



CITY OF BROOKLET

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Joe Grooms III, Mayor
Bradley Anderson, Mayor Pro-Term
Nicky Gwinnett, Councilman
Rebecca Kelly, Councilwoman
James Harrison, Councilman
Johnathan Graham, Councilman

City Attorney
Hugh Hunter

City Clerk
Lori Phillips

**MARCH 9, 2023
WORK SESSION
6:30 PM
MINUTES**

1. **Call to order and welcome** - Mayor Grooms, III
 - a. Invocation

2. **Consideration of a motion to approve the agenda**
Motion to approve
MOTION: Rebecca Kelly
SECOND: Brad Anderson
AYES: Rebecca Kelly, Nicky Gwinnett, Brad Anderson, Johnathan Graham, and James Harrison
NAYES: None
Motion carried 5-0

3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - 2.1. **Steve Walker – Georgia Rural Water Association**

Steve Walker presented the Source Water Protection Plan for public drinking water sources in the city of Brooklet. Source wells #101 and #102 currently supply Brooklet with drinking water. Although both wells are completed in the deep and confined Upper Floridan Aquifer, not enough is known about their construction to determine if the wells are not also hydraulically connected with the shallower, unconfined aquifer. For this reason, and because the wells were drilled over 70-90 years ago, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has established management zones around the wells as if they are shallow wells and more vulnerable to surface or near-surface contamination. Brooklet can use these management zones to *proactively* focus management efforts there to reduce or eliminate activities that could contaminate either drinking water source. These efforts are important because the wells are located in the downtown area where numerous domestic and non-domestic septic systems are present. The possibility of old wells nearby with failed or unrouted

casing could create a path for shallower contaminants to travel down into the confined, Upper Floridan Aquifer.

Several of the more likely scenarios of how the Booklet drinking water supply could become contaminated or disrupted are:

- Septic Systems & Waste Lagoons - Infiltration galleries for viruses, nitrates, chemicals, and medicines
- Underground and above ground tanks - Petroleum or chemical leak
- Agricultural practices - Improper use of pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers
- Roadways & Railroads - Both U.S. highway 80 and Parker Ave. extend through the town of Brooklet and both host traffic transporting petroleum compounds and farm/industrial chemicals. Accidents and spills along any of these roads could contaminate surface and groundwater in the area. It is also possible that source well #102 could be damaged from a vehicle due to its proximity to Railroad Street.
- Security - A cybersecurity breach is increasingly likely to impact any water system. Regarding physical damage, casual vandalism is considered more likely than determined sabotage.

The town should update existing zoning ordinances that restrict or regulate activities in the town and especially within the Inner Management Zone for each well. An effort to inform local citizenry of restricted or unwise activities is crucial because it is far easier to prevent contamination from occurring than it is to remediate a contaminated aquifer, if remediation is even possible at all. A new well is planned to be drilled at the Brooklet City limits adjacent to Hwy 80 north of town.

The Source Water Protection Committee that generated this Source Water Protection Plan utilized many "what if " scenarios to provide a template for protecting Brooklet's drinking water from foreseeable contamination or disruption, both likely and unlikely. The committee is comprised of Georgia Rural Water Association (GRWA) and City of Brooklet personnel, and it has generated this plan as a living document that is reviewed periodically and updated as needed.

2.2. Water Rate Increase

After a brief discussion, the Mayor and Council has asked City Clerk Phillips to pull their water bill history and to calculate each one's individual bill with the new proposed tier structure that was recommended by Georgia Rural Water Association before next week's city council meeting. This way they can get a good idea of how much of an increase will be expected before moving forward.

2.3. Review of quotes received for HVAC repairs for the back of City Hall for the PD

The following quotes were received:

1. JD Heating and Air in the amount of \$9,954.35
2. Oliver Heating and Air in the amount of 8,500.00

After a brief discussion, council asked for the quote from Oliver Heating and Air be added to the consent agenda for the March city council meeting, this will be paid from administration.

2.4. Review of quotes received for repairing a leak in the roof at City Hall for the PD

The following quotes were received:

1. Chandler Roofing in the amount of \$1,500.00 base bid/\$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00 budget for replacing all exposed fasteners in roof system.
2. Professional Roofing Solutions in the amount of \$1,395.00

After a brief discussion, council asked for the quote from Professional Roofing Solutions be added to the consent agenda for the March city council meeting, this will be paid from administration.

2.5. Review of quotes received for Air Quality Evaluations (mold) at City Hall for the PD

1. Pinnacle Commercial Inspections – No quote submitted
2. Whitaker Lab & Engineering in the amount of \$2,650.00
3. MTC in the amount of \$3,109.00
4. Herrin Home Inspection in the amount of \$650.00

After a brief discussion, council asked for the quote from Herrin Home Inspection be added to the consent agenda for the March city council meeting, this will be paid from the police department fund.

2.5. Collection Services for Past due Property Tax Sales

Add for discussion for a future work session.

2.6. Collection Services for Inactive Water Accounts left owed

Add for discussion for a future work session.

2.7. Employee Handbook - Correction to Health Insurance effective date and coverage

Changes were made and copies were passed out to all employees.

2.8. Employee Health Insurance Renewal

The employee health insurance is currently \$891.09 per employee, the renewal beginning April 1, 2023 will be \$1,149.97 per employee due to an increase of 29.05%. The council agreed to add for approval at the March city council meeting.

2.9. Bulloch Telephone Proposal

Council would like to have the representative from Bulloch Solutions attend the April work session to discuss the proposals and to answer any questions that may follow.

3.0. Downtown Stripping

Before placing the new stop sign and stop ahead signs on Parker Avenue, we need to go ahead and have the stripping done in the downtown area. Councilman Gwinnett will work on getting a quote from the company that will be doing the over lay project in April.

3.1. Stop ahead Sign in front of Morris Bank on Parker Avenue

Councilman Gwinnett would like to place a stop ahead sign in front of Morris Bank to warn the residents of the new stop sign that will be going up in front of El Maguey and to also hopefully slow some of the traffic down in that area. All agreed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

MOTION: Brad Anderson

SECOND: Johnathan Graham

AYES: Rebecca Kelly, Nicky Gwinnett, Brad Anderson, Johnathan Graham, and James Harrison

NAYES: None

Motion carried 5-0

Approved this 20 day of April, 2023.


Joe A. Grooms, III, Mayor


Lori Phillips, City Clerk