

TOWN OF BROOKER
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 9, 2024

Present: Gene Melvin, Chris Caldwell, Linda Bennett, Steve Acree, Joe Tolleson, Charlene Thomas, John Maines – Zoom
Community: Diane Andrews – County Commissioner, Terry Thomas, Ben Carter – Bradford County Chief of Fire Rescue, Carol Mosley – Telegraph, Rob & Kim Long

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

Motion made by Steve Acree to approve the June 11th meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Joe Tolleson. Motion passed.

First Reading Ordinance 2024-01

We need a motion to adopt and read by title only. Motion made by Steve Acree. Town Clerk read Ordinance 2024-01 by title. Seconded by Chris Caldwell. Vote called for – 5 yes

Before reading of this ordinance John Maines explained ordinance to Town Council. He did not like that the ordinance did not have the cost for the MSBU included. He is concerned about the difference of the language between fist reading and second reading. He said we need more information before the second reading of the ordinance is signed. He suggested to Diane Andrews that Bradford County Commissioners do a separate Resolution showing the cost. Leave final reading language on Ordinance 2024-01 the same as first reading.

Ben Carter reported that the City of Starke opted out of MSBU. The cost of the MSBU was discussed. Per the data the County received it could be as high as \$334.00 for residential. The cost has not been voted on by the Board of County Commissioners as of yet.

The Town of Brooker almost has to go with the MSBU to help with the funding of a Fire Station in Brooker.

Rob & Kimberly Long – citizens:

They attended meeting to complain about Waste Pro crushing the garbage carts and leaving them in roadway. Town Clerk said she met with Dayna Miller, Waste Pro, on Monday and discussed this with them. The Clerk had received eight complaints from citizens about their cart being crushed and needs replacing. From this day forward the Clerk will contact Waste Pro each time she receives a complaint about needing a replacement cart. Waste Pro will come out and replace cart. If it is a broken lid or wheel off they will fix cart.

Ben Carter – Bradford County Chief of Fire Rescue:

The Town of Brooker did receive a letter from Division of State Fire Marshal, JoAnne Rice, advising the 2024 Florida Legislature appropriated funds to support a new Fire Station in Brooker in the amount of \$506,096.00. Also, she advised us we received \$662,500.00 for New Fire Apparatus. Ben reported this is only about 50% of what is needed to complete project. Hopefully, next year the remainder will be funded. Plans are to have 2 fire fighters/EMT on duty 24/7. Fire Apparatus will be a Fire truck, Tanker and possibly a Rescue Unit. He did have some

concerns if the MSBU doesn't get approved. Once building is up and running the County will need to meet with the Town of Brooker concerning the utilities, maintenance of building/grounds, and lease agreement etc. The clerk did receive a Confirmation form from Division of State Fire Marshal that needs to be filled out. Her concerns were who will be the Financial Administrator, and Contract Manager. Ben Carter said he would come out and meet with Clerk and they can call the Division of State Fire Marshal and see whether the County can be in charge of this project. He said he would work with clerk concerning the advertisements and engineering needed for this project. Also, everything will have to be bid out. Diane Andrews said she is passionate about the Town of Brooker getting a Fire Station.

Town Clerk – Charlene Thomas:

1. Past due water report passed out. Still out \$574.61. One meter was locked for non-payment but turned back on shortly.
2. Received an email from Glen Ward concerning the property on Parker Street that needs cleaning up. Email states he gave them seven days to remove junk car and thirty days to clean up property. He mentioned that the County is in the process of foreclosing on Prescott property and once that is done the property will be given to Town. He contacted Favre next door about his property needing cleaning up. The Kelley place behind Prescott's looks better. Still working with George Washington. Not a lot he can do about Lowell Shadd's lot next to Chris Caldwell.
3. Called Pat Welch concerning survey of Castner property several times. He has fell and broke femur. He has been out of office about 3 weeks. Called again on Monday and the office is saying Chad Welch said all is needed is the write-up part on this property. I told them we need the markers showing the property line. They are going to mention that to Chad. I will keep checking on this. Gene mentioned to Diane Andrews that property will need to be cleaned up and hopefully county can help with this. Also, some trees need to be taken down.
4. Called Andy Eason concerning CDBG grant application date. He has not heard anything on the date. He thinks probably in August. Once date is provided we have 45 days to submit application.
5. On Sunday, June 30th, I noticed the barricades had been moved and the road was open on Melvin Street. Terry Thomas went ahead and put barricades back in place to close the road. I talked with Dewey Jenkins and he said a truck with a trailer moved them so he could get through and didn't put them back in place. Dewey has a cable wire and he said he would run it through the barricades so they can't be moved. I am ordering two signs that say "Road Closed" that will be installed at end of road.
6. I received a call on Monday that we have a broken water line at the first house at Braggs Branch. I called Swamp Cutters to repair.
7. Heard from Vince Robinson while on vacation concerning Community Center doors. They came in but were wrong size. They have been reordered.
8. Received an email from Andy Easton concerning FRDAP. He thinks the application date will be August 15th or 30th. Is the Town Council interested in applying for a FRDAP grant. Council said they would like to see a pickle ball court with lights and fencing. A bathroom was mentioned and 1/2 court Basketball court. Clerk will get with Andy on this. We might have to a special meeting to meet deadline. A motion was made by Chris Caldwell

to apply for a FRDAP. Seconded by Linda Bennett. Motion passed. The cost for Andy and Doug to administer the FRDAP is \$1000.00. Council said OK.

9. Called L.J. Forsgren about roof still leaking in Community Center.
10. Dayna Miller, Waste Pro, did ask me to share with the Town Council that to keep cost down for garbage pickup service they may have to change from twice a week pickup to once a week. They are considering this for several small Town's. They will let us know on this so we can pass it on to their customers.

Finance/Accounting Clerk – Charlene Thomas:

1. Went over Revenues and Expenditures for June with Council.
2. Last year's budget was passed out the council. Council was asked to let Clerk know if they think of anything they would like to see added to 2024/25 budget.
3. We received an email from Property Appraiser that DR420 is ready to be filled out by Town. Clerk asked council if they want to roll back taxes this new budget year? This means taxes will be about the same as last year. A motion was made by Chris Caldwell to roll back taxes. Seconded by Steve Acree. Motion passed.
4. First Public Hearing on Taxes and Budget will be September 10th at 7:00p.m.

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

Community Center – Gene Melvin:

1. Clerk said she has two rentals in July.

Old Business:

1. Modular Building at old park has not been torn down yet. Ben Carter said an agreement needs to be written up for the County and the Town to sign. Clerk asked Ben to write it up and send to her and she will have Mayor sign it.
2. Gene Melvin reported that he called Durrance about Non potable water dripping. Waiting on a valve to come in.
3. Gene mentioned to Diane Andrews that we still need a culvert on Michigan/SR 235A. Also, the creek needs cleaning up at this location. Parker Street needs cleaning up. Joe Tolleson was going to check and make sure the vehicle has been removed.

Checks approved: 8385 – 8410 GF & 6055 -6068 WF

A motion was made by Linda Bennett to approve the bills. Seconded by Steve Acree. Motion passed.

Gene Melvin made a motion to adjourn. Time: 8:15p.m.

Cecil E. (Gene) Melvin, Mayor

Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk

