

City Council Meeting Minutes – Summary

Date: December 18, 2025

Location: City Council Chambers

Presiding: Mayor

Present: Mayor, Council Members, Interim City Manager Lori Phillips, City Attorney, City Engineer, Staff, and Members of the Public

Absent: Planning & Zoning Administrator/Assistant Clerk Melissa Petitt

SUMMARY

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor. A quorum was present.

2. Public Comments

- Joeseeph Grooms, a resident of the City of Brooklet addressed concerns regarding **county development near city limits**, including water access, zoning authority, and lack of coordination with city officials. The speaker emphasized the need for unified council action and equitable treatment of city residents.
 - Concerns were raised regarding **public safety coverage**, particularly the need for enhanced police presence and 24/7 service.
 - The speaker urged council unity and collaboration to better serve residents.
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3. Blue Knights International – Public Presentation

- Stan York – Director Chief representative of the **Blue Knights International (Georgia Chapter)** presented information about the organization, highlighting its charitable contributions (approximately \$14,000 donated locally in the past year).
 - The group requested renewal of its lease for the Scout Hut at **100 Park Avenue South**.
 - Council expressed appreciation for the organization’s community service.
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4. Approval of Minutes

- **Approved:**

- November 13, 2025 Work Session Minutes
 - November 20, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
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5. Financial Report – November

- General Fund revenues: **\$679,611.98** (50.57% of budget)
 - Water Fund revenues: **\$266,016.73** (54% of budget)
 - Sanitation Fund revenues: **\$88,912.96** (48% of budget); operating at a deficit due to rising disposal costs (FEMA Expenses)
 - Expenditures reviewed, including purchase of a **police vehicle**
 - Both major funds reported strong cash balances
 - **Motion passed** to approve financial reports, with future discussion planned on stabilizing the sanitation fund.
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6. Interim City Manager Report – Lori Phillips

- AMI water meter software nearing implementation, allowing residents to monitor water usage and detect leaks.
 - City received its first **SPLOST check** for the upcoming fiscal period.
 - City manager recruitment process underway with Sumter Group; materials pending council approval.
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7. City Engineer Report – Wesley Parker

- Updates provided on sewer, water, and infrastructure projects.
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8. Interim Police Chief Report – Nickki Garman

- Police equipment needs discussed, including:
 - Body-worn cameras
 - Tasers (non-lethal options)
 - Radar unit replacements
- Information shared on **enterprise fleet management** options used by neighboring cities.
- Discussion initiated regarding formation of a **Police Foundation (501(c)(3))** to support equipment and officer assistance through donations and tax credits.

9. Ordinances and Motions

- a) **Ordinance#2025-031:** Amending and restating the Official Zoning Map of Brooklet, Georgia.
 - Approved 5-0
- b) **Ordinance #2025-032:** Rezoning of property at **16862 Highway 80 East** from R-1 to C-2
 - Approved (second and final reading) 4 ayes and 1 recused
- c) **Lease Agreement:** 2025 lease renewal with Blue Knights for Scout Hut
 - Approved 5-0

9. Brooklet Cemetery Improvements Proposal – Ann Clifton

- Presentation given outlining historical significance of the city cemetery.
- Proposed improvements included:
 - Replacement of white vinyl fencing with historically appropriate metal fencing
 - Restoration and maintenance of cemetery entrance
 - Water access restoration
 - Long-term beautification planning and potential irrigation
- Plans discussed to form a **501(c)(3)** nonprofit for cemetery preservation.
- Council expressed interest in further review and preservation options.
 - Approved 5-0

10. Additional Discussion

- Council discussed reviewing and updating **parking ordinances**, particularly regarding nonconforming and historic properties.
- Planning Commission involvement was suggested for ordinance review.
 - Approved 5-0

11. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved.
- Meeting adjourned with holiday well-wishes.

