



City of Brookland, Arkansas City Council Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting:

Date of Meeting: May 20, 2025

Type of Meeting: Regular

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

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

Previous meeting minutes:

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Approve the Brookland City Council meeting minutes dated April 8, 2025, as written

Discussion: None

For: 5 **Against:** 0 **Motion: Passed 5-0**

New Business:

1. Vector Disease Control – Mosquito Report

Mayor Jones informed the council that there was no report to review for this month. Jones said he would follow up and find out about getting reports for this season.

2. Ordinance 2025-11 – Establishing procedures for project by outside city utilities:

Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Resolution 2025-11 entirely for the 1st reading.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-11 by titles only for 2nd reading

Discussion: None

For: 5 **Against:** 0 **Motion: Passed 5-0**

Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Resolution 2025-11 by titles only for 2nd reading.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-11 by titles only for 3rd and final reading

Discussion: None

For: 5 **Against:** 0 **Motion: Passed 5-0**

Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Ordinance 2025-11 by titles only for the 3rd and final reading.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Adopt Ordinance 2025-11 as written.

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:					
David Gambill	Yes	Candice Bishop	Yes	David Loggins	
Pamela McGee	Yes	Jason Cooper	Yes	Wilson Shipman	Yes

*Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adopt the Emergency Clause in section 12 of Ordinance 2025-11.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Adopt the emergency clause in section 12 of Ordinance 2025-11.

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:					
David Gambill	Yes	Candice Bishop	Yes	David Loggins	
Pamela McGee	Yes	Jason Cooper	Yes	Wilson Shipman	Yes

3. Ordinance 2025-12 – Establish and regulate the opening and cutting of public streets, alleys, and sidewalks:

Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Resolution 2025-12 entirely for the 1st reading.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-12 by titles only for 2nd reading

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Resolution 2025-12 by titles only for 2nd reading.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-12 by titles only for 3rd and final reading

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Ordinance 2025-12 by titles only for the 3rd and final reading.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Adopt Ordinance 2025-12 as written.

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:					
David Gambill	Yes	Candice Bishop	Yes	David Loggins	
Pamela McGee	Yes	Jason Cooper	Yes	Wilson Shipman	Yes

*Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adopt the Emergency Clause in section 8 of Ordinance 2025-12.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Adopt the emergency clause in section 8 of Ordinance 2025-12.

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:					
David Gambill	Yes	Candice Bishop	Yes	David Loggins	
Pamela McGee	Yes	Jason Cooper	Yes	Wilson Shipman	Yes

4. Ordinance 2025-13 – Adopt fence regulations:

Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Resolution 2025-13 entirely for the 1st reading.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-13 by titles only for 2nd reading

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Resolution 2025-13 by titles only for 2nd reading.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-13 by titles only for 3rd and final reading

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Ordinance 2025-13 by titles only for the 3rd and final reading.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Adopt Ordinance 2025-13 as written.

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:					
David Gambill	Yes	Candice Bishop	Yes	David Loggins	
Pamela McGee	Yes	Jason Cooper	Yes	Wilson Shipman	Yes

*Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adopt the Emergency Clause in section 5 of Ordinance 2025-13.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Adopt the emergency clause in section 5 of Ordinance 2025-13.

Discussion: None

For: 5 **Against:** 0 **Motion:** Passed 5-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:					
David Gambill	Yes	Candice Bishop	Yes	David Loggins	
Pamela McGee	Yes	Jason Cooper	Yes	Wilson Shipman	Yes

5. 209 Holman – unsightly, unsafe structure:

Shawn Dacus, City of Brookland Inspector, came before the council to discuss property located @ 209 Holman St. Dacus explained that a crew cleaned up around the property because the property owner had been given a citation with time to respond, yet did nothing. Council member Pamela McGee asked if there was any other cleanup that needed to be done. Jones explained that there was more to do, including leveling out the ruts created from wet, muddy conditions during cleanup. Kevin Orr added that the city cleanup of a property is done only after other steps have been taken, with no results. Orr added that cleanup comes at a cost to the property owner(s).

