

TOWN OF BROOKER
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 14, 2020

Present: Steve Acree, Gene Melvin, Chris Caldwell, Joe Tolleson, John Maines, Tony Stalnaker, Charlene Thomas.
Absent: Linda Bennett
Community: Terry Thomas, Barbara & Russ Crawford.

Meeting called to order by Gene Melvin, Mayor.
Pledge of Allegiance!

A motion was made by Steve Acree to approve the minutes as presented from the June 9th Meeting. Seconded by Joe Tolleson.

First Order of Business – Second Reading on Ordinance 2020-01

Suwannee River Water Management District requires this ordinance to be adopted as Part of their permit application process.

A motion was made by Joe Tolleson to enact and read Ordinance 2020-01 by title only. Mr. Maines read Ordinance 2020-01. Seconded by Steve Acree. Discussion called for. Motion passed.

Second Order of Business – Look over Resolution 2020-01. Council needs to decide on Charge for new service connection inside Town Limits. Also, charge for new service Connection outside of Town Limits. The Mayor suggested each council member look over this and put back on agenda for next month. A motion was made by Joe Tolleson to table until the August meeting. Seconded by Steve Acree. Motion passed.

Chris Caldwell – council member:

He had several items he wished to address the council on.

1. There was a wreck in front of his home and he wanted to know who to call. Mayor told him to call 911.
2. Crape Myrtle trees from adjacent property is growing over his fence onto his property. He wanted to know if he could trim limbs. He was told if they are growing over fence onto his property he can trim them back. He was told he might want to contact land owner, Lowell Shadd.
3. He wanted to know if he could put a basketball hoop on concrete slab next to modular building used by Fire Department for training. Tony said he didn't have a problem with them putting it there. John Maines, Attorney, said we would need to check with our Insurance provider concerning the liability on this.

Fire Department – Tony Stalnaker:

1. He reported the Tanker was returned to their station by Bradford County.

Town Clerk – Charlene Thomas:

1. Past due water report was passed out. Still out \$371.30.
2. Passed out information on Ethics training. Training has to be done by December 31st.
3. Do we want to roll back taxes this year? A motion was made by Joe Tolleson to roll back taxes. Seconded by Steve Acree. Motion passed. Last year millage rate was set at 0.3019.
4. Working on Lead & Copper sampling. Samples are due by September 30th.
5. I received a call from Windstream needing to have water lines located. They had some cable they needed to bury running in front of Town Hall going down to Doug Hayes' house. Terry Thomas met with Emory on July 2nd and showed him our maps. Also, he showed him the main line at water tower that runs under railroad tracks. Emory said he would call Town two days before burying line. No one called us and on Wednesday July 8th someone showed up and started digging. They hit a service line and broke the line. I received a call on Town's cell phone on Wednesday. I was not at home so I gave them the Mayor's cell number and Joe Tolleson's cell number. Joe came by my home and said he had helped them repair line. The Mayor mentioned he did come down and tried to help them find a cut off, but could not find one for this line. Line was repaired under pressure. No water was turned off. The Mayor said he opened the gate for them. Joe mentioned he could not find any compression coupling valves at water department. We need ¾" all the way up to 2" coupling valves on hand.
6. The water tower ran over twice. I contacted Bernard on June 24th and he got in touch with Prestige Electric. It happened again on June 26th. I called Prestige. Clerk encouraged any council member living close to water tower to help keep an eye on it and if they see it running over we need to call Bernard Carter.
7. I spoke with Rachel Rhoden, County Manager, concerning CARES Act. Due to the COVID-19 any item we have purchased for town due to COVID-19 we can be reimbursed. We have spent \$744.97 for sneeze guards for Town Hall. Paperwork was sent to me and I filled it out and sent it back to Rachel for reimbursement.
8. Frank Durrance, County Commissioner, called me concerning the CARES Act. While I had him on the telephone I told him about several things that needs to be done in Brooker. The main one was the closing of the West end of Melvin Street next to Kangaroo. I told him he has been our county commissioner for four years and has never called us to see what he could help us with. I told him I know he is up for re-election and now would be the time to show he is helping us. He asked me to call him once a week so we could go over things that need to be done. I told him I did not have time to call him once a week, but I would try and call him once a month. He gave me his cell number. I gave each council member his number. I told them when someone from community mentions to them about something that needs to be done in town and we are unable to do it, then we should call Frank Durrance. I asked council for anything they thought we needed to report to Frank. I received several items and will forward them to Frank Durrance.
9. Passed out copies of last year's Budget 2019-2020. If you are over a committee, please look over budget and see if we need to try and add anything to new budget.
10. Clerk mentioned to council that effective December 31st she will be leaving as Town Clerk. However, she will continue to the Bookkeeping for the town. There is no way a

new person can come in and do all that I do as a part time employee. I have been Town Clerk for 32 years. LaCrosse, Hampton and Lawtey all have someone separate from Town Clerk doing there Bookkeeping. The only way you can have a Town Clerk do it all is to hire a full time employee. This would require adding insurance and having some kind of retirement package in place. I will get with LaCrosse and Hampton and see what their Town Clerk is being paid and report back to council. I will be glad to train the new Town Clerk. I would like to have one in place as of December 1st. Council asked me to keep them informed on this. I will report back at the August meeting.

Attorney – John Maines:

1. He passed out a Contract for Professional Services with State Attorney, Eighth Judicial Circuit and the Town of Brooker, Florida. He mentioned that Bill Cervone, State Attorney, is retiring. He wanted to make sure Brooker has a contract in place before his retirement. This contract is just a house keeping matter that needs to be updated. This contract states that the State Attorney agrees to act as the municipal prosecutor at the County and Circuit Court level for municipal ordinances of the Town that are not ancillary to a State charge in the County and Circuit Court of the of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida. Due to the meeting going longer than usual Mr. Maines suggested we put this back on the agenda for the August meeting. A motion was made by Chris Caldwell to put this Contract on the August meeting agenda. Seconded by Steve Acree. Motion passed.

Water Department – Gene Melvin:

1. He mentioned the generator is not transferring. He has contacted Len Eaves to look into this.

Recreation/Parks – Steve Acree:

1. He has looked online to see what you need for an exercise trail. Mostly they have signs. Signs cost over \$4000.00. Clerk mentioned we have \$1000.00 each for an exercise trail and nature trail.
2. Steve was suppose to get a quote on how much it would cost to add a ½ basketball court to the south end of tennis court. He said he would work on this for new budget.

Ground Maintenance/Mowing – Steve Acree:

1. It was mentioned that A J Lawn Service did not mow new playground this time. Steve was asked to call him on this.

New Business:

1. Every year the town council agreed to look at water rates and decide whether or not to raise them. Last rate increase was 10/01/19. Rate increase was \$1.00. A motion was made by Steve Acree to raise rate \$1.00 effective October 1st. Seconded by Chris Caldwell. Motion passed. Clerk will type up Resolution.
2. Joe mentioned we are having a lot of 4 wheelers riding up and down our streets. 4 wheelers are not allowed on town streets.

Checks approved: 7254 – 7282, 5506 - 5517

A motion was made by Chris Caldwell to approve the bills. Seconded by Steve Acree.
Motion passed.

Motion made by Gene Melvin to adjourn. Time: 8:24p.m.

Cecil E. (Gene) Melvin, Mayor

Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk