

TOWN OF BROOKER
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 14, 2024

Present: Joe Tolleson, Steve Acree, Linda Bennett, Chris Caldwell, Gene Melvin, Charlene Thomas, John Maines – Zoom
Community: Terry Thomas

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

A motion was made by Steve Acree to approve the April 9th meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Joe Tolleson. Motion passed.

Bids – Tree Removal:

Clerk reported she only received one bid. The bid was from Josh Hall in the amount of \$3500.00. A motion was made by Joe Tolleson to accept the bid in the amount of \$3500.00. Seconded by Steve Acree. Motion passed. Clerk will contact Josh.

Attorney – John Maines:

He had nothing to report on at this time.

Gene Melvin questioned him about the Form 6 that the council members have to fill out. Mr. Maines said yes it has to be done before July 1st. Town Clerk asked each council member if they had received an email from the Ethics on Form 6? Steve Acree and Charlene Thomas has completed the form. Gene Melvin and Joe Tolleson said they did not receive an email on this. Linda Bennett and Chris Caldwell did receive an email. The Town Clerk will contact the Ethics Committee and ask them to resend an email to Gene Melvin and Joe Tolleson. John did mention that if we were to have qualifying for a council seat this year that each candidate would need to fill out a Form 6.

Fire Department – Steve Acree:

Nothing to report.

Town Clerk – Charlene Thomas:

1. Past due water report passed out. Still out \$332.23. One meter was locked for no payment. As of this meeting it is still locked.
2. Flushing of Fire Hydrants was done on April 22nd. We received no complaints from homeowners.
3. Travel trailer has been removed from Castner property that the Town purchased.
4. I did check with Josh Davis, Swamp Cutters, to see how we read the new meters if we don't have an internet signal. He said we do not use the internet for meter reading. Each meter will have an antenna.
5. Memorial crosses will be put up next week. Remember only the ones who have passed away will be put up this time. In November on Veteran's Day all who served crosses will be put up.

6. We received a letter from DEP stating that all non-compliance items have been corrected.
7. CCR – working on this letter with Bernard Carter. It has to be mailed out before July 1st to each homeowner.
8. We received a notification from Bradford County saying that a car with lettering on doors “Debris Tech 336” could be seen on our streets/roads. They are checking pre-hurricane season roads.
9. I have had several ask me about getting the tennis court stripped for pickle ball. I called Tennis Unlimited and the cost to strip is \$800.00. I called three council members and got approval to go ahead and have stripping done. It will not affect the tennis court stripping. It was done on Monday, May 13th.
10. On Sunday April 14th I came to City Hall. A young boy was riding a 4-wheeler and another boy was riding a mini-motor bike. They were turning in our driveway from Tetstone and tearing up the gravel we just had put down. I tried to stop the boys and ask them to not turn in so fast because of tearing up the gravel. They would not stop. I called Bradford County non-emergency number and reported these young boys. They sent a deputy out to check into this. The boys came from the house across RR tracks on right side of road. On Monday morning I received a complaint from a homeowner on Bradford Avenue saying she had called B.C.S.O. concerning the 4-wheeler ripping up and down her street. She was told by B.C.S.O. that they were allowed to ride on side streets. I told her that is not true. I emailed Brad Smith, B.C.S.O. concerning this. He said he would let the patrol division know about this and get them to work towards correcting these kids and their parent’s behavior. He said if this continues again to let him know. I am ordering a sign to go on entryway fence saying “No ATV’s allowed on property.”
11. The toilet at the old city hall isn’t flushing. I called Phillip McDonald plumbing and they came out and pumped out the septic tank.
12. I heard from Mary Gavin, Gavin Consulting, LLC. It looks like we might get a grant to replace meters. I got with the Mayor on this. We had to pick which meter company we would be using for meter replacement. We received two quotes, \$205,244.79 Fortiline and \$231,721.36 Core & Main. The Mayor decided we would use Fortiline. Also, we had to designate an agent for the grant. We stayed with Mary Gavin, Gavin Consulting, LLC. We had to provide a letter stating the Town of Brooker would provide the match of \$10,800.00 to relocate 6 meters located on private property. Per the email we received it stated that SRWMD has reviewed our conceptual application and has recommended it for funding. Funding will come from the FDEP Public Supply Efficiencies grant and the District RIVER grant program. The anticipated date for submitting for approval is June 2024.
13. I spoke with Clint Adkins, 352-575-7825, on April 29th concerning the cleaning up and fixing the ballfield so it is usable. They have a lot of volunteers ready to do the work. They will be removing grass from the infield, adding clay and completely fixing it up. They have a girl’s ten and under softball team. (FSA NF extreme) They want to use the field for practices during the week. I did explain to him that they cannot park inside of our fenced in area during practices or anytime. We rent the community center and need

