

BROOKINGS CITY COUNCIL
June 23, 2026

The Brookings City Council held a meeting Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM, at the Brookings City & County Government Center, Chambers, with the following City Council members present: Mayor Oepke Niemeyer, and Council Members Wayne Avery, Brianna Doran, Lisa Hager, Bonny Specker, Holly Tilton Byrne, and Nick Wendell. City Manager Paul Briseno, Assistant City Attorney Susan Rasmussen, and City Clerk Bonnie Foster were also present.

Agenda. A motion was made by Council Member Tilton Byrne, seconded by Council Member Specker, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes: 7 - Avery, Doran, Hager, Niemeyer, Specker, Tilton Byrne, and Wendell.

Open Forum. Rebekah Hale shared concerns with the City Council regarding ongoing issues with water and change in ownership at Western Estates.

Consent Agenda. A motion was made by Council Member Tilton Byrne, seconded by Council Member Doran, that the consent agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes: 7 - Avery, Doran, Hager, Niemeyer, Specker, Tilton Byrne, and Wendell.

A. Action to approve the June 9, 2026 City Council Minutes.

B. Action to move the July 28, 2026 City Council Meeting to Thursday, July 30, 2026.

Proclamation: LGBTQ2S+ Pride Month. Mayor Niemeyer presented a Proclamation designating June 2026 as LGBTQ2S+ Pride Month. Erin Lavender-Stott, Human Rights Commission Liaison, accepted the Proclamation.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, June is celebrated as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Two Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) Pride Month across the USA; and

WHEREAS, Pride Month celebrates everyone's right to live without fear of prejudice based on sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ2S+ community includes our neighbors, friends, and family members; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings vision is to be a welcoming and inclusive community where all can bring your dreams; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings has received a score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index, the largest LGBTQ2S+ civil rights organization in the U.S. for eight years in a row; and

WHEREAS, these entities in Brookings have been working tirelessly for LGBTQ2S+ awareness and equality: Human Rights Commission, Brookings Public Library, Brookings Arts Council, and Brookings Pride; and

WHEREAS, the Brookings community will be celebrating Pride on June 27 at Pioneer Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor of the City of Brookings, do hereby proclaim June 2026 as LGBTQ2S+ Pride Month.

Resolution 26-042. A motion was made by Council Member Tilton Byrne, seconded by Council Member Specker, that Resolution 26-042, a Resolution Awarding the Dakota Nature Park Public Art Installation Project to DJR Design Studio, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes: 7 - Avery, Doran, Hager, Niemeyer, Specker, Tilton Byrne, and Wendell.

RESOLUTION 26-042 - RESOLUTION AWARDING THE DAKOTA NATURE PARK
PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION PROJECT TO CJR DESIGN STUDIO

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings has identified a desire for public art at the Dakota Nature Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings received 167 submissions from artists and design teams across the country; and

WHEREAS, following an extensive review process conducted by the Public Arts Commission, the City of Brookings recommends awarding the contract for the design and installation of a public art project at the Dakota Nature Park to CJR Design Studio.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Brookings is authorized to enter into an agreement with CJR Design Studio in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the design, fabrication, and installation of public art at the Dakota Nature Park.

FIRST READING – Ordinance 26-020. Introduction and First Reading was held on Ordinance 26-020, an Ordinance Authorizing Budget Amendment No. 4 to the 2026 Budget. Second Reading and Action: July 14, 2026.

FIRST READING – Ordinance 26-017. Introduction and First Reading was held on Ordinance 26-017, an Ordinance Amending the Subdivision Regulations of the City of Brookings Pertaining to Article VI. Subdivision Improvements and Design Standards for the Purposes of Administration of the Subdivision Regulations. Public Hearing and Action: July 14, 2026.

FIRST READING – Ordinance 26-021. Introduction and First Reading was held on Ordinance 26-021, an Ordinance to Change the Zoning within the City of Brookings.

(Block 2 of Northern Plains Addition from a Business B-2A Office District to a Planned Development District with Business B-2A underlying District.)

Brookings Area Transportation Plan. A motion was made by Council Member Tilton Byrne, seconded by Council Member Specker, that the Brookings Area Transportation Plan be accepted. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes: 7 - Avery, Doran, Hager, Niemeyer, Specker, Tilton Byrne, and Wendell.

Resolution 26-039. A motion was made by Council Member Tilton Byrne, seconded by Council Member Wendell, that Resolution 26-039, a Resolution adopting the Brookings Area Safety Plan and 2050 Brookings Vision Zero Safety Goal Commitment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes: 7 - Avery, Doran, Hager, Niemeyer, Specker, Tilton Byrne, and Wendell.

