

Brookland City Council Minutes
January 11, 2016

Regular Monthly Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Jones

Roll Call: Aldermen present: Mike Bishop, Linda Anderson Reece, David Gambill, Wilson Shipman, William Thompson, Attorney Kevin Orr, Mayor Kenneth Jones, Clerk/Treasurer Billy Dacus. Justin Langston was absent.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve December 14, 2015 Brookland City Council minutes as written. Seconded by David Gambill. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened motion to the council for discussion. Being no discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced motion to accept the city council minutes from December 14, 2015 passed 5 yeas to 0 nays.

New Business

Review 1/4/16 P/C minutes: questions? There was a review of the minutes of the Planning Commission of 1/4/16. There were no questions or comments.

Garry Meadows- He wanted to address the council. - Garry Meadows addressed the council to announce that he would be running for the office of County Judge (Craighead). He listed his experience and achievements and said that he would be willing to work with the city in the future if he was to be elected County Judge.

Citizens on Logan Street- They want to address the council regarding accepting Logan St. as a city street. – Some of the citizens that live on Logan Street addressed the council about the poor conditions and drainage system on the street. They were asking for aid in some capacity to help in the problems that they are facing. The idea of making Logan a city street was brought to the council's attention. There was much discussion on the issue and the Mayor said he would look at some documents and have them ready to present to the council in the next meeting.

Review Ordinances 2013-09 & 2014-03 establishing council meeting agenda and date of meetings – Attorney Kevin Orr has reviewed these older Ordinances (2013-09 & 2014-03) and has suggested that the city draft a new version of these. The ordinances were established when the city was listed as second class and should be updated to reflect a first class rating. A rough draft of an ordinance was given to the council and Mayor Jones ask them to review the document so that discussions could be held at the next meeting with possible changes or questions.

ASU Delta Center of Economic Development – offers grant writing and economic development help.

– The Mayor told the council that Arkansas State University thru the Economic Development Center is offering grant writing assistance to cities and counties for a fee. The program fee would eventually be based on a percentage of the grants written, but now a monthly would be required from the local cities and towns. The fee was first set at \$300 but now since it has been finalized the fee has increased to \$777.67 per month. After discussion on this issue the council took no action at this time.

Ordinance 2016-01- Ordinance to accept Dooley Street as a city street- Kevin Orr read Ordinance 2016-01 first reading in its entirety. Mike Bishop made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2016-01. Motion was seconded by Linda Anderson Reece. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and opened motion to council for discussion. Several questions were raised as to the access in and out of the street/drive. It was noted that this is a dead end drive with no turn around and only two houses. It was determined that more information would help with the decision on the matter. This would be available at the next meeting with the scheduled second reading. Mayor Jones called for a vote for the motion on the floor. Mayor Jones announced motion to accept the first reading passed 5 yeas to 0 nays.

Review Ordinances 2009-04 – Identity Theft Prevention Program –This ordinance was enacted in 2009 by the Brookland City Council as a requirement by Homeland Security for protection of identity theft because of the information that is stored in the water clerk’s office. This has to be reviewed annually for updates. The Mayor asked the council and Attorney Orr to review the document. It was decided that no changes were needed and the city would continue to operate under Ordinance 2009-04 – Identity Theft Prevention Program in 2016.

Arkansas Local Police & Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) – Mayor Jones had notified the council when he was working on the budget in November that he was trying to get a decision from the Municipal League on whether the police department would need to go into the LOPFI program (Arkansas Local Police & Fire Retirement System). The Mayor received a recent email from them that stated that the city needed to apply to put the police department into the LOPFI program. This being based on a previous court case in the past that is open to interpretation. The Mayor has asked Attorney Orr to look over the court case to see if it is a requirement or an option. There is some concerns by city officers of losing service time if they were entered in the program. Attorney Orr agreed to look at this issue more closely. A motion was made by Wilson Shipman to table item #8 LOPFI to the February meeting. The motion was seconded by Linda Anderson Reece. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced motion to table the subject until the next meeting had passed 5 yeas to 0 nays.

Electronic Read Meters – Mayor Jones was told by Michael Moyer, the bond attorney that the city could start issuing contracts and purchase orders for the project. The Mayor asked the

council for authority to sign the purchase order for the electronic read meters that are to be installed. It would be 3 to 6 month before they could be received and installed. The cost would be no more than 535 thousand dollars. David Gambill made a motion to give Mayor Jones permission to place a purchase order with HD Supply for the electronic read meters at a cost of no more than \$535.000 per project bid. Motion was seconded by William Thompson. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and opened motion to council for discussion. Mayor Jones called for a vote for the motion on the floor. Mayor Jones announced that the motion passed 5 yeas to 0 nays.

Old Business

Arkansas State Police Electronic Tickets- Mayor Jones asked the council to review the contract that Attorney Kevin Orr has written for the distribution of funds that are to be split with Craighead County for the E-tickets written by State Troopers in a certain city. The contract is a written extension of the agreement between the county and the local cities.

E-911 Contract – This contract with Craighead or City of Jonesboro is not ready. It will be discussed at a later meeting.

Community Development Block Grant (*installation of sewer to Brady Lane, Nelda Lane, Keith Road, and Manley Lane*). There is no new information on this matter for the month of January. This is still a work in progress that will be finished shortly.

Previous Month's Financials – Mayor Jones reviewed October Financial Reports. The following are 11-30-15 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$143,105.24
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$80,164.27
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$256,852.32

Mayor's Notes –

Contract signing with Civil Engineering Associates- Mayor Jones signed the contract which was approved by Attorney Kevin Orr at the council meeting. Jason McDonald also gave the council an update on the work that has been done to date.

Condemnation Resolution for 177 Brady; scheduled for February meeting – The mayor stated that the paperwork for the resolution is not ready. Should be ready for next month's meeting.

AML attorney opinion regarding council members/city employees serving in appointed positions – Mayor Jones contacted David Schoen, the legal counsel from the Municipal League regarding a conflict of interest of council members/city employees serving in appointed positions. Mr. Schoen advised him that it would be a conflict but an ordinance could allow a

person to serve both. The ordinance would have to call out the individual by name. Jimmy Andrews was voted as chair for the Planning Commission and is a part-time employee of the city. There questions on the issue as to whether this is good practice. After a long discussion, it was decided to draw up an ordinance for Jimmy and this will be presented at a special council meeting on February 1st at 6:30 before the Planning Commission scheduled meeting.

The mayor announced a bingo fund raiser for the Brookland Museum Fund presented by the East Lab of Brookland School.

Linda Anderson Reece of the council question the mayor on the transportation needs of a part-time employee. The mayor stated that she was given transportation by employees on their own time. The matter was dismissed.

Wilson Shipman made motion to adjourn. Second by David Gambill. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced motion passed 5 yeas to 0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, Recorder