

TOWN OF BROOKER
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2020

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

Meeting called to order by Gene Melvin, Mayor.

Pledge of Allegiance!

A motion was made by Steve Acree to approve the minutes from the February 12th meeting as presented. Seconded by Joe Tolleson. Motion passed.

Linda Bennett, Seat #1, was sworn in for a four year term. Chris Caldwell, Seat #2, was sworn in for a four year term.

Appointment of Mayor and Vice-Mayor – one year

A motion was made by Joe Tolleson to open up nominations for **Mayor** for a one year term. Seconded by Steve Acree. Motion passed.

Steve Acree nominated Gene Melvin. Linda Bennett made a motion for nominations to cease. Seconded by Joe Tolleson. A motion was made by Steve Acree to appoint Gene Melvin for Mayor for a one year term. Seconded by Chris Caldwell. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Joe Tolleson to open up nominations for **Vice-Mayor** for a one year term. Seconded by Linda Bennett. Motion passed.

Joe Tolleson nominated Steve Acree. Steve Acree nominated Linda Bennett. Linda Bennett declined. Linda Bennett made a motion for nominations to cease. Seconded by Steve Acree. Motion passed. Chris Caldwell made a motion to appoint Steve Acree for Vice-Mayor for a one year term. Seconded by Joe Tolleson. Motion passed.

Fire Department – Absent.

I, Gene said Tony had called him and said someone from county wanted to have a meeting to discuss an inter-local agreement. No one showed up from county for meeting. John Maines mentioned that we need to be very careful signing an inter-local with Bradford County. They had tried to do it several years ago and the Town did not like some of the wording. John said he would be glad to look over any Inter-local agreement provided by County. He can work with Will Sexton, Attorney for County, on this. He suggested the Town authorize him to represent the Town should an Inter-Local be sent for review. A motion was made by Joe Tolleson to authorize John Maines as representative on behalf of Town to review any Inter-Local we might receive from County. Seconded by Steve Acree. Motion passed.

Town Clerk – Charlene Thomas:

1. Past due water report was passed out. Still out \$490.56.
2. Went over Revenues and Expenditures for February.
3. Town received an invitation to the Annual Lawtey Spring Festival.
4. We received a quote from Thomas Quarles Fence to install a gate across from Tennis Court on Baseball fence. Cost \$350.00. This will be paid out of FRDAP.
5. Last month I reported that I could not get into Storage Building that Sheriff's department is using for a sub station. Terry was able to get into building. The problem with lock was the lock had become loose and needed to be tightened up.
6. There is a lot of limbs, moss and small concrete at new park. We need to clean this up. Clerk ask Mayor Melvin if he would remove the concrete steps with his tractor.
7. We received a quote from Swamp Cutters for new water fountain at park and the replacement of existing water fountains. The FRDAP allows for \$1000.00 for replacement and \$1000.00 for new water fountain. Swamp Cutters estimate came in for 4 new fountains \$1825.00. This is over our allowed amount. Clerk suggested we do two (2) instead of four (4). Council agreed. The cost for a new water fountain at park will be \$1500.00. This will include new fountain, pipe and fittings. Also, it would be cheaper if he can locate existing waterline. If he can't then it will cost \$1000.00 plus \$500.00 for fountain.
8. We have been working with Stefani Weeks on water permit application from Suwannee River Water Management District. We had not heard back from her on provided information. I contacted SRWMD on this and was told that she no longer works for them. The permit application was re-assigned to Warren Zwanka. He has requested a meeting with Mayor, Bernard Carter and Andrew Green on April 9th at 9:00a.m.
9. We have purchased a trash can, table and fence have been completed at playground.

Attorney – John Maines:

1. Town Clerk sent John a copy of Ordinance 80-1 pertaining to a Franchise with Clay Electric. Mr. Maines requested at the last meeting copies of the Ordinance and any Resolution pertaining to the franchise fee. Ordinance 80-1 was for 30 years effective February 1980 and the franchise fee was 6%. This Ordinance should have been looked at by the council before the 30 years was up. Also, Resolution January 17, 1983, changed the franchise fee from 6% to 4%. On January 20, 1983, the franchise fee was changed back from 4% to 6%. Mr. Maines just worked on this for LaCrosse with Duke Energy.
He suggested we renegotiate the franchise fee with Clay Electric. The state now mandates growth management plan "Land Development Regulations" which we didn't have in place prior to 1980. This will take a while to negotiate. We can request Clay Electric provide us with a list of all customers they impose a fee on yearly. Clerk said she would like to have this. Mr. Maines will be working on this and keep us informed.
2. Mr. Maines did ask Clerk if she had heard anything from Alachua County Board of County Commissioners pertaining to joint meeting with Bradford and Union Counties. She said she has not heard from them or received anything.

Water Department – Gene Melvin:

1. He mentioned that he had spoke with Bernard Carter and he has been in the hospital. Bernard said the fire hydrant located on SR 231/235 that was ran over will be replaced on Sunday. Lines need to be located. Whoever is installing fire hydrant needs to call to have lines located before digging.
2. The sheetrock is completed at the Water department building. Electrical still needs to be completed. He talked with Insurance Adjuster and they are working on getting this done. All bills have been okayed.

Recreation/Parks – Linda Bennett:

1. Steve Acree mentioned he would like to see a basketball court added to tennis court. Mayor Melvin suggested Steve research this and bring back up at the next meeting.

Ground Maintenance/Mowing – Steve Acree:

1. Steve mentioned that A.J. Lawn Service hit his fence. He called them and they came out the next day and fixed it.

Old Business:

1. Clerk said she did not hear from D.K. Bennett on checking fire hydrants pressure.

Checks approved: 7169 – 7192, 5465 - 5478

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

A motion was made by Gene Melvin to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:21p.m.

C.E. (Gene) Melvin, Mayor

Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk