

TOWN OF BROOKER  
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Present: Linda Bennett, Joe Tolleson, Breann Garbas, Charlene Thomas, Gene Melvin,  
Chris Caldwell, John Maines – Zoom  
Community: Josh Davis – Swamp Cutters, Terry Thomas, Diane Andrews – County  
Commissioner.

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

A motion was made by Joe Tolleson to approve the minutes from the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Seconded by Chris Caldwell. Motion passed.

Breann Garbas – Sworn in by Town Clerk

**Attorney – John Maines – Zoom:**

The Town Clerk had spoke with Mr. Maines concerning the Fire Assessment Ordinance the Town received prior to this meeting. He said even though the Town adopted the First Reading on Ordinance 2024-01 last year we will need to start the whole process over this year. The Second Reading on Ordinance 2024-01 did not pass due to a lack of a second from the Town Council.

He asked the Town Clerk to check the reading on this new Ordinance and compare it with the Ordinance we received last year. She reported it was exactly the same. Mr. Maines did not like the new Ordinance did not have a schedule of values attached. He said he was glad Section 3. TERM. was included. This gives the Town the option to repeal this Ordinance by writing no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the Town intends to withdraw from the MSBU. He did not have a problem with the Town adopting this Ordinance since we do depend on the County to provide Fire Service in the town limits. Mr. Maines said the council did not have to adopt the first reading of the Ordinance tonight.

**Diane Andrews** spoke concerning the Fire Assessment Ordinance. She said the County Commissioners have not voted on the fee schedule yet. Final approval of the Fire Assessment by the County Commissioners will need to be done by May 30, 2025. She thanked the Town Clerk for attending the February 4<sup>th</sup> workshop. There are two more workshops scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p.m. and May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30a.m. She encouraged Town Council to attend these meetings. Gene Melvin spoke and said he didn't suggest the Town of Brooker support this Ordinance until we have a Fire Department in place. Mrs. Andrews assured him Bradford County Fire/Rescue will continue to provide service to the Town of Brooker whether we have a Fire Station or not. CHW was the contractor the county used to build the Fire Station in Speedville, but she said they were not happy with there service. The County is looking for a different contractor. Once one is secured Ben Carter should be getting with the Town so we can decide what kind of Fire Station we want in Brooker. Mrs. Andrews told council she is recommending to the County Commissioners to go with the lowest assessment amount which is

\$84.00 per year. Of course she is only one vote. She is hoping the commissioners will consider next year or so to roll back the taxes from the 10 mill they are at now.

There was a lot of discussion on this matter. Linda Bennett made a motion to bring Ordinance 2025-01 back up at March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Seconded by Breann Garbas. Motion passed.

### **Josh Davis – Swamp Cutters:**

Josh was asked by town council to attend this meeting. The town council asked him if he would consider being on call 24/7 for the Town for water line breaks. He would be the point of contact when the Town Clerk or Councilmembers receive a call about a broken water line. He said he would do this for \$700.00 a month. He would be responsible for checking to see if the break is the homeowners or on the Town's side. The clerk did run this by Attorney John Maines before the meeting. He suggested we advertise for the position but it was up to the Town Council. The Council decided to not advertise because Josh is very familiar with our water system. A contract will need to be typed up and signed by Josh and the Mayor.

A motion was made by Breann Garbas to approve Josh Davis – Water Line Consultant for a monthly fee of \$700.00. Seconded by Chris Caldwell. Motion passed. Town Clerk will have the contract ready at the March meeting.

Josh did mention to council that it was a good idea to put a cut off valve at each meter. This way if the homeowner can't locate their cut off when they have a water break they can cut water off at this valve. This will eliminate customers touching our meters.

He will be coming out next week to put dirt around some meters that have caved in.

There were several other items that he feels like the Town Council needs to look at concerning our water system. It was suggested he make a list and get it back to Town Clerk.

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### **Town Clerk/Finance – Charlene Thomas:**

1. Past due water report was passed out. Still out \$212.82 (two meters locked – one unlocked).
  2. We received two additional bills from Fortiline for the Five (5) one (1) inch meters and parts. One bill was in the amount of \$1185.00 and the other \$2698.53. A total of \$3883.53. I contacted Kristine -SRWMD to see if they would cover these extra expenses. I heard back from her and the District has agreed to provide the additional funding for the one (1) inch meters. Their next meeting is February 11<sup>th</sup> and she will present the two bills for the Governing Body to approve this amendment to the original agreement. The original agreement was supposed to be closed out by February 28<sup>th</sup>. The bills cannot be paid until the amendment is signed. She will add some extra time to complete the grant so we are not locked in to the February 28<sup>th</sup> in case this runs longer. I did check with her to see if the Town can pay the bills and be reimbursed once the agreement is signed. She said yes. I have already paid the check to Fortiline.
  3. At the March meeting we will elect a Mayor and Vice-Mayor.
  4. All new meters have been installed.
  5. Florida Rural Water is working on the mapping for the water lines.
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1. The audit is almost complete by Reddish & White. Hopefully it will be ready to be presented at the March meeting.
  2. Went over Revenue and Expenditures for January.

**Water Department – Gene Melvin:**

1. He reported we are having problems with the Generator. The high temperature gauge is causing the alarm to go off. Ring Power has been contacted.

**Sanitation, Road/Streets, Recreation/Parks, Ground Maintenance/Mowing –  
Nothing to Report**

**Community Center – Gene Melvin:**

1. Clerk reported she has two rentals in March.
2. The new doors have been installed. They look great!
3. Floors have been stripped and waxed.

**Old Business:**

1. Fence work at New Fire Station property has been installed by All Out Fence.

**New Business:**

1. Mayor Gene Melvin did appoint Breann Garbas over the Road/Streets committee.

Checks approved: GFund: 8540-8558, WFund: 6138-6144

A motion was made by Chris Caldwell to approve the bills. Seconded by Joe Tolleson.  
Motion passed.

Gene Melvin made a motion to adjourn. Time: 8:35p.m.

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Cecil C. (Gene) Melvin, Mayor

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Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk