

TOWN OF BROOKER
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2025

Present: Linda Bennett, Breann Garbas, Joe Tolleson, Chris Caldwell, Gene Melvin,
Charlene Thomas, John Maines – Zoom
Community: Jill Shea – Reddish & White

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

A motion was made by Joe Tolleson to approve the March 11th meeting minutes as presented.
Seconded by Breann Garbas. Motion passed.

Jill Shea – Reddish & White – audit ending 09/30/24:

Financial Statement and Independent Auditor's Report passed out for discussion and review. She went over Financial Highlights on page 4. The net position of the Town increased \$189,672 (or 8%) overall as a result of this year's operations. The increase was attributed to the ARPA and SCOP grant funds. We had a successful audit. She attributed this to Town Clerk, Charlene Thomas, doing a great job in keeping books balanced and staying within budget. This made her job easier. She mentioned on page 27 that the Town was notified about a grant from SRWMD in the amount of \$205,245. But as of the end of September 30, 2024 the Town had not started this grant. Also, she mentioned the Town will receive funds from the Division of State Fire Marshal within the Florida Department of Financial Services that the 2024 Florida Legislature appropriated funds to support two projects. As of September 30, 2024, no proceeds have been received. She mentioned on page 31 they found no findings or recommendations. On page 34 she mentioned that the Town had complied with all requirements for year end 09/30/24.

Attorney – John Maines/Zoom:

1. He mentioned he had spoke with Ben Carter, Chief of Fire Rescue, concerning the legality of Brooker piggy backing off of Bradford County. He suggested Ben get with the grant people and make sure this was allowable. He said it does help with cutting cost and will save us time and money.

Fire Department:

Gene Melvin, Mayor, has been attending meetings with Architectural, Engineering, Bidding and Construction Administration Services on the new Fire Station to be constructed in Brooker. The original plans cost too much. New plans had to have several items changed. Number of bays was one change and another was the numbers of bedrooms. Hopefully new plans are forthcoming.

1. He mentioned he did attend the Fire Assessment workshop on March 18th. Chris Caldwell attended too. He felt like the County Commissioners are wanting to go with the \$167.00 per year instead of the \$84.00. There is one more workshop on May 6th at 10:30a.m.

There was some discussion on this by the Town Council. Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk, explained to Council that we have no choice but enter into the MSBU with Bradford County. We can build a new Fire Station but we do not have the funds to staff the station. Bradford County will be doing that for us.

Town Clerk/Finance – Charlene Thomas:

1. Past due water report was passed out. Still out \$225.38 (no meter cut-offs)
2. CDBG – We received the award letter today. We will be awarded \$600,000.00. We should receive an email shortly with the subgrant agreement. The Mayor signed the acceptance letter tonight.
3. Went over Revenues and Expenditures for March 2025.
4. Several budget amendments are needed. One for ARPA expense and Fire expenses. We will be reimbursed once we start the building of the new fire station.
5. Josh Hall is working on moving the modular building.
6. We did have a break in at the Old City Hall. I was called about the door being open. I went down and found the trim work on the left side of door was lying in the floor. Spoke with Glenn Ward and he sent a Deputy out to write up break in. We could not find anything missing. Terry Thomas repaired the door so we could lock it. We will need a new door. Gene Melvin said he might know someone we can get to replace the door.

Water Department – Gene Melvin:

1. Bernard Carter reported we had some bad water samples on Well #2.

Sanitation – Chris Caldwell:

Nothing to report.

Road/Streets – Breann Garbas:

1. She mentioned we have some street signs that need to be replaced. She was advised to make a list and bring back to council at next meeting. We will have to get a price and see wants in the budget for this repair. It was mentioned that we will need to get someone to put up new signs. Joe Tolleson can no longer do this for us. Breann said she would be glad to do this if someone can show her how.

Recreation/Parks – Linda Bennett:

Nothing to report.

Anything from Town Council:

1. Breann Garbas said she would like for the Town to have an emergency fund. The money could be used for anyone who is not able to pay their water bill. Town Clerk advised that she cannot have money sitting around as an emergency fund. All of the Town's money has a check and balance system. She did not want to be responsible for keeping up with extra funds. We are audited yearly and I don't want to have to account for these funds.

New Business:

1. Mayor Melvin said he will have the new committees for 2025/26 at the next meeting.
2. There was some discussion on the 4-wheelers, dirt bikes and motorcycles riding on our streets. This was mentioned to Glenn Ward. Chris Caldwell said a motorcycle is riding on sidewalk in front of his house.

Checks approved: GFund: 8578-8597 WFund: 6159-6173

A motion was made by Chris Caldwell to approve the bills. Seconded by Linda Bennett. Motion passed.

Gene Melvin made a motion to adjourn. Time: 8:14p.m.

Cecil E. (Gene) Melvin, Mayor

Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk