

**TOWN OF BROOKLET  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 21, 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:** Russell Davis

**3. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES:**  
Councilwoman Prosser made a motion to approve the July minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Councilman Davis and passed with all ayes.

**4. APPROVAL OF JULY FINANCIAL REPORTS:**  
Councilwoman Wilson stated to Mayor and Council, at the present time, we do not have our July financial reports ready to present. Mrs. Belle explained that she has just finished closing out the 2008 budget and needs to put the opening entries in before the reports will be ready.

**5. RECOGNITION OF GUEST:**

**1. MR. BILL POWELL, REPRESENTATIVE FROM GEORGIA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION.**

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Mr. Powell came to the City Council Meeting to present the Town, Mayor and Council with a rate analysis plan for the Town of Brooklet. Since then, he has come back and worked with Mrs. Belle to make sure that we are in compliance with state regulations concerning the rate structure. Mr. Powell has reviewed the city rates, current rates, billing structure and will be complying with EPDs requirements as far as a water conservation rate structure should be. What he is doing is trying to establish a base charge for zero consumption. After reviewing our budget, Mr. Powell has done the rate analysis and wants to make sure that all customers will get charged equitably from large users to very small users. He has found out that the small users was subsidizing the large users. Right now there are large users such as the school, Recreation Department and so on not being billed for the water being used. The plan is to establish a Residential Equivalent Unit; this simply means that the Residential Unit has the impact on the water system equivalent to a single family home. The peak demand for a single family home is 300 gals. per day which is equivalent to 1 REU.

As of now we have 656 water connections here in Brooklet and have an additional 215

equivalent connections which brings our connections up to 871. The average consumption per REU is somewhere between 4,000 and 6,000 gals. Mr. Powell will take the billed amount of water that we have and divide it by the total number of REUs and our average consumption per REU is 5408; which is pretty good. The operating budget for the city is \$172,608.00, just the water budget. What we want to do is generate the revenue for our customers equitably to meet this budget. First we will establish a base charge. The base charge is what it takes to keep the lights on and the doors open. EPD has mandated as part of our water permit, to adopt a meter replacement plan, a water conservation plan, and a water conservation rate structure. Mr. Powell suggest we use our software as a management tool, that way we can come back to city council and say this is our budget and this is what we are going to have to do to generate that budget. This way it will be a fair equitable way of distribution to all our customers. Mr. Powell has prepared an ordinance for the Mayor, Council and our Attorney to review in case any changes need to be made. He will come back and work with Mrs. Belle to get it all set up and hopefully we will be able to run a mock billing or parallel billing so that we can make sure everything is calculating right. What we are trying to do is not penalize or hurt any of our customers, we're treating everyone the same. Getting it started with a unit structure and an increase of block rate is a good start. Mr. Powell has offered to come back and meet with high users and everyone else to explain the rate structure to everyone and answer all questions anyone will have. We have to get the structure set up, this is the fairest most equitable way to treat our customers.

## **2. JOHNATHAN KING FROM LIVEOAK ENVIROMENTAL:**

Mr. King was asked by Council to return once a month to ask for a monthly fuel surcharge. He has asked Council if it would be okay to start sending in a written request instead of coming by once a month. Council agreed to allow him to do so unless the surcharge goes up. He stated that this month it has gone down.

## **6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE:**

**COUNCILMAN DAVIS:** No Reports.

**COUNCILWOMAN WILSON:** No Reports.

**COUNCILMAN NEWMAN:** We have been looking at changing out the gas pump system and Councilman Newman has received two quotes. One from PSG with a quote for \$8,229.81 and a quote from L&T, INC. for \$5,905.00. Councilman Newman would like to make a motion to go with L&T with the key lock system. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Prosser and passed with all eyes.

He would also like for the maintenance employees to go to a four day work week in order to try to save fuel due to high gas prices. There will be someone on call for Fridays which

would be their day off. Councilman Newman made a motion that the city crew goes to four ten hour days for a trial bases of three months. Motion was seconded by Councilman Davis and passed with all ayes.

**COUNCILWOMAN PROSSER:** No Reports.

**COUNCILMAN HENDRIX:** No Reports.

**CHIEF BUCHAN:** The Peanut Festival was very conductive. Everything went well. Also, Officer Jonathan MaGahee and his wife will be expecting a new baby soon. Chief Buchan asked the community as well as Council if anyone has any questions or problems to come straight to him, not to go around him. He will be more than happy to solve any problems.

**ATTORNEY HUGH HUNTER:** Attorney Hugh Hunter will not be with us at our September 18th Council meeting, but he will be available by telephone.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion to have a called meeting for setting the mileage rate for 2008 taxes. Mrs. Belle will need to advertise it first and we will call everyone when we set the date.

**8. OLD BUSINESS:**

Final corrections for the Code of Ordinance. Councilman Neman asked Mayor Grooms if we could discuss this at the same time of the called meeting, Councilman Newman needs more time to gather all information needed. Mayor Grooms agreed.

Harry Starling, Brooklet United Methodist Church.

Mr. Starling was here at our April 15<sup>th</sup> town meeting on behalf of the Brooklet United Methodist Church purchasing the Brooklet First Baptist Church on Lane street. They are now pursuing this property. The church would like to negotiate a small piece of property that the building sits on owned by the City of Brooklet. He is asking for guidance and to negotiate this matter. Attorney Hugh Hunter would like to wait and discuss the matter with Mr. Starling after the meeting.

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

Oma Lee Roberson is very concerned about the old school on Railroad street; which is adjacent to her property. Mrs. Roberson's daughter is in the process of

purchasing the land on the corner of the school and she is concerned with what's going to be done about it. Mrs. Roberson believes it is time for some improvements. Mayor Grooms stated that we would have to get back to her after we have looked further into this matter. Councilwoman Prosser agrees that something needs to be done as far as cleaning up around it.

Barney Sineath would like to congratulate the Chief on the purchase of the new vehicle, it looks extremely well, nice paint job and nice decals. Mr. Sineath believes he heard the Chief paid around ten thousand dollars less than the purchase of the old charger, and this to him does not make good sense. Mr. Sineath stated that Chief Buchan did an outstanding job but feels that we should find out where we misplaced the other ten thousand dollars for the last vehicle.

Morgan Boesche moved into Brooklet in April. The first of June his water bill was around \$14.00. The first of July his bill was for 122,000 gals. Of water which would be \$422.50. Mr. Boesche called City Hall and asked what he needed to do. City Hall agreed to have Billy go over to the residence and check out the meter and possibly any leaks. The meter was checked once a week for a month. Mr. Boesche then received an August bill for \$13.50. As of now Council has agreed to gather further information on this matter.

**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 would like to have a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Davis made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilman Newman and passed with all ayes.