



STATE OF ARKANSAS

City of Brookland

Brookland Arkansas State of the City Report 2020
Required by Arkansas Statute 14-58-302

General Fund began January 1, 2019 with a checking account balance of \$155,892.05.

The Brookland library project is nearing completion. The city of Brookland has partnered with the Craighead County/Jonesboro Public Library to renovate the building at 401 Holman, which will provide a learning environment as well as computers with internet access for those who do not have it. The completion of this project will be an asset to residents of the Brookland Community.

City of Brookland has and will continue to work to solve flash flooding issues within our city. Two new detention ponds were created in problem areas. One is at 307 N Bernis and the other is at 103 Nelms Street. The city sold the front 2 residential lots at 307 N Bernis to reduce the cost of the property purchased for that detention pond.

Drainage ditch cleaning project in Northern Heights will begin summer of 2020, weather permitting. Phase 1 will be from Holman to Christy; with prep work on phase 2 which is Christy to Teresa, starting later in year.

With all these projects and more the ending checking balance for General fund was \$119,111.61.

Street Fund began January 1, 2019 with a checking balance of \$78,903.65.

Street employees continued to improve our street drainage by cleaning ditches and replacing culverts. While doing these projects they were also adding width to our streets for future asphalt overlays. Our focus in 2020 is to prepare and maintain current streets. After the 2020 census is complete, and there is an increase in revenue, the goal is to have the majority of the streets that are being prepared for asphalt, ready for overlay beginning summer of 2021. This will allow adequate time to meet with residents in those areas and get necessary right of way agreements signed.

With the wet year we in 2019, ditch cleaning was a task. Our employees did a good job. However, this lasted all year because of the rain.

The yearend balance in Street Fund was \$144,727.22.

Utility Fund began January 1, 2019 with a checking balance of \$376,057.80.

Several improvement projects completed during the year are as follows: aerators for sewer ponds, new backhoe, new equipment trailer and lift station repair.

Our water improvement project is near completion. We received good bids for all the jobs, which allowed us to upgrade water lines that run to our city limits north and south from a 2" line to 6" and 8" lines. After review of our current water/wastewater cost, we can maintain the current rate structure adopted 2010. As we look to the future, these improvements have allowed Brookland Utilities to prepare for additional growth.

The December 31, 2019 ending balance in the utility fund was \$342,741.21.

Brookland School is the fastest growing school in our area. The registration for the 2019-2020 school year is at 2,670 students. Brookland School is setting many standards in education. The city works with the school when it comes to developments within the city that will affect school population. This allows school administration to look forward and plan accordingly. With this growth planning, Brookland Public School will continue to be Brookland's biggest asset.

2020 is Census year. The census count will begin April 1, 2020. This is an exciting time for our city. Our city gets state turnback and county sales tax turnback revenue from the Arkansas Treasury Department based on population. The 2010 Census count that is used currently to determine this dollar amount is 1,969. Our 2020 estimated population count is around 4,200. Positive numbers for our city's future.

In summary, our city's financials are positive. All indicators point to growth for our city. The library is on schedule to open early spring and First Community Bank is scheduled to start construction within the next three months. Several new businesses have opened and/or are under construction. There have been several new inquiries for commercial property, which are very positive for our city. This additional revenue will allow our city to do more infrastructure projects that will improve the quality of life for our citizens. Preliminary ideas for infrastructure improvements in our future include wider streets with curb and gutter, parks that will be vibrant and give our children and parents a place to enjoy without leaving Brookland, baseball/softball complex that will provide a place for ball games and tournaments. This positive planning will help our city attract businesses. Families will want to locate in our city because it is a good place to live, raise their children, has a great school to attend.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

February 10, 2020