

Brookland City Council Minutes
March 14, 2016

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

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

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve February 8, 2016 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 February 8, 2016 passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

New Business

Resolution 2016-09 – Biased police policy – Resolution 2016-09 (*Resolution to update biased police policy*) was read in its entirety by Attorney Kevin Orr. Mike Bishop made motion to accept Resolution 2016-09. Seconded by David Gambill. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and opened motion to council for discussion. Attorney Orr explain to the council that this was an update to a policy that was accepted in 2003. Mayor Jones then called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced motion passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

Chris Reddick – 103 Nelms Street – offer of acceptance to purchase property. Chris Reddick presented the council with an offer to purchase the property on 103 Nelms for \$80,000 dollars contingent on plan/plat approval from Brookland Planning Commission. Mr. Reddick passed out diagrams of the lot split and plot plan to the council. The plans included a plot for 3 personal residences and 20 single story apartments. Mr. Reddick stated that the property was zoned at R2 which met the requirements. David Gambill made the motion to accept the \$80k offer by Chris Reddick on the 1.72 acres at 103 Nelms contingent on plan/plat approval from Brookland Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Justin Langston. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and the motion was open for discussion by the council. There was a long and careful discussion on this matter. The question was raised on whether this was a good idea to place apartments in this area without talking to the residents living in the neighborhood. The mayor pointed out that this was just an approval for the purchase only; that the next step would be for the matter to go before the Brookland Planning Commission to be discussed further with the commission going through their process of a public hearing. Mayor Jones then called for a roll call vote.

Mike Bishop, Yes	Linda Anderson Reece, Yes	Justin Langston, Yes
Wilson Shipman, No	William Thompson, No	David Gambill, Yes

Mayor Jones announced motion to accept the purchase of the property had passed 4 years to 2 nays.

General Improvement Fund Grant update – Mayor Jones announced the General Improvement Fund Grant (GIF) has been put on hold because the monies are held up in litigation. The GIF is a grant from Rep. Dan Sullivan of the 53rd District in the amount of \$9,600 that is to be used to finish storage building at 310 Hayes. Rep. Sullivan was present at the meeting and addressed the council explaining the situation. He stated that each representative gets a certain amount of improvement funds to distribute to his districts. Someone has sued the state saying that it is unlawful to do this; that the funds should be distributed elsewhere so now the monies are held up. Hopefully, the situation will be resolved in the future. The mayor wanted the council to be aware of the delay.

Lions Club announcement- Mayor Jones made an announcement that the Lions Club would like to start a chapter in Brookland. Lions Clubs International (LCI) is an American secular, non-political service organization founded by Melvin Jones in 1917. As of April 2015, it had over 46,000 local clubs and more than 1.4 million members in over 200 countries around the world. Headquartered in Oak Brook, Illinois, United States, the organization aims to meet the needs of communities on a local and global scale. If anyone is interested, they should contact Mayor Jones.

Old Business

Cole Stevenson- Land for sale that surrounds the sewer plant- Mayor Jones announced to the council last month that Cole Stevenson has land for sale around the sewer plant. There are several acres (80-130) that could be available. The Mayor wanted to see if this might be something that the city could be interested in purchasing. It was decided to check into the matter closer by gathering more information and it would be discussed in a March's meeting.

It was discovered that Mr. Stevenson had 128 acres total and that he was asking \$7500 an acre for the land. Some of the area is prime farming land that could be rented to farmers to help cover the cost of the loan payment. It was decided that the land would be too expensive for all of the 128 acres. It was also decided to table the issue until April's meeting. More information is to be gather from Mr. Stevenson.

Arkansas State Police Electronic Tickets- Update on this matter- The inter-local agreement that was drafted by Attorney Orr was introduced at the Quorum Court meeting in Jonesboro at the 2/8/16 meeting. The contract has been signed and the city is waiting for the judge to return a signed copy.

Ordinance 2016-01- Ordinance to accept Dooley Street as a city street- Kevin Orr read Ordinance 2016-01 for 3rd and final reading in its entirety. William Thompson made a motion to accept Ordinance 2016-01 as read. Seconded by Wilson Shipman. Mayor Jones stated motion

and second and opened Ordinance 2016-01 to council for discussion. Mayor Jones asked if the council had talked to Mr. Dooley about making a turn around on the end of the road. With some illness and bad weather, this has not been accomplished. It was decided to table the issue until Mr. Dooley could be contacted. David Gambill made a motion to table Ordinance 2016-01 until April's 11th meeting. It was seconded by Mike Bishop. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced motion passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

Arkansas Local Police & Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) –There is going to be a meeting set-up with Mike Gaskill of the LOPFI board for some of the city officers that are interested in the program to discuss the pros and cons of the program to them.

Property at 407 Holman- Mayor Jones announced last month that Audie Cox had some property that he would be interested in selling to the city. Mr. Cox stated the property was located next to the police station at 407 Holman and he was asking \$25,000. The matter was discussed in some detail and it was decided to gather more information and look at the property. After looking and inspecting the property, it was decided by the council that they would take no action on buying the property.

Test Well Bids – Jason MacDonald passed out the test well bids to the council that was received last week. There was (2) bids that were submitted for a drilling depth of 720 feet. After the bids were received, Jason got more data that stated that the well might not have to be drilled that deep and if it was drilled that deep water may not be found. This new data was based on prior wells that have been drilled in the area. Mr. MacDonald stated that we could re-bid the test well at a more shallow distance of 300 to 400 feet and still be successful in finding water. This would also result in much lower bids. After careful discussion by the council, Justin Langston made a motion to re-bid the test well set at 300-400 feet. Mike Bishop seconded the motion. Mayor Jones opened the motion up for discussion. Being none the motion was put to a vote and passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

Previous Month's Financials – Mayor Jones reviewed February Financial Reports. The following are 2-29-16 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$196,663.44
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$70,012.07
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$280,294.96

Request to add more to the agenda – Mayor Jones asked the council to add (2) items to the agenda. David Gambill made a motion to do so and it was seconded by Mike Bishop. Mayor Jones called for a vote and announced motion passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

Blue Bag Recyclable - Mayor Jones & Attorney Orr presented the council with a request as to whether they wanted the city to remain in the recycling program. It was explained that the program was changing somewhat and that a new contract was needed if the city of Brookland

wanted to continue. It was also noted that this was not a money making project, but was good for the environment. After a long discussion, it was decided to stay in the program. David Gambill made the motion for Mayor Jones to enter into a 1 year contract with Abilities Unlimited for an annual cost of \$3505.46. Mike Bishop seconded the motion. The motion passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

Mayor's Notes – Mayor Jones read his state of the city address to the council. He praised the city's growth and development. He pointed out the new businesses that came into the city and their success as well as city's attempt to make Brookland a better place to live.

Wilson Shipman made motion to adjourn. Second by Linda Anderson Reece. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced motion passed 6 yeas to 0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, Recorder