

Brookland City Council Minutes
July 11, 2016

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

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

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve June 13, 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 June 13, 2016 passed 5 yeas to 0 nays.

New Business

Vector Disease Control – *Jim Stark monthly mosquito report* – Jim Stark passed out a booklet that summarized the past month's (June) spray output for the city. Jim stated that the mosquitoes are bad this summer and they will continue to do their best to control the situation. He also spoke of the importance of the prevention of the mosquito by keeping containers empty of water if all possible.

Planning Commission – The Planning Commission met prior to the council meeting, so there were no minutes ready to review.

Brookland Fire Protection District-Certified Letters regarding 503 Stevens Street Apartments, 101 W. Hinkley Apartments and 205 S. Holman – The city gets certified letters from the Brookland Fire district where they have done inspections on apartment buildings. They request that the city's inspector help take care of the problems that were found. Mayor Jones has asked Attorney Kevin Orr to look into the practice because it is not known if the city's inspector has the authority to inspect finished building that are private property. Attorney Orr will research the dilemma and advise the city of the proper way to handle this situation.

Resolution 2016-13 – *This resolution sets a look back policy for part time employees' work hours of any active year (Jan 1 - Dec 31) regarding health insurance coverage* - City Kevin Orr read Resolution 2016-13 in it's entirety. Mike Bishop made a motion to accept the Resolution 2016-13 as read and David Gambill seconded the motion. The resolution was discussed and it was put to a vote with it passing, 5 yeas to 0 nays.

Discuss Suggestion to Amend Animal Control Ordinance – Mayor Jones stated that he has been contacted by a citizen of Brookland with a request to review and possible amend section

3.17 of the 2013-18 Ordinance dealing with animal control. Following an incident that happened in 2015 where a dog was accused of biting a neighbor, it was notice that part of the section stated that the victim can waive the requirement of confinement at a veterinary clinic and be confined by the owner instead (if it has been proven that the animal has been vaccinated for rabies). The concerned resident wanted the council to look at the wording stating that “the victim can waive” and possibly replace it with “other authorities can waive” the requirement. There was much debate and discussion, as well as testimony from the resident. After very careful consideration, it was decided to keep the wording as is. This was put into a form of a motion by William Thompson and seconded by David Gambill. Mayor Jones called for a vote and stated the motion passed 5 yeas to 0 nays.

Request for placement of 4-Way Stop – It has been requested that a 4-way stop be put up at the intersection of East Matthews and County Road 937. Part of the intersection is in the Brookland city limits and the other part is property of Craighead County. Mayor Jones stated that he would contact County Judge Ed Hill to see if they would post the stop signs on their side and would have an ordinance written for the council’s approval at next month’s meeting for the addition of the signs in the city limits if the county agrees to the proposal.

Old Business

Arkansas Local Police & Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) – David Clark of LOPFI was present at the council meeting to answer questions about the retirement program. Mr. Clark explained the pros and cons and answered many questions from the mayor as well as the council and the officers that were present at the meeting. There was much discussion on this subject matter as well as officers input for support for the program. It was decided to adopt this program by the city for its police. A special meeting was set for July 18 to give time for an ordinance to be written-up with an emergency clause to quickly set the system into place by August 1st.

Phillips property - 57 acres - Mayor Jones stated that he was informed that the city may not be able to apply for a balloon note. More information may be required from the AML on this matter and Mayor Jones will research.

177 Brady Lane condemnation - update – This will be discussed at the special meeting July 18th with more information from Attorney Orr.

WIP 2016-01 - Update from Jason MacDonald regarding test well – Jason stated that they had the preliminary test results back from the well. They are waiting for Lane to complete the sim-analysis and to let him know the pump production as well as the yield. Once those numbers are known, the city should be able to purchase the property and to get started with geo-tech portion of the project.

Discuss establishing a committee and fund to provide assistance to elderly with home repair needs – More information is being gathered on this issue by Mayor Jones and he will present this information at the August meeting

Previous Month's Financials – Mayor Jones reviewed May Financial Reports. The following are 6-30-16 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$126,263.29
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$77,497.61
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$277,487.49

Mayor's Notes -

Election sign-up/procedures of 1st class city – The mayor reminded all present council members and anyone interested in running for council to get their sign-up procedures packages. The cut-off date is August 19th.

Discuss Council Meeting Absence related to work obligations – It was discussed about a possible change to the policy that would allow a council member to receive pay if they missed a meeting because of their work obligation. It was decided that the issue would be brought up at the August meeting and be put to a vote.

There were questions asked by the council about trash pick-up at empty houses, street repair, and the expansion of the dog pound. The mayor stated that he would check on these issues.

Wilson Shipman made a 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 9:00 PM by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, Recorder