



CITY OF BROOKLET

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

City Attorney  
Hugh Hunter

City Clerk  
Lori Phillips

NOVEMBER 10, 2022  
WORK SESSION  
MINUTES  
6:30 PM

**Members Present:** Mayor Joe Grooms, III, Councilmembers Nicky Gwinnett, Brad Anderson, Rebecca Kelly, Johnathan Graham, James Harrison, and City Clerk Lori Phillips.

1. **Call to order and welcome** - Mayor Grooms, III
  - a. Invocation
2. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
  - 2.1. **Update for RZ2022-003 (Julia Rozier) rezone request**

During the Planning and Zoning hearing on October 11, 2022, the commission decided to table the request until the next planning and zoning meeting scheduled for November 8, 2022, however, according to the zoning ordinance, Sec. 12-3. – Referral to planning commission it states, *if the planning commission fails to submit a recommendation within such 60-day period, it shall be deemed to have approved the requested change or departure.* The request was submitted on September 3, 2022. Therefore, the request will not be heard again by the Planning and Zoning Commission on November 8, 2022.
  - 2.2. **Discussion for the possible purchase/replacement for a new patrol car for the Police Department**

All agrees that the Dodge Chargers need to be replace, everyone decided it would be best to wait for the first of the year due to the turnaround time, more discussion will be for the January work session.
  - 2.3. **Purchase of a GPR System (Ground Penetrating Radar)**

Mayor Pro-Tem would like for everyone to consider purchasing a GPR system from GovDeals.com, the reserve price is \$5,000.00 and the machine is in decent shape. All agreed to add to the consent agenda for the November City Council meeting to be approved.

**2.4. Review of quotes for purchasing No Parking Signs and Post**

Two quotes were presented, to include (30) No Parking signs, (2) No Parking Tow Away signs, and (32) 7' Sign Post:

1. Econo Signs - \$1,514.41

2. Uline - \$2,202.41

After a brief discussion, all agreed for Lori to get a revised quote from Econo Signs, instead of 7' post, they want 9' post, and add to the consent agenda for the November City Council meeting to be approved.

**3. DISCUSSION ITEMS, NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

**3.1.** Mayor Pro-Tem Gwinnett asked to add to the agenda for discussion a bid proposal from Core & Main for the purchase of 27 MXU's, radio readers for water meters, in the amount of \$4,185.00. After a brief discussion, all agreed to add to the consent agenda for the November City Council meeting to be approved.

**3.2.** Mayor Grooms asked to discuss the Brooklet Police Department, he stated that we are losing our Police Officers because they are moving to other agencies that are paying them \$4.00 more an hour than what they are making here, three officers have resigned in the last month. Mayor Grooms stated, "first off, I do not have an answer to it, other than we immediately get everything to a standoff point, that we are not going to lose them because of money, or we are going to have to as a council, figure out the times that we are not going to have coverage, because you have 24-hour coverage and we do not have enough officers. I have been asked, why are we defunding the police department, first, we are not, and I stated to the individual that they need to attend a city council meeting where they can ask that question to the group." Citizens have asked what is wrong with paying the officers what it takes to keep Brooklet safe? Councilman Anderson stated, "first things first, I am going to circle back to something I have said at least 500 times, and that is, I think as a community, we really need to engage the community in a discussion about what are their priorities for our community and the reason I say that is because the individuals that I see and get complaints from the most, have a different opinion and view about our police department and many have said to me privately, that they have no confidence in the police department. I do not know that you'll ever, if you want to staff the city two officers 24/7, I do not think we will ever have the money to do it, now I think if you do that, I think you are going to have to probably, I wouldn't say double the mileage rate, but if we doubled the mileage rate, which I do not know if we can completely, it would only generate about another \$500, 000.00, and that is maxing it out, so I don't know the answer, but you are going to probably have to think about some fix half way between. The budget and the mileage rate have already been set for this year, we cannot just decide, in the middle of a budget cycle, that we can just create another \$200,000.00, we just cannot, maybe consider some parttime staff or another officer, we are a small town and it will always be hard for us to compete with bigger agencies." Council has agreed for the Chief to advertise for hiring new officers through Statesboro Herald, Indeed.com, and so on.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Brad Anderson

**SECOND:** Rebecca Kelly

**AYES:** Rebecca Kelly, Nicky Gwinnett, Brad Anderson, Johnathan Graham, and  
James Harrison  
**NAYES:** None  
**Motion carried 5-0**

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe A. Grooms, III, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Phillips, City Clerk