

**TOWN OF BROOKLET
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 17, 2008**

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Grooms**
Members Present: Russell Davis, Annette Wilson, Randy Newman, Sylvia Prosser, Attorney Hugh Hunter and William Hendrix.

2. **INVOCATION:** Mayor Grooms

3. **APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES:**
Councilwoman Wilson made a motion to approve the March minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hendrix and passed with all ayes.

4. **APPROVAL OF MARCH FINANCIAL REPORTS:**
Councilman Newman made a motion to approve the March financial reports. Motion was seconded by Councilman Davis and passed with all ayes.

Opening of sealed bids for the garbage truck and the black dump truck:

At the March city council meeting, it was decided among Mayor and Council for Mrs. Belle to re-advertise the garbage truck with a minimum bid of \$10,000.00. All sealed bids were opened and pronounced: Roberts Welding Company gave a bid of \$1250.00 for the garbage truck and Road and Field Equipment gave a bid of \$4,500 for the garbage truck and \$500.00 for the black dump truck. Councilman Davis made a motion to reject the bid of \$4,500.00 and accept the bid for \$500.00 for the black truck. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hendrix and passes with all ayes.

5. **RECOGNITION OF GUEST:**

1. RANDY WALKER, BULLOCH COUNTY FIRE CHIEF:

Mr. Walker introduced his self to Mayor and Council and stated that in June Bulloch county is having conducting an Insurance Series Office Survey. Brooklets last survey was done in 2001. Basically this is a 100 point survey and is used to set the insurance premiums for homeowners and business owners for what is paid locally. Brooklet enjoys the best rating, outside of Statesboro and Bulloch county as a class six. The town is rated on a scale from 1 to 10; 1 being the best fire protection they consider by their schedule and 10 being no fire protection. Our goal is to not only to maintain the rating but to also lower it to save the better fire series that we have, the lower insurance premiums people will pay. Mr. Walker is asking Brooklet to consider getting a larger size hose for the Brooklet fire truck. If we do so, this will also lower the rate. The cost of the hose is \$11,000.00. Our goal is to make the rate lower and better. Councilman Newman made a motion to approve for Chief Walker to purchase the hose and if he can find it at a bargain price , to go ahead and get it for that, Motion was seconded by Councilman Prosser and passed with all ayes.

2. WILLIAM GRIFFITH, PLANNING & ZONING BOARD MEMBER:

Question for Mayor and Council: Does Council; have any plans for annexations or subdivision development in the near future?

Mr. Griffith stated that at the past meetings, we have had issues come up about water and what the range is

of plans as far as what Council has for the growth of this town. The Planning & Zoning committee would like to invite the Mayor and Council to attend their May meeting to discuss the plans for the future growth of Brooklet. Councilman Newman made a motion to have a called meeting May 13th at 7:00 P.M. at the Planning & Zoning meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Prosser and passed with all ayes.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE:

COUNCILMAN DAVIS: There has been some concerns about the cleanup of the cemetery. Councilman Davis has received quotes for maintaining the cemetery. The first bid was from Lanier Lawn Service of \$800.00 per cutting and a bid from Sammy Glisson for \$350.00 per cut. Councilman Davis feels that Mr. Glisson does a great job and has been doing so for the last few years. Councilman Davis recommends that we have a complete cleanup which would include grass cutting, edging around grave stones, and flower pickup then also have a community cleanup. Councilman Davis made a motion to accept the bid from Sammy Glisson and have Billy Taylor and the guys spray roundup on the weeds and ant beds around the cemetery. Motion was seconded by Councilman Newman and passed with all ayes. Also, Councilman Newman has asked for a thorough cleanup. He has received bids from English Landscape for \$750.00 and a bid from Al Cartee for \$1050.00. This is a one time cleanup; Sammy Glisson will continue maintaining the cemetery as he has in the past and we will have Billy spray the weeds and ant beds. Councilman Newman made a motion to go ahead with English Landscaping for the one time cleanup. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hendrix and passed with all ayes. Next, Councilman Hendrix has received a bid from Walker Tree Service to spend a week from RESA all the way to Denmark road, to cut all vines, trim limbs, level out dirt mound, cut small and large trees down and grind down all stumps for \$3,800.00. Mayor Grooms suggest we notify the funeral homes about excess dirt being dumped at the edge of the cemetery. Councilman Newman made a motion to accept Walker Tree Service of \$3,800.00. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Prosser and passed with all ayes.

COUNCILWOMAN WILSON: Gave the General and Water Fund balances. Councilwoman Wilson also mentioned that Mrs. Belle has handed out the budget worksheets for 2009 to all department heads. These are to be turned in at the May Council meeting.