for the renters to have a place to park. Also, he was told that the field is for anyone and if someone is using the field they do not have precedence over anyone.

I called John Maines, Attorney, on this. He was concerned about the liability.

I checked with Tom Conley, Florida League of Cities. He said volunteers are considered employees and can file workers comp claims if injured. He said it is okay for donating and volunteering on our field. He suggested we have a sign in/sign our sheet when anyone does any work on the field. I did get with Clint on this. As for liability if someone gets hurt then Florida League of Cities will defend the Town.

I called the Mayor and let him know what is going on at the ballfield. Also, Clint asked if the Town would buy some bases. I did order them. I received another call from Clint asking if the Town would purchase a load of clay at the cost of \$300.00. A motion was made by Steve Acree to purchase clay. Seconded by Linda Bennett. Motion passed.

14. There is a cost to add Automated Meter Reading to our SOLUS water bill program. I received a quote in the amount of \$3,300.00. We will need a motion and second to approve this cost. Once meters are installed then SOLUS will begin changing from manual readings to automated meter readings. A motion was made by Steve Acree to go ahead with this purchase. Seconded by Chris Caldwell. Motion passed.

Accounting Clerk – Charlene Thomas:

1. Went over Revenues and Expenditures for April 2024.

Water Department – Gene Melvin:

Nothing to Report.

Sanitation – Chris Caldwell:

Town Clerk reported she has received several calls from customers in Manns trailer park about their garbage not being picked up on Thursday. She has called Waste Pro several times about this. I will check this out on Thursday and if it is not picked up I will be calling Waste Pro again.

Road/Streets, Recreation/Parks, Ground Maintenance Mowing-Nothing to Report.

Community Center – Gene Melvin:

1. He mentioned the light on the outside of City Hall is not working. Town Clerk will call Prestige.
2. He asked about the doors for Community Center. Town Clerk said she would call Vince Robinson.

Old Business:

1. Linda Bennett was suppose to check with Diane Andrews to see when the County would be tearing down the modular building at old city park. Linda sent a text to Ben Carter at meeting and he said as soon as possible. Also, Linda texted Diane concerning this.
2. Joe asked about the culvert on Michigan. Gene said he had been in touch with Jason Dodds but it hasn't been done. Gene mentioned that the ditch across from Linda

Robinson needs cleaning and the right away on Pinholster needs cleaning up. He hasn't seen anyone from County out here.

Gene mentioned that the county cannot clean up the overgrown trees and bushes on Parker Street due to vehicles parked on our right away. Town Clerk was asked to contact Code Enforcement on this. The address is: 11649 Parker Street.

3. The light pole sitting in the middle of Castner property needs to be moved. Gene suggested waiting until the survey is completed.

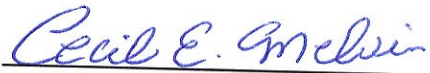
New Business:

Linda Bennett did mention she was going on a cruise and would not be at the June meeting.

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

Motion to adjourn by Gene Melvin, Mayor. Time: 7:52p.m.

Checks approved: GF-8342-8364, WF-6036-6046



Cecil E. (Gene) Melvin, Mayor



Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk