



CITY OF BROOKLET
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L.W. (Nicky) Gwinnett, Jr., Mayor
Sheila Wentz, Mayor Pro-Tem
Bradley Anderson, Councilman
Rebecca Kelly, Councilwoman
Hubert K. Roughton, Councilman
Phillip Oliver, Councilman

Lori Phillips, City Clerk

Ben Perkins, City Attorney

City of Brooklet
City Council Meeting
March 19, 2026
Minutes

Members' Present & Absent

Mayor L.W. "Nicky" Gwinnett, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Sheila Wentz, Councilman Phillip Oliver, Councilman Brad Anderson, Councilwoman Rebecca Kelly, City Attorney Wes Rahn, Planning & Zoning/Assistant City Clerk Melissa Petitt, and Interim Chief of Police Sergeant Nickki Garman.

Interim City Manager/City Clerk Lori Phillips and City Attorney Ben Perkins were absent.

1. Call to Order by Mayor Nicky Gwinnett

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

3. Recognitions/Public Presentations:

- A. Presentation of the Interim Chief of Police, Sergeant Nickki Garman, for completing the Chief Executive Training Program required by Georgia law for agency heads, which is often attended by command staff members aspiring to advance their leadership roles.**

Mayor Gwinnett recognized Interim Police Chief Sgt. Nickki Garman for completing the required Chief of Police executive training.

B. Presentation of the April 2026 Employee Medical Insurance Renewal by Paul Collins, VP of Employee Benefits, with Assured Partners.

Paul Collins, VP of Employee Benefits, with Assured Partners, presented the proposed renewal increase:

- **Medical:** 6.5%
- **Bridge policy:** 5%

Mr. Collins recommended remaining with the current plan (which is cost-effective compared to alternatives) and noted that it provides employees with a \$0 net deductible.

C. Jay Hodges, General Manager, All Green Services LLC., offered services to assist or replace city trash operations and claimed the ability to:

- Reduce costs
- Eliminate equipment/maintenance expenses

4. Public Comments:

Citizens are encouraged to participate in the City of Brooklet City meetings. The City of Brooklet encourages civility in public disclosure and requests that speakers direct their comments to the Chair. Those attendees wishing to share a document and/or written comments for inclusion in the public record must email the item to lori.phillips@brookletga.us no later than noon on the day of the meeting.

- No one signed up to speak at the meeting.

5. Consideration of a Motion to approve the agenda

Motion to Amend the agenda to add for discussion and consideration of a motion to approve the Randy Newman Community Center License Agreement with the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners, and the Randy Newman Community Center Standard License Agreement.

Motion: Brad Anderson

Second: Phillip Oliver

Ayes: Brad Anderson, Keith Roughton, Phillip Oliver, Sheila Wentz, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

6. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Minutes

A. 02-19-2026 Council Minutes

Motion to Approve

Motion: Sheila Wentz

Second: Brad Anderson

Ayes: Brad Anderson, Keith Roughton, Phillip Oliver, Sheila Wentz, and
Rebecca Kelly

Nays: None

The motion carried 5-0

7. Consideration of a Motion to approve the February 2026 Financial Reports

Motion to Approve

Motion: Brad Anderson

Second: Keith Roughton

Ayes: Brad Anderson, Keith Roughton, Phillip Oliver, Sheila Wentz, and
Rebecca Kelly

Nays: None

The motion carried 5-0

8. Comments by:

- **Interim City Manager / City Clerk Lori Phillips** was absent from the meeting.
- **City Attorney Wes Rahn** had nothing to report.
- **City Engineer Wesley Parker** reported that the Water Main Project from the water tank to Cromley Road is complete, the Sewer Project is basically finished, they just need to do a pressure test, and the last project is the Gravity Sewer Project; this project has not begun yet.

Mayor Gwinnett asked Mr. Parker how soon the downtown district could start tying into the sewer system. Mr. Parker stated that the residents need to begin buying the pumps, hire a contractor to install them, and, once installed, connect them and install a valve. When the sewer is ready, they can open their valve. Parker Engineer will draft a letter to the residents explaining which types of pumps will be available and the process to follow. The letter needs to make it very

clear to customers that they will be responsible for the cost of connecting to the sewer system and the tap fee.