6. MPO – Allen Pillow will speak to city council about long range plan:

Allen Pillow, with the local Metropolitan Planning Organization, was present to speak to the council about planning and programming for transportation projects within the city and the local metro district. Pillow explained that the plan is a 25-year term with updates every 5 years. Pillow added that the beginning steps involve community engagement, in order to assess the priorities and concerns of citizens for their area. Pillow described the engagement opportunities which include a Community Value Survey, 4-Boards/Categories to prioritize wants and needs with finite resources, and an open-ended questionnaire to add/change something. Pillow explained that these engagement exercises allow the MPO team to assess what the needs and concerns of the local community is in order to better serve them.

Old Business:

1. Sportsplex: Discuss bid and options:

David Baker, with Fisher & Arnold, was present to speak to the council about the bid received for the sportsplex project on April 16. Fisher explained that the bid includes one baseball field with lighting, a concession stand, and associated parking/paving for \$2,087,615. Fisher added that the project has been set out for bids a few times, with different combinations of work included, in order to get the most feasible projected cost for the sportsplex. Mayor Jones noted that there is currently around \$2 million available to spend on the sportsplex. Discussion among the council included: taking out one component or another to decrease the cost, possibly getting help from utility companies to offset costs (Jones explained this was not an option), and when the bid expires (60 days). Kevin Orr asked about costs associated with completion of the concession stand and the possibility of lowering those. Baker explained that it is possible to reduce some costs, however, the trade-off could be higher long-term maintenance costs for the concession stand building.

Tony Pardew, with Olympus Construction, spoke to the council and explained some options for completing the project and saving money. Pardew discussed the current state of the site, including soil compaction being adequate for the concession stand, and holding off on asphalt overlay for the parking lot for the first 6-12 months, to reduce up-front costs and allow time for base compaction.

Discussion among Mayor Jones, the council members, and Pardew involved the current state of the soil at the site, the chat that had been laid being completely covered up, the original bond was for 4 completed fields, the staggering increase in costs during the past 3-4 years, and Pardew offering to hold the bids for a reasonable amount of time and to work with the city to try and get the project completed. Jones asked the council members if they had visited the site lately and added that at his last visit, the road that had been constructed did not appear to be there and what was left was very spongy. Pardew offered to conduct a soil compaction test for the concession stand area. The council decided to get more information before moving forward on the project.

2. Phase 1 – Brookland Municipal Building Update:

Mayor Jones informed the council that work has begun on Phase 1 of the Municipal Building. Jones stated that the rainy weather has stalled work at the site, however, there is a concrete pad.

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

April 2025	General Fund:	Street Fund:	Utility Fund:
Beginning Balance:	\$731,150.26	\$241,596.73	\$588,129.84
Ending Balance:	\$724,502.21	\$246,563.77	\$556,997.52

*Mayor Jones explained to the council about 3 expenses on the Utility Fund account including: a sewer extension on the sewer improvements and repairs, running water lines, and purchasing (auto shut off) water meters.

Mayor’s Notes:

- Discuss District Court:**

Mayor Jones discussed a recent meeting with County Judge Marvin Day. Jones explained that Day informed the area mayors about the current District Court building being run-down and inadequate. Day proposed purchasing an existing building in downtown Jonesboro for approximately \$3.5 million and renovating it for another \$3.5 to \$4 million for use as a District Court facility. Jones added that he, along with the other mayors, felt that the construction of a new facility would be a better option, rather than spend so much money to renovate an old building. Jones asked the council for their thoughts. The council agreed. Jones said he would update them as things progressed with this issue.
- Grand Opening of two new parks:**

Mayor Jones asked the council if they would like to have a grand opening ceremony for the 2 small city parks that are now completed and open. Jones said ArKids would like to partner with the city to hold a grand opening event for the community. The council agreed to hold a grand opening, even if it has to be delayed due to the weather. Jones said he would get something together and notify the council when he has more information.
- Pay David Loggins for missing Regular Council Meeting due to work:**

Mayor Jones notified the council that David Loggins was absent from the meeting because he has been transferred for his job.

Motion by: Candi Bishop

Second by: David Gambill

To: Pay council member David Loggins for missing the meeting due to work.

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Wilson Shipman

Second by: Jason Cooper

To: Adjourn the meeting

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Julie Thomas, City Clerk/Treasurer