

**TOWN OF BROOKLET
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
04/19/2007**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER; MAYOR GROOMS
Members present: Randy Newman, Annette Wilson, Sylvia Prosser and William Hendrix. Mayor Joe Grooms and Attorney Hugh Hunter. Russell Davis was absent.
2. INVOCATION BY ANNETTE WILSON.
3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 15TH AND MARCH 29TH MEETINGS.
COUNCILWOMAN PROSSER made a motion to accept the minutes as written.
COUNCILMAN NEWMAN seconded the motion which passed with all ayes.
4. APPROVAL OF MARCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.
COUNCILMAN HENDRIX made a motion to accept the statements as presented.
Motion was seconded by COUNCILMAN NEWMAN and passed with all ayes.
5. RECOGNITION OF GUEST:
 1. JOHN WISE, EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT.
John asked council what they would like to have planted in the designated landscaped areas on the streets downtown . Councilman Newman just wants it to look good and asked him to pick up a copy of design. Councilwoman Prosser suggested he check with Mrs.Yevette Smith at S. E. Bulloch School for some ideas. Mayor Grooms has two sheets of tin for the repairs of the Scout Hut which the troop Committee has Planned to do the repair as a service project for their group. They plan to work on Saturday and enjoy a cookout at the some time. Bills for supplies will be turned in to City Hall for Payment.
 2. TIMOTHY SMALL: BUSINESS LICENSE REQUEST.
Mr. Small has rented apartment A & B at 121 Highway 80 West and is requesting A Business License for T C's Land Clearing and a Pawn Shop. City Clerk, Belle Gay had asked MR. Small to apply for the business licenses and present them to council for approval because he is requesting a type of business (Pawn Shop) that is out of the ordinary for Brooklet. We do not have an ordinance for a pawn shop, but Chief Mincey has checked with Statesboro and they are sending us a copy of their ordinance for review. There is Federal and State Laws dealing with fire arms. Mr. Small advised he would not be dealing with fire arms, only jewelry, tools, T. V's, VCR's, refrigerators, and stoves. He stated he had opened Pawn Shops in Statesboro at one time.

Councilman Newman feels we should hold off on these applications until we get more information on Pawn Shop Ordinances and also State and Federal Laws. Mayor Grooms asked about his equipment parked beside Highway 80. Mr. Small advised it was his and he did land and lot clearing and would like to leave it there for advertisement for his business. The trucks leave out early in the morning and are gone most of the day. Councilman Newman made a motion to table the application for a Business License for a pawn shop until we have more information to go on. Motion seconded by Councilman Hendrix. Motion passed with three (3) ayes with Councilwoman Wilson voting no.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

COUNCILMAN DAVIS: Absent.

COUNCILWOMAN WILSON: Reported the bank balances from the Water Fund and General Fund accounts for March.

COUNCILMAN NEWMAN: Discussed issues concerning the work planned for the downtown area and sidewalks. One is the posts holding up the awning extending over the sidewalk on Ken Nesmith's Property. A pre-construction meeting is planned for next week. Mayor Grooms asked if anyone had approached Mr. Nesmith about removing the awning. Councilman Davis had mentioned the problem but has not found out anything yet. Councilman Hendrix will speak with Mr. Nesmith tomorrow and try to get a copy of a plat. Councilman Newman also reports that a request has been made to the Bulloch County Commissioners for reimbursement to the Town of Brooklet from the SPLOST fund for payment of the sidewalk project. All members were furnished a copy of the Brooklet Plantation Subdivision. Mr. Paul Scott has offered to deed to Brooklet, the common areas of the subdivision which includes a total of .38 acres of streets and a small corner facing Spence Road. Councilman Newman checked out the area and made a list of items they will need to take care of before we accept the streets. Mr. Scott will be advised of this information. Councilman Hendrix made a motion to accept Mr. Scott's offer upon completion of the required list and the payment for the 2006 taxes are made. Motion seconded by Councilman Newman and passed with all ayes. Joey Maxwell continues to work on the Julius Circle project. When he has completed the plans, Councilman Newman will put the paving out for bids again.

COUNCILWOMAN PROSSER; No report.