- **Planning & Zoning Administrator Assistant City Clerk Melissa Pevey** reported that the Zoning Ordinance update has been delayed and requires three additional months. The rezoning moratorium will expire in April; however, Mrs. Petitt recommends extending it due to the zoning ordinance update.

The Brooklet Subdivision (11 phases) in planning. They will submit the preliminary plan for approval soon. It will be for the first, second, and third phases. Wesley Parker of Parker Engineering stated that there is an opportunity for the City of Brooklet to work on this project if it wants to extend water and sewer further into the commercial lots between Subway and Southeast Tire.

Mrs. Petitt also mentioned potential future commercial developments, including townhomes and a gas station.

- **Interim Chief of Police, Sergeant Nickki Garman**, reported low crime for the month of February and staffing challenges; only one applicant applied for the open position.

The new radar units have been delivered and are being installed, and the tasers are awaiting arrival. The PD fleet is aging, and we have vehicles over 100K miles.

There is ongoing congestion at Brooklet Elementary School, with no immediate solution in sight. There has been an increase in complaints about off-road vehicles (ATVs and side-by-sides).

- **Safety Coordinator Johnny Alamia** reported that they have been identifying hazardous trees throughout the town that will be removed within the next two weeks.

Mr. Gilbert Howard asked what could be done about a dangerous tree on private property that threatens your property. Attorney Wes Rahn stated that it is a civil matter, not a city responsibility; it is the property owner's responsibility.

9. Comments by Council Members:

- **Councilmember Sheila Wentz** had no report.

- **Council member Brad Anderson** gave a report on the February financial statements and stated a projected deficit of \$200,000 with the following major issues:
 - Overspending in administration (88% used vs. 67% expected)
 - High consulting/legal costs
 - Uncertainty in grant reimbursement timing
 - FEMA reimbursement (\$142K) received but not fully reflected yet.
 - Council advised to limit spending for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- **Councilmember Phillip Oliver** mentioned that several residents around town mentioned that they enjoyed the Hot Dog Social that was held on March 12, 2026.

He would also like to thank Councilman Anderson for helping to sort out the financial concerns and the budget.

- **Councilmember Rebecca Kelly** had no report.
- **Mayor Pro-Tem Keith Roughton** would like to give a shout-out to the Southeast Brooklet High and Middle School Yellow Jacket Golf teams, who won the championship, both boys' and girls' teams.

At the County Commissioners' meeting last week, they approved a bid for work at Fletcher Park in Statesboro and the Brooklet Soccer Field, where they will be installing a walking trail, funded by Brooklet SPLOST money donated to the county to upgrade the Brooklet Recreation Department.

- **Mayor L.W. "Nicky" Gwinnett** reported that Georgia Power will be upgrading infrastructure (new poles/lines) throughout the town in the upcoming weeks. Mayor Gwinnett met with Joel Hanners, who is with Georgia Power, about replacing power poles and lines at the Randy Neman Community Center as well.

10. **Discussion and consideration of a motion to approve the Employee Health Insurance Renewal for 04/01/2026 as presented by Paul Collins.**

Motion to Approve

Motion: Brad Anderson

Second: Keith Roughton

Ayes: Brad Anderson, Keith Roughton, Phillip Oliver, Sheila Wentz, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None
The motion carried 5-0

11. Discussion and consideration of a motion to approve the recommendation from the City Engineer for a contractor from the Bid Opening on March 19, 2026, for the Cone Street Gravity Sewer Project (PE25124).

Wesley Parker, City Engineer, reported that there were 11 bidders, and the bids ranged from \$1.09 million to over \$2 million. The three lowest bids were for SEC Site Work at \$1,085,333.00, McLendon Enterprises at \$1,169,695.90, and Shockley Plumbing at \$1,233,576.00. Parker Engineering recommends that the project be awarded to SEC Site Work in the amount of \$1,085,333.00. SEC appears to have adequate experience and technical ability to complete this project.

Motion to Approve the recommendation from Parker Engineering

Motion: Brad Anderson

Second: Keith Roughton

Ayes: Brad Anderson, Keith Roughton, Phillip Oliver, Sheila Wentz, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

12. Discussion regarding Overhead Power Lines at the Randy Newman Community Center.

The discussion focused on safety concerns regarding the overhead power and lighting lines at the community center. The speaker emphasized the urgency of addressing the issue, referencing an accident last year in which a utility pole was pulled down and a woman was injured. It was noted that the outcome could have been much worse if she had been positioned differently when the incident occurred.

