

Brookland City Council Minutes
March 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Jones

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

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve February 10, 2020 Brookland City Council minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Lacey Elder. 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 February 10, 2020 passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

New Business

Casey Newman @ 311 Shirley road work:

Casey Newman addressed the council with concerns about Shirley street not being paved since it is a city street. Mayor Jones stated that the subdivision was supposed to have been finished with paved roads by the contractor of the area once he was finished developing the property. However, it was discovered that the contractor filed for bankruptcy before he finished. The city of Brookland cannot take any legal actions because of the protection of the filing. The Mayor did tell Mr. Newman that there are plans in the future to pave the streets of that subdivision. Possibility in late 2020 or 2021.

David Loggins – Brookland Hills request speed bumps in subdivision:

David Loggins approached the council with a request to add speed bumps in the Brookland Hills subdivision. Mr. Loggins noted that some residents are not obeying the 15 MPH speed limit. He noted he was concerned since there are a lot of children in the area. Mayor Jones said that cities in the area are getting away from putting in speed bumps because of the liabilities that come along with doing so. The Mayor did note that Attorney Kevin Orr would research the matter further and as alternative to the problem now, patrol would be increased to help slow down the speeders.

Kevin Orr - Present 2020 E911 contract with the city of Jonesboro:

Mayor Jones said that information and details were still being worked out on this issue. More information is forth coming from Judge Marvin Day. Hopefully there will be an update next month.

Resolution 2020-03 to support continuation of ½ cent sales tax:

Attorney Kevin Orr read Resolution 2020-03 in its entirety. This is a resolution supporting the House Joint Resolution 1018 of 2019 proposed an amendment to the Arkansas constitution to continue a levy of a one-half percent and use the tax for state highways, roads, etc. Mike Bishop made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-03 as read. Jason Cooper seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for discussion. Wilson Shipman asked if the tax would be used on improving highways. Mayor Jones said it would. Mayor Jones asked if there is further discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to accept Resolution 2020-03 has passed by a vote of 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Ordinance 2020-04 – To rezone 556 West School Street from A-1 to C-2:

Kevin Orr read Ordinance 2020-04 in its entirety. Mike Bishop made a motion to suspend the rules and go to the second reading of Ordinance 2020-04 by title only. Lacey Elder seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then opened the motion to suspend the rules to council for discussion.

Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to suspend the rules and go to the second reading of Ordinance 2020-04 by title only passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Kevin Orr read Ordinance 2020-04 second reading by title only. Mike Bishop made a motion to suspend the rules and go to the third and final reading of Ordinance 2020-04 by title only. Lacey Elder seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then opened the motion to suspend the rules to council for discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to suspend the rules and go to the third and final reading of Ordinance 2020-04 by title only passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Kevin Orr read Ordinance 2020-04 third and final reading by title only. Mike Bishop made a motion to accept Ordinance 2020-04 as read. Lacey Elder seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then opened Ordinance 2020-04 to council for discussion. Martin Crain asked if the land was located next to where the new bank was being built. Mayor Jones said it was. A representative for Greg Baugh passed out copies of possible layouts for the property. Being no further discussion, Mayor Jones asked for a roll call vote. Mike Bishop: Y, Lacey Elder: Y, Wilson Shipman: Y, Jason Cooper: Y, David Gambill: Y, Martin Crain: Y. Mayor Jones announced that Ordinance 2020-04 had passed by a vote of 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Mike Bishop made a motion to accept the Emergency Clause as read in Ordinance 2020-04. Lacey Elder seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then opened the motion to the council for discussion. Being no discussion, Mayor Jones asked for a roll call vote. Mike Bishop: Y, Lacey Elder: Y, David Gambill: Y, Jason Cooper: Y, Martin Crain: Y, Wilson Shipman: Y. Mayor Jones announced the motion to accept the Emergency Clause as read in Ordinance 2020-04 passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Old Business

Real estate offer of acceptance of 302 E. Matthews:

Mayor Jones reported that Greg Baugh submitted a new offer for the property located @ 302 E. Matthews since it was requested by the council not to change the zoning for the lot. Mayor Jones said he originally thought it didn't matter to Mr. Baugh what the property was zoned, but that was a misunderstanding. The new offer was lower than the first offer Greg submitted. After a discussion, it was decided by the council not to act on this offer now. The city will look into different options for the lot.

AR-DOT project #100935. Sidewalk from Stevens St. to School St. that runs along Holman St:

Attorney Kevin Orr addressed the council with information about the sidewalk project. He noted there may be another option to lay the sidewalk without the process of eminent domain. There are some statutes in the law that the city can use to get the right-of-way for the area located at 615 Holman. More information is being gathered, but the council agreed that this may be the way to approach the situation.

Previous Month's Financials:

Mayor Jones reviewed February's Financial Checking Account Reports. The following are 2-29-2020 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$133,019.95
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$169,123.00
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$348,789.31

Mayor's Notes:

2020 Census starts April 1, 2020. Complete Count Committee meeting Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 @ City Hall.

Mayor Jones reminded everyone that the 2020 Census is coming up and he noted how important the it was to get everyone counted. State and Federal aid is based on population of the city. He announced there would be a Complete Count Committee meeting Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 @ City Hall for anyone wanting to learn more about the process.

PUD – Planned Unit Development.

Mayor Jones went over the specifications of a PUD (Planned Unit Development). A PUD is a type of building development and is also a regulatory process. As a building development, it is a designed grouping of both varied and compatible land uses, such as housing, recreation, commercial centers, and industrial parks, all within one contained development or subdivision. The city has two of these developments with the possibility of a third coming up. The city has rules and regulations that govern what can or cannot be allow in such areas. The Mayor wanted to educate the people since there is sometimes a misunderstanding about the process.

State Aid Street funding confirmation letter.

Mayor Jones noted that the city has received the State Aid Street Funding confirmation letter. He said he would like to see the School Street project done first so that the work could be completed before the new upcoming school year.

Missouri Street property.

Mayor Jones said the deal with Inboden Brothers for the property is very close to being finalized. He asked the council if the city could take out the money from the department funds and pay for the property out-right. He said that \$12.5k can be taken from the Street and Utility funds each since both of the departments would be using the building.

David Gambill made a motion to take out \$12.5k from the Street Fund and \$12.5K from the Utility Fund to purchase the property on Missouri Street owned by Inboden Brothers for a total of \$25k. The motion was seconded by Lacey Elder. 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 passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the council?

Martin Crain said there was a moving pod located on N. Oak that was blocking the view of residents trying to pull out onto the road. He noted that the pod has been there quite some time. Mayor Jones stated he was aware of the situation. He will have the Police Department look into the matter.

Martin Crain also asked about the vehicles that where still setting by the Fire Station on Holman. The vehicles where used by the fire department for training. Fire Chief Wayne Reece who was in attendance said as soon as it dries up, they would be removed.

Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the floor?

MPO Director Cecelie Cochran announced that there would be a meeting Tuesday, March 31st at 5:30 @ the 1st National Bank Area about the ARDOT Renew AR Highways Program (proposed permanent half-cent tax). She wanted to encourage the people to attend to learn more about what this means to the citizens of the area.

David Loggins from the Brookland Hills subdivision asked if anything could be done about vehicles being in the streets. Mayor Jones said he would fore warn the police to be on the lookout for them while they patrol the area.

Wilson Shipman made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Martin Crain. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to adjourn passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, City Clerk/Treasurer