

BROOKINGS CITY COUNCIL
April 14, 2026

The Brookings City Council held a meeting Tuesday, April 14, 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, Tilton Byrne, and Nick Wendell. City Manager Paul Briseno, City Attorney J. Vince Jones, and City Clerk Bonnie Foster were also present.

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

Consent Agenda. A motion was made by Council Member Tilton Byrne, seconded by Council Member Wendell, 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 March 24, 2026 City Council Minutes.**
- B. Action to abate Property Taxes in the amount of \$1,091.16 for Parcel #40385-00200-005-05.**
- C. Action to abate Property Taxes in the amount of \$492.39 for Parcel #40357-00100-000-00.**
- D. Action to abate Property Taxes in the amount of \$2,755.39 for Parcel #40677-00400-012-00.**
- E. Action on Temporary Alcohol / Special Event Alcoholic Beverage Licenses from existing alcohol license holders:** Sodexo Catering (License Holder RB-28249 and RW-28251): SDSU TL26-044, SDSU TL26-045, SDSU TL26-046, SDSU TL26-047, SDSU TL26-048, SDSU TL26-049, SDSU TL26-050, SDSU TL26-051, SDSU TL26-052, SDSU TL26-053, SDSU TL26-054, SDSU TL26-055, SDSU TL26-056, SDSU TL26-057, SDSU TL26-058
- F. Action to cancel the April 21, 2026 City Council Study Session.**

Proclamation: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. Mayor Niemeyer presented a Proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. Sami Banks, Rural Advocate at Margo's Place, accepted the proclamation.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a public health issue that harms individuals, families, and communities, often across generations; and

WHEREAS, the most recent statistics (2023) reported by the South Dakota Department of Health rank South Dakota tenth in the nation for the number of victims per 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault can happen to anyone, but certain populations are at greater risk, including those affected by violence, substance abuse, poverty, and social disconnection, with 40% of sexual violence victims in South Dakota being those of Native descent; and

WHEREAS, many incidents of sexual assault go unreported due to fear, stigma, lack of resources, or concern about not being believed, emphasizing the importance of community education and prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings and Margo's Place is committed to ensuring that those impacted by sexual assault receive responsive and trauma-informed services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor of the City of Brookings, do hereby proclaim April 2026, as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Brookings Police Department Pinning Ceremony. Police Chief Michael Drake and Mayor Niemeyer conducted a swearing in ceremony for the following individuals of the Brookings Police Department: Promoted Officers: Jonathan Weinrich, Dustyn Engstrom, Jacob Vukovich, Cora Olson, Scott Roberts, and Rick Widicker; New Hire Officers: Margaret Schliepsiek, Drayden Schneider, Jarett Armstrong, and Dakota Dodds; Community Service Officers: Chase McMath, Lainna Duncan, and Emily Knoll; and Emergency Communications Dispatch: Brittany Williams, and Christopher Williams.

Report: SDSU Student Association. Anna Hundt, SDSU Student's Association Government Affairs Chair, provided an update on SDSU current affairs and introduced the new SDSU Students Association Government Affairs Chair, Jacklyn Mollison.

Reports: City Council Ex-Officio Reports. A Brookings Health Systems Board of Trustees report was given by Council Member Doran. A Brookings Municipal Utility Board report was not presented. Council Member Wendell provided an update on the Brookings Regional Growth Alliance.

Presentation: Brookings Police Department joining ICAC. Detective Sergeant Rhett Larson presented information on the Brookings Police Department joining the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force as an Affiliate Agency.

Ordinance 26-011. A second reading was held on Ordinance 26-011, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 14 - Animals, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brookings, South Dakota. Third Reading and Action: April 28, 2026.

Ordinance 26-012. A public hearing was held on Ordinance 26-012, an Ordinance to Change the Zoning within the City of Brookings (a portion of Bluegill Second Addition, a portion of Bluegill Third Addition and a portion of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 in Section 1, Township 109N, Range 50W from Agriculture A District and Residence R-1D Single-family District to a Residence R-1D Single-family District and Residence R-3 Apartment

District.). A motion was made by Council Member Tilton Byrne, seconded by Council Member Wendell that Ordinance 26-012 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes: 7 - Avery, Doran, Hager, Niemeyer, Specker, Tilton Byrne, and Wendell.

Preliminary Plat. A motion was made by Council Member Tilton Byrne, seconded by Council Member Wendell, that a Preliminary Plat of Lots 1-6 in Block 2 of Bluegill 2nd Addition; Lots 5A-5B in Block 1, Lots 1-5 in Block 3, Lots 1-2 in Block 4 and Lots 1-2 in Block 5 of Bluegill Third Addition, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes: 7 - Avery, Doran, Hager, Niemeyer, Specker, Tilton Byrne, and Wendell.

Adjourn. A motion was made by Council Member Tilton Byrne, seconded by Council Member Wendell, that this meeting be adjourned at 6:47 p.m. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

CITY OF BROOKINGS, SD

ATTEST:

Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor

Bonnie Foster, City Clerk