Key Points Discussed

- The overhead lines are hanging significantly lower than what is considered safe.
- There is concern that the town could face liability if another accident occurs.
- The preferred solution is to remove the overhead lines and convert the system to underground utilities.
- Discussions have already taken place with Joel Hanner of Georgia Power regarding potential assistance from Georgia Power as a sponsorship contribution through BCDA.
- BCDA is expected to help with at least part of the lighting infrastructure that would need to be replaced.
- An electrician's estimate for the work is approximately \$30,000–\$34,000.

- Community members observed that some lines are visibly sagging and that the integrity of the existing poles may be questionable.
- Most of the infrastructure was installed by the city approximately 25 years ago.
- Georgia Power's responsibility is limited primarily to the main incoming poles.
- One incoming pole will likely need to be relocated and reconfigured.
- There has also been discussion about relocating a pole in front of the building by routing the line underground beneath the railroad.
- The upcoming **Peanut Festival** adds urgency to completing the work before increased public activity at the site.

Proposed Next Steps

1. Continue discussions with Georgia Power regarding financial participation.
2. Obtain and review final cost estimates.
3. Develop a plan to relocate poles and convert overhead lines to underground service.
4. Consider funding options involving BCDA and other partners.
5. Move forward as quickly as possible to reduce safety risks and potential liability before a serious injury occurs.

The overhead electrical infrastructure presents a significant safety concern, and the group generally agreed that corrective action should be taken promptly to prevent future accidents and reduce liability exposure.

13. **Discussion regarding ADA Compliance Deadline. Under new DOJ Title II regulations, cities must make their web content ADA-accessible by April 24, 2026 (populations over 50,000) or April 24, 2027 (all others).**

There was discussion about Upcoming ADA compliance requirements for municipal websites under federal regulations.

14. **Discussion and consideration of a motion to approve the quote from ROK Brothers Inc. in the amount of \$24,000.34 for the purchase and installation of in-car computers in four police vehicles.**

Motion to Approve

Motion: Keith Roughton

The motion dies for lack of a second.

15. Discussion regarding Streamlining Out-of-Town Sanitation Services.

The council heard a presentation from Jay Hodges of All Green Services, who offered the company's services as a potential solution to the city's sanitation challenges. Hodges said the company could provide full-service waste collection, potentially reducing capital costs associated with trucks, maintenance, and staffing. He noted the company currently serves approximately 130,000 customers and operates across multiple municipalities. Council members did not act but indicated the issue would require further evaluation, particularly in light of rising sanitation costs.

16. Discussion and consideration of a motion to approve the Randy Newman Community Center License Agreement with the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners, and the Randy Newman Community Center Standard License Agreement.

A brief discussion of the proposed agreement for the Bulloch County Summer Camp Program addressed concerns that the rental fees are low relative to the actual cost; the council is concerned that the city may be losing money.

Motion made to Table this item to put together a revenue/expenditure report by next month's city council meeting.

Motion: Brad Anderson

Second: Keith Roughton

Ayes: Brad Anderson, Keith Roughton, Phillip Oliver, Sheila Wentz, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

17. Executive Session

A. Consideration of a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b).

Motion to Approve

Motion: Rebecca Kelly

Second: Sheila Wentz

Ayes: Brad Anderson, Keith Roughton, Phillip Oliver, Sheila Wentz, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

B. Consideration of a motion to exit Executive Session and re-enter Regular Session for any necessary action.

Motion to Approve

Motion: Brad Anderson

Second: Rebecca Kelly

Ayes: Brad Anderson, Keith Roughton, Phillip Oliver, Sheila Wentz, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

18. Consideration of a motion to adjourn

Motion to Approve

Motion: Keith Roughton

Second: Sheila Wentz

Ayes: Brad Anderson, Keith Roughton, Phillip Oliver, Sheila Wentz, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

Approved this _____ day of _____, _____.

L.W. (Nicky) Gwinnett, Jr., Mayor

Lori Phillips, Int. City Manager/City Clerk