

Brookland City Council Minutes
June 13, 2022

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 May 9, 2022, Brookland City Council minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones said 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 minutes passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve May 23, 2022, 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 minutes passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

New Business

Brookland Parks Committee Update:

Jason MacDonald of Fisher Arnold addressed the council. He noted that the plans for the sports complex as well as the two city parks are almost completed. Once the plans for the sports complex are done, the job bidding can begin. The council asked if some of the work could be outsourced to people who want to volunteer their services. Mr. MacDonald stated that might could happen, but a procedure process set, legal municipal law must be followed.

David Loggins noted that there would be a Brookland Parks Committee meeting Monday night on June 20 @ 6pm at City Hall. He said they would be working on the budgeting and trying to find different ways to offset the expense of the project. David also noted that they are looking to find someone interested in the naming rights of the complex. Martin Crain asked about naming the complex after some of the military veterans from the local community and thought there might be some grant money to do so.

Vector Disease Control - Jim Stark:

Jim discussed the monthly report with the council. He noted not much was going on in May but that will start to change with upcoming months. He said an aerial spray flyover was being planned around July 2nd or 3rd. The truck would be doing its nightly spraying as well.

The new superintendent of the Brookland Schools, Brett Bunch addressed the council. He introduced himself and said he was looking forward to working with the city as well as the community.

Ordinance 2022-12 - Rezone 882 CR 741 (Lot 1 from A-1 to R-1 Low Density; Lot 2 from A-1 to C-2 Commercial):

This is an ordinance to amend Ordinance 2020-14 known as the zoning map ordinance for the city of Brookland, Arkansas providing a change in zone district.

Attorney Kevin Orr read Ordinance 2022-12 in its entirety.

Mike Bishop made a motion to suspend the reading rule requirement and go to the second reading of Ordinance 2022-12 by title only. 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 to go to the second reading of Ordinance 2022-12 by title only passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Attorney Kevin Orr read the second reading of Ordinance 2022-12 by title only.

Mike Bishop made a motion to suspend the reading rule requirement and go to the third and final reading of Ordinance 2022-12 by title only. 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 to go to the third and final reading of Ordinance 2022-12 by title only passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Attorney Kevin Orr read the third and final reading of Ordinance 2022-12 by title only.

Mike Bishop made a motion to accept Ordinance 2022-12 as read. Jason Cooper seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then opened Ordinance 2022-12 to council for discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones asked for a roll call vote. Mike Bishop: Y, Wilson Shipman: Y, Martin Crain: Y, David Gambill: Y, Pamela McGee: Y, Jason Cooper: Y. Mayor Jones announced that Ordinance 2022-12 had passed by a vote of 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Mike Bishop made a motion to accept the Emergency Clause in Section 2 as read in Ordinance 2022-12. 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 to accept the Emergency Clause as read in Ordinance 2022-12 passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Steve Phillips - address city council asking to appoint John Garrett Jr. to Planning Commission:
Planning Commission Chairman Steve Phillips addressed the council asking for them to appoint John Garrett Jr. to the vacated position on the commission. Mr. Garrett introduced himself to the council where most of them knew him. Mayor Jones noted that he approved of John's appointment and asked the council to consider him for the position.

Mike Bishop made a motion to appoint John Garrett Jr. to the planning commission. 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 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Chairman Phillips also asked the council to consider adding another position to the commission. He said there are five members now and would like to make it six since the city is growing so rapidly. The council thought it would be a good idea to do so. This will have to be done by ordinance or resolution in the coming months. City Attorney Kevin Orr going to look at state statutes and see if this can be done.

Old Business

Previous Month's Financials:

Mayor Jones reviewed May's Financial Checking Account Reports. The following are 5-31-2022 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$1,087,384.42
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$460,998.80
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$410,748.73

Mayor's Notes:

Mayor Jones said that there could be a new business coming to the city. More details would be known in the coming weeks.

Attorney Kevin Orr brought to the attention of the council of the upcoming national holiday on June 20th. Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of the last of the enslaved African Americans in Texas. The day was first recognized as a federal holiday in June 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law.

Mr. Orr and Mayor Jones asked the council if it wanted the city to recognize the national holiday. This would/could mean the closing of city hall with pay for all employees. There was a long and lengthy discussion on the matter. Martin Crain and Wilson Shipman both thought that the city had enough holidays off with pay. After a motion to recognize the holiday was made and then rescinded by David Gambill and Jason Cooper, David Gambill made a new motion rewording the original for the city to recognize Juneteenth Holiday but not the close city hall or have paid time off. 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 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Mayor Jones asked if there is anything from the council?

Martin Crain asked about if the police department had a Ford Explorer; that he couldn't remember having one in the BPD. Mayor Jones said it was an older model that they had for some time now.

Jason Cooper asked about the new camera system that was to be installed in the city. Mayor Jones said it has been a slow process.

Mayor Jones asked 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 8:11 pm by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, City Clerk/Treasurer