

**TOWN OF BROOKLET  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 18, 2007**

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Grooms  
Members Present: William Hendrix; Sylvia Prosser; City Attorney Hugh Hunter; Randy Newman; and Russell Davis. Annette Wilson was absent.
  
2. **INVOCATION:** Sylvia Prosser
  
3. **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES:**  
Councilwoman Prosser made a motion to accept the September minutes. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis and passed with all ayes.
  
4. **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**  
Councilman Hendrix made a motion to accept the reports as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Newman and passed with all ayes.
  
5. **RECOGNITION OF GUEST:**
  1. Boy Scout Troop #648 did not attend.
  
6. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

Councilman Davis reported on the material for the cemetery project. He looked into the pipes for the ditches. Eddie Smith from the county suggested we use black pipe plastic from Ag Supply. Mayor Grooms offered to give the city some he has laying around. Councilman Davis made a motion to go with the black plastic. Motion seconded by Councilman Newman and passed with all ayes. Also, within the following month, Councilman Davis and Councilwoman Prosser will have a better idea of what kind of shrubbery and or trees to plant between the cemetery and R.E.S.A. to hide all the big trucks. Councilman Davis also reported on the workshop for privatizing garbage. A few people suggested that Councilman Davis just play the game. He voiced his opinion not to privatize and asked that before Council makes a decision, we need to get some figures. Councilman Davis feels that when we save money during the year on our budget, we also lower the town's millage and if we're saving money on garbage by privatizing we should give it back to the citizen's of the town. Councilman Davis made a motion not to privatize. Motion died for lack of a seconded.

Councilwoman Wilson was absent.

Councilman Newman made a report on the Beautification Project for Downtown Brooklet. Keep Bulloch Beautiful recognized the City of Brooklet for the downtown area as Property of the Month for October 2007. We were awarded with a plaque and there will also be a sign placed in our downtown area. Councilman Newman is still working on getting handrails for in between the light post on the sidewalks. Mayor Grooms asked about the bench on the corner of Linda's Beauty Shop. The Mayor is concerned because there are kids using it for other purposes and the bench seems to be unsafe. The people from Adult Care asked if they could use it. Councilman Davis doesn't think it is safe, unless it is attached together to make it more sturdy. Councilman Davis suggests that we invest in a new one as well as Councilman Newman. Councilman Newman also asked the county to look at draining issues we have had down at Julius Circle. They have come down and given a few suggestions and have offered to help with the problem within the next two weeks.

Councilwoman Prosser made a report on the hand held water meter device. TBS has provided the city with a quote for the hardware/software. Councilwoman Prosser made a motion to accept the TBS proposal. Motion seconded by Councilman Hendrix and passed with all ayes. She also reported on the water tank. It has been drained and cleaned. There is a contract with Pittsburg Tank which we have decided to cancel when it is up in a year. Councilwoman Prosser made a motion that we send Pittsburg Tank a letter stating that we want to cancel the contract. Motion seconded by Councilman Newman and passed with all ayes.

Councilman Hendrix announced to council that there has been a new officer hired for the City of Brooklet. Councilman Hendrix also presented Council with a School Resource Officer memorandum and understanding between Brooklet Police Department, Bulloch County Board of Education, and Southeast Bulloch High School. He would like for Council to approve for Chief Mincey to pursue this and work out all legal aspects, the pros and cons of how it would best benefit Brooklets community and the school. Southeast Bulloch School is a county school and if they feel the need for an officer to be placed at the school then it is there responsibility to do so. Councilman Hendrix wants Council to look at the memorandum till the first of the year to make a decision on whether we should or shouldn't approve the memorandum. Councilman Hendrix feels that having an officer placed at the school will greatly benefit the kids.

