

Brookland City Council Minutes February 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Jones

Roll Call: Council present: Jason Cooper, Martin Crain, Wilson Shipman, Mike Bishop, Lacey Elder, David Gambill, Mayor Kenneth Jones, Attorney Kevin Orr, and City Clerk Billy Dacus.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve January 13, 2020 Brookland City Council minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for discussion. Being no discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to accept the city council minutes from January 13, 2020 passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

New Business

Review 2018 General, Street Fund audit:

Mayor Jones read a copy of the 2018 General, Street Fund audit report to the council. The Mayor noted that it was a good report with no issues. Mike Bishop made a motion to accept the 2018 General, Street Fund audit report as is. The motion was seconded by Lacey Elder. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened motion to the council for discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion had passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Kevin Orr - Present 2020 E911 contract with the city of Jonesboro:

Mayor Jones said that information and details were still being worked out on this issue. There is a meeting scheduled with area townships set to discuss certain issues. Hopefully there will be an update next month.

Garrett & Rebecca Holland @ 119-B Hayes St. – Flooding issues:

Rebecca Holland addressed the council with information about the Holland home @ 119-B Hayes St. being flooded by the heavy rains on January 11, 2020. She had several pictures from the incident that the council reviewed. Mrs. Holland was concerned with how the city was going to fix this problem and if the city could help with the expense of repairing the home.

Mayor Jones showed a brief video that was taken on a different date of heavy rains showing how the overflow of the ditches in that area had occurred. Due to development in the area, ditches backflow when heavy rains occur that causes the low-lying grounds to retain water. Due to the flooding in this area, the developers of the area are looking at ways to modify the draining of the ditches so that the rainwater can be relieved without extensive flooding.

Attorney Kevin Orr told Mrs. Holland that he and the Mayor had seen the pictures of the damage to their home and were very sympathetic, but the city cannot help financially with the damages because this was not a city ditch that caused the flooding. Ms. Holland thanked the council for listening to her concerns.

Resolution 2020-02 - Community Assisted Grant to complete room @ 407 Holman:

Attorney Kevin Orr read Resolution 2020-02 in its entirety. This resolution is for grant money to help supply items for the community room @ 407 Holman. Mike Bishop made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-02 as read. Lacey Elder seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for discussion. Martin Crain asked how this money would be used. Mayor Jones said that it would help purchase many needed items for the community room. Mayor Jones

asked if there is further discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to accept Resolution 2020-02 has passed by a vote of 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

AR-DOT project #100935. Sidewalk from Stevens St. to School St. that runs long Holman St:

Mayor Jones briefly refreshed the council about the AR-DOT Project # 100935. The city has a grant for laying a sidewalk from Stevens St. to School St. that runs adjacent to Holman. The city has received the right-a-ways for every lot along Holman except one. Kit Bynum @ 615 Holman has not responded after many, many attempts to communicate. Attorney Kevin Orr stated that the city has contacted him via Process Servicers, but Mr. Bynum has not responded. The Mayor said that the city might lose the grant if the work on the sidewalk doesn't start soon. The idea of eminent domain was brought to the attention of the council. Eminent Domain is the right of a government or it's agent to expropriate private property for public use with payment of compensation. After a lengthy and detail discussion, David Gambill made a motion that the city of Brookland proceed to file eminent domain on 615 Holman owned by Kit Bynum for the sidewalk project # 100935. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for further discussion. The council wanted to make sure all other landowners along Holman had given their consent. Mayor Jones said they have. Being no further discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Old Business

Real estate offer of acceptance of 302 E. Matthews:

Mayor Jones asked the council if they had looked at the offer for the lot located at 302 E. Matthews. The offer was submitted by Greg Baugh for \$18,500.00. The Mayor passed out a boundary survey showing the lot size to be .23 acres. Mayor Jones said that Mr. Baugh would like to rezone the lot to R2 so that it could accommodate multi-family housing. After discussing the matter, the council all agreed that the lot should not be rezoned to R2. Wilson Shipman made a motion to accept the offer that was submitted by Greg Baugh for \$18,500.00 with the contingency that the zoning is not changed to R2. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for further discussion. Being no further discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Previous Month's Financials:

Mayor Jones reviewed December's Financial Checking Account Reports. The following are 1-31-2020 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$131,992.89
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$156,163.77
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$361,358.94

Mayor's Notes:

✓ **AML Winter Convention February 12-14.**

Mayor Jones reminded the ones that were going to attend the AML Winter Convention that it will start Wednesday, February 12. He also made sure that everyone had a passageway to Little Rock.

✓ **Make-A-Wish roadblock on February 21. Who would like to help this year?**

Mayor Jones announced that the City of Brookland would be doing their annual roadblock this year for Make-A-Wish on Friday, February the 21st. If anyone might be interested in helping, to please see Shelby Pfeifer.

Mayor Jones asked for some time to look for his 2020 State of the City Address. The Mayor noted that Water Superintendent Tim Harrington would like to address the council while the Mayor excused himself.

Mr. Harrington noted that the city has received a bid from NEA Lawn Pro to do the mowing for the city this season. The bid is very close to the money that has been budgeted for the labor and expenses of the city doing the job themselves. Tim noted that this would free up the manpower to do other needed jobs and would save on the wear and tear of equipment. The Mayor returned from finding his report and noted that the bid was very reasonable and if aloud to bid the process, it would be based on a yearly trial period. After discussion, it was decided by the council to let the NEA Lawn Pro do the work this year on a trial period. Martin Crain made a motion to accept the bid from NEA Lawn Pro set at \$29,080.00 (or \$32,133.40 with taxes) to be billed monthly. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for further discussion. Being no further discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

✓ **2020 State of City Report.**

Mayor Jones gave his annual State of the City Report to the council and floor. He told about the happenings of 2019 and the improvements of the city. He noted that the city of Brookland is one of the fastest growing cities in the state and things look to continue for 2020.

Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the council?

Jason Cooper asked if there was an update on the property on Missouri Street. Mayor Jones stated that the Inboden Brothers and the city would probably finalize the deal very soon.

Martin Crain asked the Mayor about the percentage of the turn-back for the city of Brookland compared to other towns. Mayor Jones said that it would all change after the census count of 2020.

Lacey Elder asked if the Mayor had heard anymore from the State Census Count Committee. The Mayor said that he had not.

Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the floor?

David Loggins from the Brookland Hills Subdivision, Phase I gave the council a brief update on possible forming of the homeowner's association in the area. He passed out an email that he received from Rausch-Coleman on the ownership of the retention ponds. He reported that this was still an ongoing work in progress.

Wilson Shipman made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Lacey Elder. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to adjourn passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, City Clerk/Treasurer