

Brookland City Council Minutes September 9, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Jones

Roll Call: Council present: Mike Bishop, David Gambill, Wilson Shipman, Martin Crain, Jason Cooper, Mayor Kenneth Jones, Attorney Kevin Orr, and City Clerk Billy Dacus. Council absent: Lacey Elder.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve August 12, 2019 Brookland City Council minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for discussion. Being no discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to accept the city council minutes from August 12, 2019 passed 5 Yays to 0 Nays.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve August 26, 2019 Brookland City Council special meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for discussion. Being no discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to accept the city council special meeting minutes from August 26, 2019 passed 5 Yays to 0 Nays.

New Business

Vector Disease Control – Jim Stark –

Mr. Stark passed out the Mosquito Surveillance and Control Report for the month of August. He stated that most of the rice fields are being drained, so the mosquito population should be going down. He noted that Vector will continue their work through the month of September and up to October 15th this season. Wilson Shipman asked for extra spraying around his house. He had noticed “the mosquitoes seem a little worse lately”. Mr. Stark said he would make a note of his request.

Vector Disease Control proposed new contract: 3 or 5 year –

Mayor Jones passed out copies of the proposed new contract with Vector Disease Control. One being a 3-year contract and the other being a 5-year contract. The council reviewed them but decided to wait until October’s meeting before making a decision.

Kimberly Shelby – Address council about fencing –

Ms. Shelby thanked council for hearing her again. Said she had requested through the Freedom of Information Act the decision that the Mayor and City Attorney Kevin Orr had made regarding the privacy fence issue with Sonic Commercial property abutting Ms. Shelby’s residential property. Ms. Shelby stated a letter received back from her FOIA request stated that Brookland City Council would have to decide this issue by majority vote. Ms. Shelby went on to explain her issues with Sonic as reasons for the fence. Ms. Shelby stated she did not understand why the city council would have to vote on an ordinance for it to be enforced. City Attorney Kevin Orr explained that Sonic brought before Brookland Planning Commission, a site plan for their facility. The site plan showed a fence on the northeast corner of property. This site plan was approved by Brookland Planning Commission. CA Kevin Orr went on to tell Ms. Shelby if he has Sonic fined for not building the fence, Sonic will say they built their site as approved by Brookland Planning Commission. CA Kevin Orr went on to say the first plan Sonic brought before BPC had NO fence. At request of BPC, Sonic then brought a site plan in that had a partial privacy fence from Oak Street west. After a lengthy deliberation, it was decided by the council not to act on this issue. The council felt like the current fence was in compliance with the zoning code.

Nick Hendricks/David Loggins – Brookland Hills Phase 1 (no HOA or POA). No one designated to take care of the entrance & retention pond maintenance -

Nick Hendricks and David Loggins addressed the council about their concerns about the upkeep of the retention pond and entrance in the Brookland Hills Phase 1 area. There were also several citizens from the subdivision at the meeting. The two gentlemen had documents with information about the property in question, but no one knows who is responsible for the maintenance of the area. The people of the subdivision were wanting to know if the city could help with this problem. There is no Homeowners or Property-owners Association in place. With the confusion on who owns the property where the retention ponds are located, Mayor Jones told the gentlemen he would have to research the issue further. Once the landowner is confirmed, then the city can address the issue of clean up and upkeep.

Resolution 2019-13 – Setting the Property Millage for 2020 -

Attorney Kevin Orr read Resolution 2019-13 in its entirety. This resolution is to set the 2020 personal and real property millage for the city of Brookland. The resolution retains the current value of .50 mills for the upcoming year. Mike Bishop made a motion to accept Resolution 2019-13 as read. Jason Cooper seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then opened the motion to the council for discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to accept Resolution 2019-13 passed by a vote of 5 Yays to 0 Nays.

MS-4 Storm Water public meeting: Storm Water Committee to set date -

Mayor Jones told Jason Cooper that the MS-4 Storm Water Committee needs to set a date for a meeting. Jason is the Chair of this committee. The Mayor stated that the City Clerk will get him the names of the other committee members so that they can be contacted.

Mayor Jones introduced Sharon Hopkins to the council. Mayor Jones noted that Sharon works for the school and that he wanted to recommend that Ms. Hopkins be appointed to the Storm Water committee. Wilson Shipman made a motion to accept her for the Storm Water Committee. Jason Cooper seconded the motion. Then, Mayor Jones realized that he had made a mistake. He wanted Ms. Hopkins to serve on the 2020 Census Correct Count Committee. Since the motion had been seconded, the motion had to be voted on. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to accept Sharon Hopkins to the Storm Water Committee failed by a vote of 0 Yays to 5 Nays.

Then, Wilson Shipman made a motion to accept Sharon Hopkins to serve on the 2020 Census Correct Count Committee. Jason Cooper seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then opened the motion to the council for discussion. Being no discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed by a vote of 5 Yays to 0 Nays.

Old Business

1st Reading for Ordinance 2019-12 for Disposal of Solid Pet Waste -

Attorney Kevin Orr read the 1st reading for Ordinance 2019-12. This is an ordinance to set the guidelines for proper disposal of solid pet waste. The second reading is scheduled to be done at the 2019 October meeting.

Policy for Storm Shelter -

Mayor Jones said he is still gathering information on this issue. He hopes to have it ready to present it to the council next month.

Previous Month's Financials – Mayor Jones reviewed August's Financial Checking Account Reports. The following are 8-31-19 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$105,038.02
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$125,576.88
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$335,426.96

Mayor's Notes:

✓ **Veterans Memorial: Location?**

Mayor Jones asked the council if they had thought of a place for the Veterans Memorial location. Martin Crain stated that he had looked at some property on the westside of town for a place for the city ball parks. No one on the council had any ideas for a place for the Veterans Memorial at this time. The Mayor noted that the issue needed to be discussed later.

✓ **Meter deposit for landlords w/multiple rental accounts -**

Mayor Jones asked the council if they had any objections to the city revamping the meter deposit for landlords with multiple rental accounts. Currently they have one standing deposit, and it was to be used for cleaning only. Recently landlords have started including the water in their rent and leave it on in their name, creating a large number of active accounts for each one. He explained that the deposit needed to be higher for landlords with multiple rental accounts that have active usage. The council agreed this was a good thing to pursue. The Mayor stated he would get more information and present it to the council at a later meeting.

Mayor Jones read an email from a grandparent from the Brookland School District that thanked the Brookland Police Department for helping coordinate the traffic for the start of the new year. Mayor Jones noted that this year was an easier year than some others in the past and praised the BPD for their efforts.

Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the council? There was none.

Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the floor? Brookland Police Chief Jon Moore addressed the council and floor about some recent break-ins in the Brookland Hills subdivision. He advised that all patrons make sure not to leave anything valuable in the vehicles and make sure they are locked. The department is working on getting these crimes solved. Chief Moore and Mayor Jones also wanted it to be known the best way to contact the police. If it is an emergency, call "911". If it is to report something happening, please call the dispatch center @ 935-5552. If it is in the Brookland community, the Brookland Police will be dispatched.

Wilson Shipman made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to adjourn passed 5 Yays to 0 Nays. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, City Clerk/Treasurer