

TOWN OF BROOKER
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Present: Linda Bennett, Steve Acree, Joe Tolleson, Chris Caldwell, Gene Melvin, Charlene Thomas, John Maines – Zoom.
Community: Terry Thomas, Ira Caldwell, Diane Andrews – County Commissioner, Glenn Ward – Code Enforcement.

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

A motion was made by Steve Acree to approve the minutes from the October 8th meeting as presented. Seconded by Joe Tolleson. Motion passed.

John Maines – Attorney:

The clerk had sent him a copy of the contract from Fortiline to look over. He had a virtual meeting with them and discussed some changes he wanted made in contract. One was an end date of contract and a termination clause. He advised the clerk that the above changes were made and he was ok with her signing the contract.

Steve Acree – Fire Department:

He had nothing to report.

Diane Andrews reported the Engine was ordered on November 4th. There was some discussion on who the truck will belong to. The Engine will be titled in the name of Town of Brooker. Who will pay for what? Diane mentioned that Lawtey and Brooker shouldn't have to pay for anything just because we are incorporated. Charlene Thomas mentioned items that need to be discussed and figure out who will pay for what. (Electric, Water, Insurance on Building and Trucks, Fuel, Payroll, Supplies for building, Maintenance on vehicles.) Diane mentioned they will be having some workshop meetings to discuss these items. She encouraged all council members to attend these meeting. Also, fire tax will be discussed. Hopefully the county can keep it low enough people can afford.

Glenn Ward – Code Enforcement:

1. Gene Melvin mentioned that while people were playing pickleball someone came by their vehicles and went through them. Clerk will contact Clay Electric and see if we can get a light facing the parking area.
2. ATV's were mentioned to Glenn about them driving on Town property and tearing up driveway. Clerk mentioned that signs have been posted saying "NO ATV's on property".
3. He did take some pictures of Shadd property on Melvin Street and it working on getting property cleaned up.
4. George Washington had a hearing today on his property. No progress had been made to get it cleaned up. He has had 18 months to get it cleaned up. December his fine will go up.

5. He mentioned the county has some message boards and speed sign boards that are old and the county could possibly turn them over to the Town if we want them. No action taken.

Charlene Thomas – Town Clerk:

1. Past due water report was passed out. Still out \$335.76 (4 meters were locked).
2. I did send Bobby Adams the bill from Swamp Cutters. He did not pay it. The Town did pay this bill.
3. Town Hall will be closed on Friday, November 28th.
4. Reminded council to do the Ethics training before December 31st. Linda Bennett has completed hers.
5. I received a call from homeowners at 18299 Charlotte Avenue saying they had low water pressure. I contacted Bernard Carter and he said he would call homeowners. Also, I called Swamp Cutters because he had just moved their meter from back yard to side yard. This meter has not been read since 2011 due to meter reader unable to get access to back yard. He came out and checked the meter. On 10/23/24 I received another call from homeowners saying they still had low pressure. I found out from plumber at their house they had a leak underneath slab and had the whole house re-plumbed and replaced hot water heater. I contacted Swamp Cutters again and he came out and checked the pressure with gauges. He came back out on 10/24/24 and dug up main line and re-tapped into line and put in another meter. He checked the pressure and the homeowner had 42 pounds of pressure going into their house when he left.
6. Terry put up a total of 53 memorial crosses. I have 5 more to make before Memorial Day next year. Chris Caldwell did complain about the crosses in front of his house saying it was hard to see around flags before pulling out. Next year we will decide where to put the crosses so they don't block anyone's view.
7. A note was put on each customer's water bill to contact Town Hall before digging.

Charlene Thomas – Account Clerk:

1. Went over Revenues and Expenditures for October 2024.

Gene Melvin – Water Department:

1. Prestige has not fixed #2 chlorinator.

Chris Caldwell – Sanitation:

1. He mentioned one of the trucks was leaking on the road. He called Waste Pro.

Steve Acree – Road/Streets:

Nothing to report.

Linda Bennett – Recreation/Parks:

1. She mentioned fence is leaning on East side of park. This will be corrected when new fence is put up.

Joe Tolleson – Ground Maintenance/Mowing:

1. Once a month mowing started this month.

Community Center:

1. Clerk reported she had met with Adam Moore and he will be reusing existing doors. He will change out the glass and put a blind inside of glass. Also, he will change out door keepers so doors will stay shut.

New Business:

1. Gene Melvin mentioned that the person who owns the church next to our property on Tetstone is driving on our property to get behind church. It was suggested we advertise for some fence work and fence our property starting SE corner of Tetstone going north 109' to property line and connect to existing park fence and running north to property line on Michigan. (Fence total is 291', 121' church side and 170' park side)
2. We need better lighting in front of town hall and water department. Gene will get in touch with Prestige.

Checks approved: GF-8475 – 8499 and WF-6103 - 6112

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

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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

Cecil E. (Gene) Melvin, Mayor

Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk