net. M. Ungaro stated he would speak with the County regarding a net to

prevent this from occurring. D. Holliman suggested that let's call tonight ground zero to the number of baseballs found in the resident's yard and then determine exactly how many balls land in their yard, going forward; Ted Britt agreed.

FY2023 Proposed Budget: L. Spohr and M. Ungaro reviewed the FY2023 Proposed Budget. Revenue for Governmental Funds is \$490,752, including Capital Projects, and revenue for Enterprise Funds is \$43,000. General Fund and Capital Fund expenditures are \$490,752. SPLOST revenue is \$150,000, with expenditures for approved SPLOST projects being \$150,000. The budget was presented with the millage being increased to 1.5 mills. The proposed budget includes a 5.2% increase in salaries. Brian Davis raised a question regarding the raises; if possible, we should try to increase the raises to 8.5%, as we have employees who are essentially losing money and getting paid less based on the CPI. Mayor Langford suggested that if the Town does not keep up with the wages, we could lose our employees to other places that pay more. Ted Britt agreed and mentioned that Sheriff Babb said the employees he lost at the sheriff's office were due to employees leaving for higher pay. Brian Davis suggested increasing the millage to 1.64 to cover a cost of living increase of 8.5% instead of the proposed 5.2% increase.

Committee Reports (if any):

Mayor's Report: Mayor Langford reported receiving more calls and texts than usual, but there is nothing new to report.

Planning and Zoning:

M. Ungaro said the new construction at 926 Hwy 85 Connector is coming along well. The house on Price Road and 85 Connector is still under renovation and would provide a great opportunity to utilize the STEP system. He is currently waiting on an updated figure on PCV by Robert Shockley. The final Public Hearing for the Comp Plan will be on June 27, 2022, at which time it will be voted on to adopt. M. Ungaro will provide a document to be reviewed on the website, Town Hall and Library.

Recreation: D. Holliman was present; financials were not received.

Town Clerk Report: L. Spohr reported she found companies that could assist in replacing either missing or broken vases in the cemetery and to see her for the details. The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. and the next Brooks Market is Saturday, May 28, 2022. The library is asking the council to vote and approve the donation of obsolete library books with copyright dates ranging from 1993 to 2011. There are 386 books, estimated value of \$464. These books have been in boxes for over three years. Council Member Todd Speer made a Motion, and Council Member Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Finance Officer's Report: The financial information was distributed prior to the meeting. L. Spohr reviewed the report; LOST and SPLOST are at an increase over the same time last year. SPLOST YTD over this time last year is at an increase of 10.29%, and LOST YTD over this time last year is at an increase of 13.34%.

Manager's Report:

Transportation: M. Ungaro reported the BOC voted 4-0 for staff to take no further action on truck restrictions, leaving the existing truck restrictions in place but don't add any new roads or developing an ordinance. M. Ungaro reached out to the County Engineer and asked if that

prevents municipalities from enacting their own such ordinances. Scott Israel suggested putting up signs, and with the new speed tables being installed, it should help to slow down the trucks.

SPLOST: M. Ungaro stated the county has initiated the campaign by coordinating with the municipalities regarding the upcoming 2023 SPLOST. He will need to have Brooks' projects scoped and packaged for incorporation into the campaign by July. Potential SPLOST items include 1) Woods Rd culvert replacement (\$375k), 2) Hwy 85/Morgan Mill Roundabout (\$400k), and 3) Cemetery improvements – columbarium, new section, etc. (\$140k).

GMA Annual Conference: M. Ungaro stated that he and L. Spohr would be attending the GMA conference in June. The conference is from the 24th to the 27th and should not interfere with the operations of Town Hall.

Any Other: None

Any Other Business: K. Brumbelow received a request to have fireworks either at the baseball field or the Brooks Bears football field for the 4th of July. M. Ungaro expressed concerns about the dry season, the threat of fire/damage to someone's property, traffic management, and logistical issues. Todd Speer expressed his concern regarding the dryness of his property and his horses. Kay Brumbelow also mentioned safety concerns and will inform the requestor to contact M. Ungaro to discuss further. Mayor Langford suggested that M. Ungaro contacts the Town's insurance company to determine what liabilities are with the Town, in addition to determining if it is permissible on Town property.

Adjourn: There being no further business to discuss this evening, Council Member Todd Speer offered a Motion to adjourn; Scott Israel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorey Spohr
Town Clerk