

Brookland City Council Minutes
December 13, 2021

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, Pamela McGee, David Gambill, Mayor Kenneth Jones, Attorney Kevin Orr, and City Clerk Billy Dacus.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve November 8, 2021, 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 November 8, 2021, passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

New Business

Jenna Adams - Sewer issue @ 107 N Oak St:

Attorney Kevin Orr spoke on behalf of Jenna Adams, Attorney at Law for the Arkansas Municipal League. He updated the council about the legal dispute between the City of Brookland v. Darrin & Karla Block. Mr. Orr said that the Blocks have rejected the \$2500 counteroffer and the plaintiff's attorney has made a counteroffer in the above referenced of \$8,000. Kevin noted that the city has several options with some being: to accept, to reject, or counter, the offer. He also noted the city could go to a settlement conference. After a long and lengthy thorough discussion that included the pros and cons of the options explained to the council, Wilson Shipman made a motion to offer the Blocks a counter settlement of \$5000. The motion was seconded by Martin Crain. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for any further discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to offer the Blocks a counter settlement of \$5000 passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Brookland Parks Committee Update:

David Loggins announced there would be a Brookland Parks Committee meeting Monday night on December 20 @ 6pm at City Hall. He said he would like to invite everyone to attend. He also noted that the City of Brookland received the matching grant from the State of Arkansas to help with the (2) inter-city parks.

Barker Brothers Asphalt - Interested in 1 acre for shop on east side of tract off East Hinkley:

Mayor Jones told the council that Barker Brothers Asphalt was interested in purchasing one acre of the city's property that is located on the east side of the railroad tracks off East Hinkley. It was agreed by the council to ask \$2500 for the acre of ground. The mayor said he would let the company know and would report back at next month's meeting.

Legacy Landfill Budget approval by City Council: Mayor Jones and Attorney Orr briefed the council on the policy by the Legacy Landfill to have their budget approved by the local cities in the area that use their service. The budget was reviewed by the council, then Mike Bishop made a motion to approve the Legacy Landfill budget. The motion was seconded by David Gambill. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for many further discussions. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Old Business

Previous Month's Financials:

Mayor Jones reviewed both November's Financial Checking Account Reports. The following are 11-30-2021 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$562,778.10
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$269,491.73
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$502,966.54

Amend the number on Ordinance 2021-19, that was adopted 11/8/21, to be changed to 2021-21:

Mayor Jones stated that the wrong number sequence was used for Ordinance 2021-19 that was approved at the last meeting. He asked the council to make a motion so that it could be changed to the correct number (2021-21). Mike Bishop made a motion to change the Ordinance number from 2021-19 to 2021-21. The motion was seconded by David Gambill. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for many further discussions. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Mayor's Notes:

- ✓ *2022 Budgets Update*– Mayor Jones asked if the council had looked at the 2022 budgets for the city. He carefully went over each budget explaining certain items. After the review, the council said that they were ready to vote on accepting the budgets.

Resolution 2021-22 – Approving the 2022 annual General, Street, and Utility budgets for the city of Brookland:

Kevin Orr read Resolution 2021-22 in its entirety. This resolution approves the 2022 annual General, Street, and Utility budgets for the city of Brookland. Mike Bishop made a motion to accept Resolution 2021-16 as read. David Gambill 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 2021-22 passed by a vote of 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

- ✓ *ARDOT Proposal for turn lanes & signal upgrade @ Hwy 49 & School Street*- Mayor Jones updated the council on the proposed turn lanes and signal upgrade at Hwy 49N and School Street. He noted that the price for this upgrade had significantly increase from the last known proposal. The cost is now over one-million dollars. The previously proposed cost was \$450K. The mayor said this is still a work in progress and he is hoping to find ways to get the cost down.
- ✓ *Discuss recycle trailer and cardboard dumpsters @ city hall*- Mayor Jones asked the council if they objected to moving the recycle trailer and the cardboard dumpster to the east side of the railroad tracks by the fertilizer building that the city owns. The mayor noted that it would help the area around

city hall look better with them moved. The council said that moving the trailer and dumpster would be a good idea.

✓ *Discuss location of new city hall/police department building-*

Mayor Jones asked the council to be thinking of a location for the new city hall/police department building. The mayor noted that one location mentioned before is to locate the new building by the new sports complex. He said about 1 ½ to 2 acres would be needed.

Mayor Jones stated that the storm shelter was at near capacity last Friday (12/10/21) with the storms moving through. There was some talk that maybe another shelter might be needed. The mayor said he would check around for possible locations.

Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the council?

There was none.

Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the floor?

There was none.

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 8:15 pm by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, City Clerk/Treasurer