COUNCILMAN HENDRIX; He has turned in the G M A lease package in to Ms. Belle and would like to have this completed and whatever we need to do in

order to get this implemented. We want to get this started in order to buy two new vehicles and the payment will be deferred until S P L O S T money comes in. Councilman Newman is concerned about going over budget. We had already budgeted for one police car in the 2007 budget and July 1, 2007 we start on a new budget. Chief Mincey explained how the G M A Lease works. Once you sign the lease it is a 30 year contract basically with G M A, which covers all future Councils for this time frame, so that any Council can purchase vehicles and equipment through the 30 year period. This does not mean we are borrowing money now, but that future Council Members have the authority to purchase through this lease program. Mayor Grooms feels it is important to stay within the budget. We always put this out on bids and the mayor feels that this is the way it should be. Councilman Newman explained that if we sign up for the G M A Lease program, this does not mean we have to use it, but it will be there if and when we need it. Attorney Hunter advised this is a program that G M A has designed to benefit cities and not for profit. He feels it is a good program. Councilman Hendrix made a motion to complete the application for the Master Lease and submit to the Georgia Municipal Association for processing. Motion seconded by Councilman Newman and passed with all ayes. Councilman Hendrix advised that we were in the process of hiring another officer and we need to purchase two radios and two of the cars need to be equipped with cameras. This is a very important piece of equipment for the protection of everyone concerned.

CHIEF MINCEY; His first request was to publicly apologize to the Mayor and Council for some of his comments made at the last meeting. Mayor Grooms accepted His apology. The price of the radios came from Ted Wynn and Motorola quoted the same price of \$2,797.00 for each digital portable radio. The digital cameras are priced at \$5,020.00 each. The budget shows a balance of \$14,000.00 for equipment. Chief Mincey would like to get approval tonight for these purchases. Council approved. Chief Mincey is concerned about Golf Carts in Brooklet and has looked at ordinances from other towns. He asked council for permission to meet with Mr. Hunter and discuss some issues on the golf carts. some towns charge a fee and have people to register their carts and this would give us an idea of how many carts are out there and who they belong to. Councilman Hendrix asked if he could simplify the ordinance for golf carts including State Laws and bring it back to council. Charles Mallard has one and his comment was, he had checked before he ordered the one he has and got exactly what he was told he needed and will not be happy if the rules change and he has to haul it back to Waynesboro to add stuff to it.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

8. **OLD BUSINESS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GARBAGE BIDS.**

Mayor Grooms mentioned the figures on the total number of garbage carts being over 500 but we don't really have but 425, which makes a difference in price. He does not now how this figure came about, but this is the figure given to him by Billy Taylor. Councilman Newman feels that before looking at bids, we need to determine whether or not we will privatize or keep this service in house. Mayor Grooms feels that Councilman Davis worked on the incorrect number of 557 carts. Jonathan King with Live Oak Environmental asked to address council. He is concerned about the bid process, which has already been made public. Attorney Hunter's opinion was to ask each company to clarify all previous bids and make them more specific, based upon the correct number of carts. Mayor Grooms feels they are using the incorrect number of carts. He had Billy Taylor to count the carts. City Clerk, Belle Gay advised she used the monthly water billing report and counted the accounts being billed for garbage carts. There was a total of 514 residential, 33 commercial, and 10 at the churches. Grand total of 557 garbage carts. Billy Taylor advised her he did not get a total count of all the carts. Councilman Newman thinks we need to determine who will take care of the billing and collecting of the money. His opinion was we needed to handle the billing. The other companies who presented bids did not attend the meeting. Councilman Newman wants to request new bid packages, using the original price quotes, but include the other options. A decision has not yet been made to privatize the garbage service. Attorney Hunter does not see a better option to correct what has been done. This would be most fair to the bidders. Mr. King asked if he was correct by understanding they would figure out whether or not to privatize and use the current figures previously presented and no additional bids would go out.
9. **NEW BUSINESS.** Council members were asked to sign the registration form for the Spring Listening Session scheduled for May 8th at City Hall.
10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion made by Councilman Newman, seconded by Councilman Hendrix and passed with all ayes.