



CITY OF BROOKLET
104 CHURCH ST. BROOKLET, GA 30415 PHONE (912) 842-2137 FAX (912) 842-5877

October 16, 2025

**City Council
Meeting
7:00 PM**

Minutes

Members Present: Mayor L.W. "Nicky" Gwinnett, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Keith Roughton, City Manager Paul Dyal, Councilman Brad Anderson, Councilwoman Rebecca Kelly, Councilwoman Sheila Wentz, Councilman James Harrison, City Attorney Associate Wes Rahn, Brooklet Assistant City Clerk Melissa Pevey, and Interim Chief of Police, Sergeant Nickki Garman.

Members Absent: City Clerk Lori Phillips

A. Call to order and welcome - Mayor L.W. "Nicky" Gwinnett, Jr.

B. Invocation

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Approval of Agenda

Associate Attorney Wes Rahn recommended to the mayor and council that the agenda be amended to address Item # K.10 after and following the return from executive session.

Motion To Amend the Agenda

Motion: Brad Anderson

Second: Sheila Wentz

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

E. Public Participation- Persons Wishing to Address Council

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 comments in writing for inclusion into the public record must email the item to lori.phillips@brookletga.us no later than noon on the day of the meeting.

- Brooklet resident Dave Bircher asked for the Council's consideration of additional speed bumps on Cromley Road until the installation of a traffic light occurs.

F. Approval of Minutes**1. September 18, 2025, City Council Meeting****Motion To Approve**

Motion: Keith Roughton

Second: Rebecca Kelly

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

G. Approval of the September Financial Reports**Motion To Approve**

Motion: Rebecca Kelly

Second: Sheila Wentz

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

H. Comments by:**City Manager Paul Dyal**

City Manager Paul Dyal reported that the city is within budget. He plans to speak with Lori Phillips, City Clerk, and will bring any budget amendments to the Council.

City Associate Attorney Wes Rahn

No Reports

City Engineer Wesley Parker

Parker reported steady progress on several infrastructure projects. The sewer lift station is nearing completion, and boring under the roundabout is expected next week. The Highway 80 Phase II Water Project and Brooklet Street Improvements are expected to go out for bid in November, while the Cone Street/Gravity Project may be bid out by early spring. Parker added that a GEMA letter regarding the Lee Street

grant outlined approximately \$40,000 in required work, with no guarantee of reimbursement.

City Clerk Lori Phillips – Absent

Mayor Gwinnett read the report from City Clerk Phillips and reported that non-essential purchases have been suspended while the city reviews its budget. Brooklet has received a total of \$66,569.85 in reimbursements. The city has expended \$1,525.00 from streets, \$6,050.00 from streets, and \$75,226.60 for sanitation for a total of \$82,801.60. There will be no more reimbursements from FEMA for Hurricane Helena damage. Property tax notices originally scheduled for October 1 were delayed due to a software issue, but are expected to be mailed before the December 20 deadline. Brooklet's annual audit is tentatively scheduled for the third week of November. Phillips also confirmed that Trick or Treat in Brooklet will take place on October 31 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Assistant City Clerk Melissa Pevey

No Reports

Interim Chief of Police, Sergeant Nickki Garmen

Interim Police Chief Sergeant Nickki Garmen reported a rise in calls for service, with 47 in September compared to 25 in August, and fines totaling \$14,599.00. Only three patrol vehicles are currently operational.

Safety Coordinator Johnny Alamia

Announced that a safety grant was submitted on September 29, thanking city staff members for their support in the process.

I. Comments by Council Members:

Councilmember Sheila Wentz

No Reports

Councilmember Brad Anderson

Addressed public discussion following an ethics complaint filed after the September 18 council meeting regarding the city's vote on a proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. The original press release issued by Becki Hodges named only Anderson in connection with the complaint, which is why Grice Connects earlier coverage referenced him alone. However, court documents later showed that Becki Hodges filed a complaint naming only Brad Anderson, while Gilbert Howard filed a separate complaint naming all three council members — Anderson, Rebecca Kelly, and Sheila Wentz — as respondents. Anderson provided Grice Connect with documents from the Municipal Court of Brooklet, which include rulings from Judge Johnny E.C. Vines dismissing the complaints. The orders state that the case did not present a conflict of interest under Section 3.3 of the City's Code of Ordinances, which defines incidental, remote, and substantial interests. The court found that no

substantial or direct conflict existed in connection with the councilmembers' votes and dismissed both complaints as unjustified.

Councilmember James Harrison

No Report

Councilmember Rebecca Kelly

Discussed a beautification plan for the downtown gazebo area, including low-maintenance plants to be installed with help from Ellen Perkins and the Brooklet Community Betterment Association. She also reiterated her position on the same ethics complaint process, noting that the municipal court judge had dismissed it. "I vote, and I can tell you why I vote how I vote," she said.

Mayor Pro-Tem Keith Roughton

No Report

Mayor L.W. "Nicky" Gwinnett

No Report

J. Resolution:

1. Discussion and Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution #2025-10-16 establishing a moratorium on the acceptance of zoning and annexation applications.

