



City of Brookland, Arkansas

City Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: January 13, 2026

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	Lachelle Sipes	P	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 December 9, 2025, as written

Discussion: None

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

New Business:

1. Review City Council Meeting procedures for 2026:

Mayor Jones presented the council with a copy of the meeting procedures for the city council. No comments were made and no questions were asked.

2. Jeff Chaplain- appointment to planning commission:

Jeff Chaplain was not present at the meeting. No action was taken.

3. Resolution 2026-01 – Amending 2025 General, Street, and Utility Fund budgets:

*Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Resolution 2026-01.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Accept Resolution 2026-01 as read to amend the 2025 General, Street, and Utility Fund budgets.

Discussion: None

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

Old Business:

1. Sportsplex update:

Mayor Jones informed the council that he was told by EAPDD that the City of Brookland was not selected to receive community assistance grant. Jones stated that he and the group attending the Arkansas Municipal League Conference have a meeting scheduled with Michael McBryde, from Stephens, Inc., to discuss the city's options for the sportsplex project. Jones said they would update the council more at the next meeting.

2. Municipal Building Project update:

Michael Bishop, City of Brookland Engineer, updated the council on the status of the Municipal Building project. Bishop discussed what has been completed thus far on the project.

3. SRO Officer – discuss questions regarding K-9 unit for High School:

No one was in attendance to discuss the issue.

4. Discuss House Bill 1606 allowing local governments to authorize Utility Task Vehicle operation on city streets:

Mayor Jones asked the council if they had solicited residents’ opinions regarding the use of UTVs on city streets. Council members shared a few general responses and concerns from those that were asked and also included their personal opinions on the issue. Most of the council members are not in favor of allowing UTVs on city streets, therefore, the council chose to make no changes at this time.

5. Monthly Financials for General, Street, and Utility Funds:

December 2025	General Fund:	Street Fund:	Utility Fund:
Beginning Balance:	\$446,541.42	\$176,545.24	\$504,186.68
Ending Balance:	\$483,157.79	\$188,771.40	\$523,166.56

*General Fund: Mayor Jones informed the council that they have not yet received any reimbursement money for the Maple Slough Ditch cleanup. Jones added that it will be given to the city, he is just not sure when.

Mayor’s Notes:

• **Brookland Fire Protection District – Discuss ordinance requiring lock boxes on businesses:**

Mayor Jones reminded the council about asking businesses their interest in procuring lock boxes for fire and emergency entrance purposes. Jones shared that he has learned that a few business owners are interested, however, they don’t want it to be a mandatory addition. They would like it to be optional. After some discussion on the issue, Attorney Kevin Orr stated that the issue should be handled by the Brookland Fire Protection District for existing businesses. As for new businesses, the council decided they would include a note in the building permit package advising developers of the option for a lock box.

Mayor Jones asked the council if they had anything to add. No response.

Mayor Jones asked if there was anything from the floor. Superintendent George Kennedy spoke to the council and gave an update on the progress of the new Intermediate School. Kennedy also announced that the Brookland Public School is asking for citizens to vote on and pass a 3.95 millage increase, this March 2026. Kennedy explained that the millage increase would be used to fund the construction of a new junior high school cafeteria-which will double as a safe room and would also be available to Brookland residents after hours, in the event of a severe weather event. Kennedy added that funds from the millage would also be used for a locker/weight room facility for the football program and that a portion of the funds would be used for building maintenance. Kennedy explained that 3.95 mills is not enough to produce large sums of money, however, it is sufficient revenue to pay a bond note.

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: 7:31 PM

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Julie Thomas, City Clerk/Treasurer