

Brookings City Council
April 20, 2021 (unapproved)

The Brookings City Council held a Study Session on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 5:30 PM, at the Brookings City & County Government Center Chambers with the following City Council members present: Mayor Keith Corbett; City Council Members Patty Bacon, Nick Wendell, Joey Collins, Leah Brink, Holly Tilton Byrne, and Ope Niemeyer. City Attorney Steve Britzman, City Manager Paul Briseno, and City Clerk Bonnie Foster were also present.

Action to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Council Member Brink, seconded by Council Member Wendell, that the agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes: 7 - Corbett, Niemeyer, Brink, Bacon, Wendell, Tilton Byrne, and Collins.

Election Canvass. Bonnie Foster, City Clerk, provided Election Canvass details for the April 13, 2021 Combined Municipal / School Board Election was held to the City Council and members of the public.

Resolution 21-031. A motion was made by Council Member Collins, seconded by Council Member Tilton Byrne, that Resolution 21-031, a Resolution Canvassing the April 13, 2021 Combined Brookings Municipal / School Board Election Ballots, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes: 7 - Corbett, Niemeyer, Brink, Bacon, Wendell, Tilton Byrne, and Collins.

Resolution 21-031 - Canvassing the April 13, 2021 Municipal Election

Whereas, on the 13th day of April, 2021, there was held in the City of Brookings, South Dakota, an election for the purpose of electing a Mayor (3-year term) and two (2) City Council Members (3-year terms); and

Whereas, the judges and clerks of said election have returned to the City Council of the City of Brookings the official results for the purpose of the Official Canvass; and

Whereas, the City Council on April 20, 2021 has canvassed the results for the purpose of determining the official election outcome; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Brookings, South Dakota that the official vote at the City Election held April 13, 2021 was as follows:

Mayor 3-Year Term (1)	Oepke "Ope" Niemeyer	Bradley Walker	Jeff Miller	Total Ballots Cast	Total Votes Cast
Vote Center 1	442	44	237	780	723
Vote Center 2	603	97	421	1,173	1,121
Vote Center 3	179	37	168	416	384
Vote Center 4	2	0	2	39	4
Absentee	862	56	338	1,325	1,256
Provisional Ballot	1	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	2,089	234	1,166	3,734*	3,489

City Council 3-Year Term (2)	Isaiah Crevier	Nate Holden	Nick Schmeichel	Patty Bacon	Nick Wendell	Total Ballots Cast	Total Votes Cast
Vote Center 1	233	84	256	357	417	780	1,347
Vote Center 2	434	124	468	487	600	1,173	2,113
Vote Center 3	175	44	178	144	180	416	721
Vote Center 4	2	0	1	2	1	39	6
Absentee	343	77	368	736	838	1,325	2,362
Provisional Ballot	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
TOTAL	1,187	329	1,271	1,727	2,037	3,734*	6,551

(*Note: 204 School-only ballots were cast in this election.)

Swiftel Center Economic Impact Update. The Swiftel Center presented to City Council in November 2020 an operational update as well a brief overview of the estimated economic impact of the July 2020 Cattle Shows. Since then, the Economic Impact Study Group made progress in exploring the direct economic impact from these shows as well as the additional benefits that the Swiftel Center provides to the City of Brookings and area businesses. The Economic Impact Study Group is composed by different members of our community with the goal helping explain and measure the Center's economic impact. Members included: Tom Richter, Executive Director of the Swiftel Center, Laura Schoen Carbonneau, Executive Director of Visit Brookings, Erick Rangel, City of Brookings Chief Financial Officer, Andrew Sloss, Brookings Economic Development Director, Al Kurtenbach, Chair of the East Brookings Business & Industry Association, Clint Johnson, East Brookings Business & Industry Association, and Al Baker, retired banker.

Brookings Municipal Utilities Water System Facility Plan. Brian Bergantine, PE and Operations Director for AE2S, and Delvin DeBoer, Phd, PE with Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, LLC, presented the Brookings Municipal Utilities Water System Facility Plan to the City Council and members of the public. Steve Meyer, Brookings Municipal Utilities Executive Vice-President and General Manager, and Eric Witte, Brookings Municipal Utilities Water/Wastewater & Engineering Manager, were also present.

Brookings Urban Forestry Initiative. Dusty Rodiek, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Director, provided an overview of the Brookings Urban Forestry Initiative to the City Council and members of the public.

The Brookings Urban Forestry Initiative is a new community forestry program in 2021 to enhance our community's trees' health, long-term sustainability, and beauty. This program was created in cooperation with the forestry division to proactively address current and future challenges in maintaining a healthy and diverse urban forest environment within the City of Brookings.

The new program provides an incentive for tree planting to residents within the City of Brookings. Approved participants will receive a reimbursement for up to \$150/tree planted with the submission of a paid receipt. (Receipt must identify the tree species and size.) A planting/contracting reimbursement of \$50/tree will be available for residents not comfortable planting their tree. Property owners can plant a maximum of two trees/property/year. (Trees may be planted in yards or boulevard areas.) Any trees planted in boulevards need to be coordinated with Parks Staff. A list of approved tree species is available at participating tree nurseries and on the city website. The initiative is initially funded at \$10,000 from the 2021 Forestry division budget. Funds are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Future expansion and extension of the program will be accomplished through privately donated funds. Long term operational cost impacts will likely be reduced with participants being responsible for establishment care.

Brookings Community Games. Dusty Rodiek, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Director, provided an overview of the Brookings Community Games to the City Council and members of the public.

The Park and Recreation Department provides activities for residents of all ages. New in 2021 is the introduction of "Brookings Community Games". This is a community wide adult (age 18 and over) recreational event created to promote fitness, teamwork, community spirit and fun. The focus of this event is to introduce people in the Brookings area to a multitude of recreational activities and facilities; promote the importance and satisfaction of living a healthy lifestyle; offer friendly competition; and provide the opportunity to meet new people while having a lot of fun!

The inaugural Community Games was originally scheduled in 2020 but was cancelled due to COVID – 19. The Brookings Health System has agreed to be a supporting partner for the event that will be held the weekend of June 25-27, 2021.

City Council Vacancy Process. City Council Member Vacancy - Application Process. On May 11th, Council Member Ope "Oepke" Niemeyer will resign his position as city council member and be sworn in as Mayor. The City Charter provides guidance with respect to vacancies on the Council. In addition, in 2003 the City Council adopted a policy (amended in 2010) which established more detailed procedures in the event a

vacancy occurs on the Council. Accordingly, a draft process and timeline was prepared for the upcoming vacancy including a press release, application form. Proposed process & timeline: April 20 - Discuss Process, April 23 - Press release advertising vacated council seat, May 11 - receive resignation letter effective that day, May 11 - Ope Niemeyer takes Oath of Office as Mayor, May 12 – Deadline for applications, May 18- Applicants Provide Comments to City Council during Study Session, May 25 - Action to appoint Council Member, June 8th - New council member takes Oath of Office. There was consensus to proceed with the plan as proposed.

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

CITY OF BROOKINGS

ATTEST:

Keith W. Corbett, Mayor

Bonnie Foster, City Clerk