



City of Brookland, Arkansas

City Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: September 11, 2023

Type of Meeting: Regular

Called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Kenneth Jones

COUNCILMEMBER ATTENDANCE: (P = Present A = Absent)					
David Gambill	P	Jason Cooper	P	Mayor Kenneth Jones	P
Pamela McGee	P	David Loggins	P	Attorney Kevin Orr	A
Candice Bishop	P	Wilson Shipman	P	Clerk/Treas. Julie Thomas	P

Previous meeting minutes:

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Loggins

To: Approve the Brookland City Council meeting minutes dated August 14, 2023, as presented

Discussion: None

For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0

Motion by: David Loggins

Second by: Jason Cooper

To: Approve the Brookland City Council special meeting minutes dated August 28, 2023, as presented

Discussion: None

For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0

New Business:

1. Jim Stark-Vector Disease Control Monthly mosquito abatement update:

Jim Stark from Vector Disease Control provided the council with the monthly mosquito abatement report for August 2023 via paper report.

2. Brookland Parks Committee Update:

David Loggins, Parks Committee Chairman, gave the update. Loggins stated that dirt work is continuing on the sportsplex and the smaller parks. No major updates at this time.

3. Brookland Public Library expansion ideas-Vanessa Adams, Holly Storms:

Vanessa Adams spoke to the council on behalf of the Brookland Public Library. Adams presented a statistical report about typical community library services with a comparison of what the Brookland Public Library is currently able to provide. Adams stressed the need for library services in the community and discussed the current deficits the library is dealing with. Adams urged the council to consider more available space in the near future. Ms. Adams stated there may be a need for additional funding, but that would be a subject for a later time. Holly Storms, with Brookland Public Library, also spoke to the council about how the community has embraced the library and has expressed interest in more products and services. The council urged both women to put together some sort of wish list for products and services and present to the council for consideration.

4. Arrowhead Fiber Optic (Matt Duryea)-wants to run fiber optic in Brookland:

Kennieth Goodwin, with SkyFiNet, LLC, d/b/a Arrowhead Broadband, spoke to the council about running fiber optic cable in Brookland to offer affordable broadband internet services. Goodwin said his company would need a franchise agreement from the city in order to begin. The council expressed interest in discussing this further, however, the city attorney will have to be present to review a potential agreement for business. This item will be discussed further at future meetings.

5. Security cameras at Brady & Hickory well-review quotes:

Mayor Jones explained that the city has received quotes for cameras and camera systems for the well houses and wells on Brady and Hickory Streets. The quotes are from Critical Edge in the amounts of \$9,648.14 for the Hickory Street well and \$8,288.00 for the Brady Street well. This will be a one-time cost to purchase equipment.

Old Business:

6. West Matthews Street - extension to HWY 49N update:

Mayor Jones explained to the council that a survey crew was on site today. According to Jones, Mr. Couch (the property owner) explained that they want to look at the possibility of rerouting the storm water drainage down Oak Street and towards Stevens Street, then to Hwy 49. The survey crew is scheduled to assess the ditches to determine the feasibility of this proposal. Jones stated that he should have more information from the survey crew by the end of the week and will update the council at the next meeting. According to Jones, Mr. Gulley (who was initially interested in contributing) has backed out of this project, therefore, he is not certain who would be willing to lay the roadbed. Jones said the lowest quote he has seen for this type of work is around \$136,000. Jones indicated that the Mayor and City Council are still interested in this project, however, he needs more complete information in order to determine what course of action to recommend. This item will be discussed further at future meetings.

7. West School Street turn lane; ARDOT agreement:

Mayor Jones updated the council on this project by saying the city has applied for grant money to help with the cost of this expensive project. A West-East bound turn lane and corresponding traffic signal are desperately needed at this busy intersection to assist with the city’s traffic flow during busy times of the day, such as school arrival and dismissal. Jones explained that he talked to a company from Desoto, Mississippi about a 4-light turn signal with turn arrows. Jones said he would get a price and present it to ARDOT. Upon ARDOT's approval, hopefully the city can move forward with purchasing that type of turn signal to alleviate traffic congestion until further plans for turning lanes are completed.

8. Planning Charette update:

Mayor Jones updated the council on the planning charette from September 5. Jones summarized for the council the different ideas that the planning groups came up with and explained that the number one concern among all groups was the need for a new major road through the city to ensure the continued progress of the City of Brookland.

9. Monthly financials for General, Street, and Utility Funds:

August 2023	General Fund:	Street Fund:	Utility Fund:
Beginning Balance:	\$1,253,932.06	\$346,445.00	\$478,214.00
Ending Balance:	\$1,273,497.39	\$385,206.00	\$513,788.49

*Mayor Jones briefly updated the council on the status of the city's bond. Jones explained that it is currently a 40-year bond that had an original amount of \$9,000,000. He stated that it is currently at around \$7,000,000 after two years of payments on principal and interest.

Mayor's Notes:

1. Police Department vehicles:

Captain Jansen Settlemoir with the Brookland Police Department discussed the need for new vehicles for officers to use in the line of duty. Settlemoir explained that one of the department's vehicles is currently in the shop-not running and two others are reaching high mileage and extended wear. Captain Settlemoir presented the council with a proposal to purchase three new vehicles: one Dodge Charger and two Dodge Durango's, all-wheel drive, for up to \$150,000 for all three.

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: David Loggins

To: Approve the purchase of 3 vehicles for the Brookland Police Department

Discussion: None

For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0

2. 400 E. Matthews Street property:

Mayor Jones updated the council with the appraisal of this property and reminded the council that it is currently zoned R-2.

3. Road Zipper Machine:

Mayor Jones showed the council a video of the 'asphalt zipper' machine in use. Jones explained how the machine works to pave and overlay roads. Jones shared with the council that he and street employees had went to Harrisburg to a demonstration of this piece of equipment and thought it would be beneficial to the city. He also stated that if the city purchased this machine, there was a possibility of leasing it to other cities for use in paving roads, parking lots, etc. Leasing it out for use would include Brookland's trained workers being the ones who operate the machine. Jones informed the council that the cost of the machine is \$216,000, with annual payments of \$54,000. The council expressed interest in pursuing the purchase of this machine later in the year.

4. Arkansas Department of Agriculture letter:

Mayor Jones reminded council members that there was still a couple of members who needed to complete the required retail water provider board training. This item will be discussed further at a later date.

Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Wilson Shipman

Second by: Jason Cooper

To: Adjourn the meeting

For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0

Meeting adjourned at: 8:00 PM

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Julie Thomas, City Clerk/Treasurer