COUNCILMAN NEWMAN: For several months Councilman Newman has been working on the sidewalks. He has a total of 1,644 per linear foot of sidewalks that need to be repaired. Councilman Newman has received four quotes; The quotes are from Len Davis for \$2.90 per square ft., Matt Keel for \$1.80 per square ft., Red Diamond for \$3.16 and Jermaine Perkins for \$2.20 per square ft. The quotes include all labor and materials for random locations within the City of Brooklet: To provide all labor and material including light grading (hand grading), forming and placement of 3000# psi concrete - 4" minimum thickness and 48" width - tooled joint on 72" centers within City of Brooklet. There should be no debris removal required of the contractor. Councilman Newman suggest we have Billy and his guys tear up the sidewalks and remove all debris. Councilman Newman made a motion to go with Matt Keels quote of \$1.80 per square foot. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hendrix and passed with all ayes. Councilman Newman was also asked to look into installing speed bumps. He has done so and has found out that if Brooklet installs speed bumps, it automatically takes away our future LARP list. Therefore, if we ever needed to have the road re-surfaced we couldn't due to the speed bumps. Councilman Newman has met with C. R. Jackson, who is the local head of Department of Transportation and talked with him about rumble strips instead of speed bumps. Mr. Jackson does not endorse the rumble strips because of the noise factor. The alternative is to change out the road signs to new ones. The signs cost \$50.00 a piece. Councilman Newman will also check with the county on the prices for the rumble strips. Mayor Grooms asked Councilman Newman about the signs that were ordered for our downtown sidewalks. The signs have arrived and are ready to be posted downtown.

COUNCILWOMAN PROSSER: No Reports.

COUNCILMAN HENDRIX: No Reports.

CHIEF BUCHAN: Pronounced to Mayor and Council that he has passed his Chiefs' Training School. Chief Buchan has asked Mayor and Council if he could order tasers for his officers and himself. The officers can be trained and certified to use the tasers at no cost. Chief Buchan feels that this is a big officer safety issue that should have been addressed years ago. The tasers will average around \$6,000.00 for five. Chief Buchan is also currently advertising for a full time officer. Councilman Hendrix made a motion to approve the purchase of the tasers. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and passed with all ayes.

ATTORNEY HUGH HUNTER: Attorney Hunter asked Chief Buchan to submit his opinion on the SRO matter at Southeast Bulloch High School, to a lawyer named Michael Caldwell from the Association of Chief Schooling. Chief Buchan did so and has received Mr. Caldwell's email of his opinion. Attorney Hunter feels like they both are in the same agreement with each other, although they somewhat disagree. It is unclear under the law as it presently stands and whether or not the indemnity division is enforceable if we were to enter into an indemnification agreement with the school board. If there happened to be a law suit, we may get an unfavorable decision from the court and in Attorney Hunter's opinion the decision the court decides; the state will tend to lean towards that position, that is that the indemnity agreement would be unenforceable. Brooklet is taking a risk with having their officer out at the school. Attorney Hunter stated that it would be okay to leave the officer at the school but not to use the Brooklet police car, uniform and equipment while doing so. Otherwise, if our officer is working as the SRO and is using our equipment, it is almost certain that the city would be sued but that doesn't mean that the plaintiff would win but Brooklet would be sued. In fact, the city would ultimately prevail, but to get to that point we would have to spend money. The Town of Brooklet needs to decide how much risk the town is willing to put the City Treasurer to in order to provide a SRO down at the school. Attorney Hunter feels that if we do this without the police car and all equipment, and if the school acknowledges that they are responsible for training then the city may have zero liability in this situation. On the other hand, if we continue to have our officer working at the school with all our equipment, what are the risk we would be taking? Both Attorney Hunter and Mr. Caldwell believes we should try to get the school boards insurance company to add Brooklet as an additional insurer so the defense cost will be covered and if there is any liability, that the insurance company will pick it up. We should also have our insurance company to provide alternative coverage for this situation and that would be in the form of an endorsement to the policy. Essentially, our insurance company does not agree with our officer being at the school in our equipment. However they stated in an email that they would cover the Brooklet officer wherever he went, but Attorney Hunter was told verbally they would not provide affirmative coverage. The primary risk is having to provide a defense cost in which in these kind of cases would run \$25,000.00. Is it worth the risk? This is a question The Town of Brooklet would have to decide.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

8. OLD BUSINESS:

1. MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED BULLOCH COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF STATESBORO, BROOKLET, PORTAL AND REGISTER SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Councilman Newman made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilman Davis and passed with all ayes.

2. REVIEW OF BROOKLET CODE ETHICS ARTICLE B/SECTION 1-25 ETHICS COMMITTEE.
Councilman Hendrix talked to Coach Shaver and Charles Mallard and found out that there is an

Attorney living in Brooklet by the name of Benji Thompson. Mr. Thompson has agreed to look at the modifications of the Ethics Committee.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

1. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 34-2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BROOKLET REGARDING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS, BOWS AND ARROWS, AIRGUNS AND SLING SHOTS. ALSO REVIEW SUGGESTED CHANGES TO SECTION 7, SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE, AND SUGGESTED CHANGES IN LANGUAGE OF BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS.

2. COPIES OF 2009 BUDGET WORKSHEETS FOR EACH DEPARTMENT HEAD SHOULD BE TURNED IN AT THE MAY COUNCIL MEETING.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT.

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