

TOWN OF BROOKER
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 11, 2021

Present: Steve Acree, Linda Bennett, Gene Melvin, Chris Caldwell, Joe Tolleson, John Maines, Suzanne McRee, Charlene Thomas, Tony Stalaker.
Community: Terry Thomas, Jamie Dale, Breann Garbas, Diane Andrews – County Commissioner

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

A motion was made by Chris Caldwell to approve the April 13th meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Steve Acree, Motion passed.

Fire Department – Tony Stalaker:

Tony Stalaker advised he had attended April County Commissioners Meeting with discussion on the status of county fire departments. During that meeting Alan Parrish relayed there were tentative plans to get 2 firemen stationed in Brooker. This is a tentative, future plan that would require Board of County Commissioners approval. For the immediate needs, Tony proposed the following options for Town Council review:

1. Town of Brooker close Brooker Volunteer Fire Department and rely fully on county services. If so, county will be advised to pick up vehicles and remaining items will be inventoried by Tony for Town Council review/dissemination.
2. Town of Brooker would offer use of existing buildings to the county firemen (pending approval) and pursue a grant (possibly Clay Electric Round-Up Grant) to improve the existing facilities (sleeping quarters, office area, etc.) in Brooker. Town of Brooker would continue to pay for utilities, phones, etc. at existing buildings.
3. Town of Brooker would continue in current status (defunded by county) with Tony Stalaker as the sole fireman, working with the county and maintaining a current inventory of equipment on site, keeping the Town Council apprised of developments.

Discussion included concerns that if the fire department is shut down before a decision is made by the county a gap could be created, detrimental to the community. It was recommended that the Town transition as opposed to abandoning what is currently in place (Option 3).

Attorney Maines advised that he could reach out to the county attorney to express an interest in a Interlocal agreement for use of the existing buildings/property and to ensure no lapse in coverage. Joe Tolleson made motion that Attorney Maines speak to the county attorney for further discussion at June meeting. Steve Acree seconded. Motion passed.

Town Clerk –Suzanne McRee:

1. Lawn Maintenance contract is up for renewal (2-year contract runs from 8/1 thru 7/30). A copy of the current bid provided to all council members for review/changes with request to return all changes to Town Clerk prior to the June meeting. A date for a pre-bid tour and advertisements will be established at the June meeting.
2. SCOP Grant – submissions for Design and Engineering Services are coming in. Schedule for this bid is as follows:
 - a. Last Day for Questions: May 7, 2021
 - b. SOQ Submittal Deadline: May 14, 2021
 - c. SOQ Opened by Town Council: June 8, 2021
 - d. SOQ Selection Committee Approval: July 13, 2021.
3. Community Center Rentals are increasing. Request permission to hire someone on an “as needed” basis to clean the Community Center following each rental. Town Clerk will prepare a cleaning guidelines/specifications list of cleaning requirements with \$35.00 payment for each cleaning event. A notice will be posted at the Post Office for the need.
4. Past Due Report was passed out. Currently 7 accounts in past due status, with 3 meters locked. One (1) remains locked with the property being vacant. Overdue balance \$352.48.

Finance/Budget/Insurance – Charlene Thomas:

1. Went over Revenues and Expenditures for April, 2021.
2. At last meeting the council approved for Charlene Thomas to purchase a “Spring Rider Dinosaur” for playground area in the amount of \$900.00. She has checked around at several places to get the best price. A lot of places want to charge sales tax, which we do not pay. The lowest price she received, without sales tax is \$786.99, however the issue is the cost for Shipping and Freight Charges. Due to the weight of this item, the Shipping & Freight Charges are \$471.20 with the total cost being \$1209.96. We have the funds in Parks/Recreation Miscellaneous. Ms. Thomas requested the Council’s approval for the total cost of \$1209.96. Motion made by Steve Acree, Seconded by Linda Bennett. Motion Passed.
3. Budget Amendment – Ms. Thomas requested a budget amendment to pay Andy Easton for helping with the SCOP grant. He will be paid \$7500.00 in 2021 budget and \$7500.00 in the 2022 budget.

Ms. Thomas spoke with Kara Wainwright, Reddish and White, to see how this should be accomplished. Her suggestion is to add a line item under Street/Lights with the name of “Grant Administrator” – SCOP” in the amount of \$7500.00. This will change Street/Lights budget from \$18,000.00 to \$25,500.00. Also, we will need to increase the Revenue side to balance the budget. I have added a line item “Cash Carryover Prior Year” in the amount of \$7500.00. This will increase the overall budget from \$133,359.00 to \$140,859.00. Ms. Thomas advised that a motion and second would be required for this budget amendment. Motion made by Chris Caldwell, Seconded by Steve Acree. Motion passed.

Attorney – John Maines

Nothing new to report

Water Department – Gene Melvin:

1. Mayor Melvin spoke with Bernard Carter who advised that we are getting low on fuel and would need to set up with Bradford Fuel. Town Clerk to make contact.
2. Mr. Carter relayed he was not satisfied with fire hydrant/water sample at school, residual was an area of concern and feels that it needs to be flushed.
3. Shady Oaks – Mr. Carter is researching best way to handle and time frames to correct. Possibly 4 hours without water.

Sanitation – Chris Caldwell:

Nothing new to report

Road/Streets – Joe Tolleson:

1. Potholes are an issue.

Recreation/Parks – Linda Bennett:

Walking club in Brooker, meeting at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m., nightly

Grounds/Maintenance – Steve Acree:

Nothing new to report

Community Center – Gene Melvin

Confirmed with Town Clerk that the Center is being rented out. Looking for someone to clean.

General Discussion from Town Council:

Mayor Melvin relayed there have been some break-ins in the community, as reported by BCSO. Make sure cars are locked and valuables are not in sight.

Old Business:

New Business:

Checks approved: 7498-7523, 5618-5625

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

Gene Melvin made a motion to adjourn. Time: 8:12 p.m.

Cecil E. (Gene) Melvin, Mayor

Suzanne McRee, Town Clerk