Chief Mincey collaborated on this matter. The Town of Brooklet is growing because of our school district. Chief Mincey feels that if we can reach these young people at a young age, if we could be a positive role model, rather it be a Brooklet Police Officer or a Bulloch County Deputy, it would be a huge impact on the future community of the Town of Brooklet. Chief Mincey has been proactive and actively involved in the school system since his day of hire. He wants to continue and build on it. There will be cost up front. The Board of Education has agreed that they would fit half the cost of everything. This includes an officer, benefits, vehicle and everything it would cost to put an officer on the street. Chief Mincey's job takes up a lot of administrative time. He made a proposal that he would take on a double duty to begin to implicate the program if the Council is satisfactory with the program and he will start it off and do most of his administrative duties from the school itself. The ball park figure is \$19, 279.23 and a cost analysis right now of what the Town of Brooklet would pay to put an officer at the school. That covers salary, benefits, and cost of a vehicle. Brenda Hendrix, a citizen of Brooklet, voiced her opinion on the matter. Ms. Hendrix feels that as a citizen and a parent of Brooklet, this program would be a great impact on the children of the school. Mayor Grooms doesn't think it is Brooklet's responsibility to support this program, he feels it is up to county. Chief Mincey also introduced our new officer, Richard Ray. He will begin work on October 22, 2007.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**8. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Councilman Newman announced that Keep Bulloch Beautiful has asked that a representative be nominated on the board. Councilman Newman nominated Russell Davis to take that place. Councilman Newman made a motion to nominate Mr. Davis. Motion Seconded by Councilwoman Prosser and passed with all eyes.

2. Second reading of the city ordinance to amend the ordinance imposing license fees on insurers conducting businesses within the Town of Brooklet to change the fee from \$25.00 to \$45.00. Councilman Newman made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Motion second by Councilwoman Prosser and passed with all eyes.

3. Names submitted to the nomination of the Zoning Commission; Rusty Smith, Jim Stanoff and Fred Rich. The three nominees gave a brief speech to council on who they are and how they can serve our zoning committee.

Rusty Smith has been a citizen of Brooklet for two years, has a wife and two children and attends the Methodist Church where he is on the board of trustee. His family moved to Brooklet for the community and the conveniences the church and the school.

Jim Stanoff has had experience in the Chamber of Commerce and City Structure. He is retired from the USAF of 23 years. He is presently doing some Human Resource consulting (currently involved with The Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County).

Fred Rich would like to come back on the Zoning Board. Mr. Rich helped put together the zoning ordinance for the Town of Brooklet. He's been asked to serve and would be glad to help the Town of Brooklet.

Councilwoman Prosser made a motion that we ask Rusty Smith to take Charles Mallards place on the Zoning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilman Newman and passed with all ayes.

4. Discussion on Pawn Shop in Brooklet; Franklin and Donna Hendrix:  
Franklin and Donna Hendrix would like to open a pawn shop in Brooklet. They were asked in the September meeting to let Attorney Hugh Hunter look into the ordinances of a pawn shop and he would make a recommendation at the October meeting. Attorney Hugh Hunter did some research and found that a pawn shop is a legal business. He recommends that the Town of Brooklet do more regulations for pawn shops in Brooklet. Mr. Hendrix assured council that the pawn shop would be open to the police department at all times to come in and view any receipts and records that they have obtained. He also stated that there will be background checks on all gun sales and you have to have a valid I.D. Attorney Hugh Hunter does not see a problem with the Town of Brooklet issuing Mr. Hendrix with a business license at this time. Councilman Newman made a motion that we start checking on other city ordinances for pawn shops. Seconded by Councilwoman Prosser and passed with all ayes.

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. First reading of the ordinance to amend the subdivision regulations to make it clear that final approval of a subdivision plat shall be performed by the building inspector and zoning administrator. Attorney Hugh Hunter explained to council that there was a conflict in a couple of sections of the zoning ordinance where it was unclear to who was supposed to approve the final plat. Since this is an amendment the zoning ordinance has to be advertised. Mrs. Belle has put the amendment out there to be advertised.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

These shall be limited to the subject that is being debated. Members of the public may speak for five minutes and may speak only once. Anyone wishing to speak at any meeting must be recognized by the Mayor before addressing the board.

1. Live oak; Andy Hart wanted to know the outcome of the workshop on sanitation. There has been an agreement to privatize. The next step would be to get bids on a one year contract in which the Town of Brooklet provides the garbage carts. In November the council will make a decision on the company of choice. Motion seconded by Councilman Hendrix and passed with all ayes.

2. Rusty Smith asked council if the city could look into another mosquito spray. Mayor Grooms suggested a mosquito fog that is 4 xs more effective than a spray. This is something the city will look into for next year.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Mayor Grooms asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Hendrix, seconded by Councilman Newman and passed with all ayes.**