Motion To Approve

Motion: Rebecca Kelly

Second: Brad Anderson

Ayes: Rebecca Kelly, Brad Anderson, and Sheila Wentz

Nayes: Keith Roughton and James Harrison

The motion carried 3-2

K. Other Item(s):

1. Discussion regarding water and sewer services for the new Southeast Bulloch High School.

- Discussion held on joint City/BOE water and sewer infrastructure project for new school development.
- Total project: \$6.1 million
- City share: \$2.9 million (approximately \$1.7 million remaining after grants).
- Concerns raised about financial impact, given the upcoming \$7 million bond payment due July 2027 and potential slowdown in housing development.
- Others emphasized the long-term benefits for growth, infrastructure, and school support.

2. Discussion and Consideration of a motion to approve a proposal for COB-25-005, Brooklet City Hall/Police Department and Sign Repairs.

Competitive sealed bids were received from August 8, 2025, to September 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. At that time, the sealed proposals were publicly opened and read aloud in the office at Brooklet City Hall.

Motion To Table to November City Council Meeting

Motion: Keith Roughton

Second: James Harrison

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

3. Discussion and consideration of a motion to begin scheduling monthly work sessions when needed. It was decided that the Thursday before the official council meeting will be held in reserve on an as-needed basis.

Motion: Keith Roughton

Second: James Harrison

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

4. Discussion and Consideration of a motion to approve the quotes from Motorola Solutions for quality communications equipment and services for in-car camera and in-car radio for one PD vehicle for a total of \$13,668.50.

a. Motorola Solutions, Quote – 3258150 for \$7,035.00

b. Motorola Solutions, Quote – 3258129 of \$6,633.50

(These quotes are together)

Motion To Approve

Motion: James Harrison

Second: Sheila Wentz

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

5. Discussion and Consideration of a Motion to approve a quote for outfitting the new Dodge Durango police vehicle. Two estimates were received, and they are as follows:

a. McLaggan Communications & Radar Service Inc., Estimate# 6966, in the amount of \$16,200.00

b. Dana Safety Supply, Inc. Quote# 581799-E, in the amount of \$15,134.27

Motion To Approve b. Dana Safety Supply, Inc. Quote# 581799-E, for \$15,134.27.

Motion: Keith Roughton
Second: Rebecca Kelly
Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly
Nayes: None
The motion carried 5-0

6. Discussion and Consideration of a Motion to approve a quote to purchase in-car computers and printers for four police vehicles.

- a. Premier Wireless, 20241015-184325472 in the amount of \$26,970.66
(Installation not included)
- b. Dana Safety Supply, Inc., Quote# 585210-B, for \$34,884.42
- c. Justice One, Quote# 221, in the amount of \$38,325.00

Councilmember Roughton inquired about the funding source for this project, and Wes Rahn confirmed that it can come from SPLOST funds. Interim Police Chief Sergeant Nickki Garmen will ask Dana Safety Supply, Inc. whether it will offer a deal to outfit all four vehicles. Roughton suggested tabling until the next meeting, when the council would have that information.

Motion To Table to November City Council Meeting

Motion: James Harrison
Second: Keith Roughton
Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly
Nayes: None
The motion carried 5-0

7. Discussion regarding an Employee holiday party/employee recognition end-of-the-year gathering.

The decision was made to seek feedback via a Google Form on a date for an employee recognition celebration, which was unanimously agreed upon.

8. Discussion and Consideration of a Motion to approve the Speed Hump Policy as presented.

Motion To Approve

Motion: James Harrison
Second: Brad Anderson
Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly
Nayes: None
The motion carried 5-0

9. Discussion and Consideration of a Motion to approve moving forward and working with the Southern Group of Georgia and Berkley Group, LLC, a Local Government Consulting Service.

Kelsey Wong, COO of Berkley Group, LLC, and Michael D. Zehner, Director of Planning & Community Development of Berkley Group, LLC, were present via Zoom,

and Dante Handel, an associate of Southern Group of GA, was present in person. Quotes and rates were requested. Paul Dyal will assess the needs and meet with the parties next week.

L. Consideration of a motion to close the regular session and go into an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Motion To Approve

Motion: Keith Roughton

Second: Brad Anderson

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

M. Consideration of a motion to come out of the executive session and open back up the regular session for any discussion or possible motions.

Motion To Approve

Motion: Brad Anderson

Second: James Harrison

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

N. Discussion and Consideration of a Motion to accept the resignation of City Manager, Paul Dyal, to be effective October 31, 2025, and thereafter, appoint Paul Dyal as Interim City Manager on a month-to-month basis for a reduced salary of \$4,000 per month.

Motion To Approve

Motion: Brad Anderson

Second: James Harrison

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

O. Motion to approve the proposal from the Sumpter Firm to facilitate the City Manager hiring process.

Motion To Approve

Motion: Rebecca Kelly

Second: Brad Anderson

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and Rebecca Kelly

Nayes: None

The motion carried 5-0

P. Adjournment

Motion To Approve

Motion: Brad Anderson

Second: James Harrison

Ayes: Keith Roughton, Brad Anderson, Sheila Wentz, James Harrison, and
Rebecca Kelly

Nays: None

The motion carried 5-0

Approved this _____ day of _____, _____.

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

Lori Phillips, City Clerk