RESOLUTION 26-039 - ADOPTING RESOLUTION FOR THE BROOKINGS AREA
SAFETY ACTION PLAN (SAP) AND 2050 BROOKINGS VISION ZERO SAFETY GOAL
COMMITMENT

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Brookings, South Dakota (the “City”), as follows:

WHEREAS, Federal regulations require all states to have a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) which provides a comprehensive framework for reducing fatalities and serious injuries on public roadways; and

WHEREAS, recent safety data in South Dakota shows between 2019 and 2023 annual traffic fatalities have increased 38% and serious injuries have increased 10%; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) is acting in cooperation with local communities to alter this trend through development and adoption of the 2024 South Dakota SHSP, a multi-disciplinary and data-driven effort to reduce fatalities and serious injuries across all public roads in South Dakota with goals to reduce traffic fatalities to 100 or fewer and serious injuries by 400 or fewer by 2029 (30% reduction); and

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings and surrounding area experienced 4 fatal and 17 serious injury crashes between January 2019 and June 2024 with 259 overall crashes resulting in an injury during this timeframe; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings, in conjunction with surrounding agencies including the City of Aurora, Brookings County, Brookings Municipal Utilities, South Dakota State University (SDSU), and the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) performed a safety analysis for Brookings area utilizing crash records and traffic data consistent with the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program guidelines as part of the Brookings Area Transportation Plan (BATP); and

WHEREAS, the Brookings Area Safety Action Plan (SAP) study area consists of all State, County, Township, and City owned roads, except Interstate 29, within the BATP study area boundaries; and

WHEREAS, based on the safety analysis, the Brookings Area SAP was prepared with an aim to reduce and eliminate fatal and serious injuries across all roadway users in the City of Brookings and surrounding growth areas including vulnerable road users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and personal conveyance device users), transit riders, and motorists; and

WHEREAS, one of the eight required components of a SS4A SAP is “Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting” towards an eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries and the proposed Brookings Area SAP consists of policy and project recommendations to achieve a long-term goal of eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries by 2050, consistent with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) Safe System Approach (SSA), also adopted by the SDDOT in the 2024 South Dakota SHSP and 2023 South Dakota Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment (VRUSA), and Vision Zero which align with best practices nationally to prioritize human life and creating a safe transportation network for all users; and

WHEREAS, the Brookings Area SAP will meet the requirements to allow the City of Brookings to apply for Implementation Grants from the USDOT SS4A discretionary grant program to fund improvements and strategies to reduce fatalities and serious injuries of all roadway users; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds the proposed Brookings Area SAP is based on federal, state, and local standards and provides for the health, safety, and welfare of the community and will support and guide the City’s planning, investment, and policy decisions:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council hereby authorizes the following items:

1. The City of Brookings hereby commits to the ‘2050 Brookings Vision Zero’, a long-term goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries by 2050 within the City and surrounding growth areas. The City pledges to use its resources, influence, and partnerships to make significant strides towards this outcome.
2. The City of Brookings recognizes that a share of the fatal and/or serious injury crashes within the surrounding Brookings area, occur on other jurisdictional roadways. Coordination with partners at the City of Aurora, Brookings County, SDSU, and SDDOT will be necessary to achieve a goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries. Per the SAP, the City will focus and prioritize safety improvement locations within city limits and update the plan upon relevant roadway jurisdictional transfers.
3. The City of Brookings will strive to make progress toward the stated reduction targets by working within the framework of the Brookings Area SAP to achieve the goals, and it will monitor progress annually and adjust the plan as necessary

to maintain momentum toward the ultimate goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

4. The City of Brookings hereby approves and adopts the proposed Brookings Area SAP in conjunction with the Brookings Area Transportation Plan (BATP) and designates the Mayor to act as signatory in connection with future SS4A grant applications and related forms and to provide such additional information as may be required by the USDOT.

This Resolution shall be effective after its passage and approval according to law.

Progress Report. Samantha Beckman, Assistant City Manager, provided a progress report highlighting the City's initiatives and projects.

Adjourn. A motion was made by Council Member Tilton Byrne, seconded by Council Member Doran, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:17 p.m. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

CITY OF BROOKINGS, SD

ATTEST:

Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor

Bonnie Foster, City Clerk

City of Brookings Volunteer List – as per Resolution 16-025

(Addendum to the June 23, 2026 City Council Minutes.)

Brookings City Library Volunteers – Updated June 2026

Elise Fornia, Emily Gerner, Rhiannon Larson, Carole Mackey, Cheryl Riley, Sarah Schultz, Diane Smart, and Taryn Yttrie; **Brookings City Fire Department Volunteers:** Major Anderson, Donald Arens – NEW – Effective 06-16-2026, Kurt Athey, Kevin Banken, Parker Bartels – NEW – Effective 06-24-2026, Alex Berkness, Derek Brown, Dan Bruna, Nick Casstevens, Tom Coughlin, Mandi Cramer, Jacob Drew – NEW – Effective 06-17-2026, Scott Hallan, Bill Hardin, Drew Harding, Marty Hendricks, Troy Herrig, Kevin Hilmo, Dalton Holm, Dave Koch, Jim Kriese, Brett Lawrence, Brandon Long, Garrett Mann, Logan Melberg, Gatlin Miller, Nick Oines, Austin Priest, Steven Rensink, Connor Ringling, Isabel Roth – NEW – Effective 06-29-2026, Tim Ryneerson, Peyton Schaeffer, Rob Schuneman, Jesse Seas, Joseph Sheeley, Lucas Speakman, Curt Teal, Anthony Teesdale, Adam Vaux, Nicholas Voichahoske, Rainer Westall; **Brookings City Park & Recreation Volunteers:** Brayden Carlson, Matthew Cook, Daniel Kneip, Connor Landberg, Zachary Lau, Spencer Laufmann, Joshua McCombs, Tanner Odegaard, Daniel Park, Justin Pederson, Taylor Kneip, Todd Standish, Josef Thorne, Ayla Young, Heath Vanhill.