

**Brookland City Council Minutes**  
**November 13, 2017**

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

Roll Call: Council present: Mike Bishop, Jean Gandy, David Gambill, Wilson Shipman, Martin Crain, Maghen Carpenter, Mayor Kenneth Jones, Attorney Kevin Orr, and City Clerk Billy Dacus.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve October 09, 2017 Brookland City Council minutes as written. The motion was 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 the motion to accept the city council minutes from October 09, 2017 passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

**New Business**

**Brad Smithee of the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department - To discuss the red light at CR 928 and 49 North by Busch Agri.** – Brad Smithee of the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department addressed the council and the floor about the correct procedure of the double traffic light at the intersection of CR 928 and 49 N located near the Brookland city limits. Mr. Smithee stated very carefully that all vehicles must stop at the first traffic light on red. He also said it was illegal to run the first red light to get to the 2<sup>nd</sup> red light to make a right turn onto highway 49N. This is the Arkansas State law and is intact for the safety of the drivers. Mr. Smithee answered other questions from the council about various concerns of other areas to the satisfaction of the council.

**March of Dimes Proclamation** – Attorney Kevin Orr read the 2017 Prematurity Awareness Month Proclamation to the council and floor. This proclaimed that Mayor Jones and the City of Brookland extend special recognition to the March of Dimes in Arkansas and declare November 17, 2017 as Prematurity Awareness Day.

**Discuss when the front yard of one property touches the back yard of another property & storage of items behind house (Dooley Street)** – There has been complaints about certain backyards being trashy that are connected to other people's front yards at or around Dooley Street. This was brought to the council's attention to see if anything legally could be done. The council discussed the situation and Attorney Kevin Orr is checking the unsightly codes of Brookland to see how the problem could be addressed.

**Chief and Captain to address the council on the 5-mile radius of police employment** – Police Chief Jon Moore and Police Captain Janssen Settlemaier addressed the council about the policy of a 5-mile hiring radius of police employment. The two officers expressed concerns about the limits the 5-mile radius puts on hiring of qualified police officers. After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of the situation, it was decided to let Attorney Orr draw a resolution for 10-mile radius limit and if a qualified police officer applied for a job it would be addressed by another resolution if outside the limit.

## **Old Business**

**401 Holman – Possible Purchase** – There were no new updates for the purchase of 401 Holman. The matter is still in process.

**WIP 2016-01 – well & tank-field project update from Jason MacDonald with Civil Engineering Associates**– Jason MacDonald updated the council on the process of the new well. He stated that they were in the process of spray painting the new tank. Mr. Rainwater is still laying the new water line on Holman and is up to the 500 block of Holman. He said the new well has been set. It was asked by Martin Crain and Wilson Shipman about the signing on the tank. Jason said it would have “Brookland” on the tank. Mr. Crain asked about additional costs of extra signing and Jason stated it would be an added cost but would check on it.

**307 N. Bernis & 202 W. Smith St.** – Mayor stated that both properties had been appraised and read the quotes to the council. The Mayor also opened sealed proposals from local lending institutions for financing the properties in front of the council. Based on the information from the sealed proposals, David Gambill made a motion that the City of Brookland go with First Community Bank’s proposals to purchase 202 W. Smith and 307 N. Bernis per proposal submitted on November 13, 2017 at the Brookland City council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mike Bishop. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened motion to the council for further discussion. Wilson Shipman asked if the full amount would be borrowed. Mayor stated yes but the first year would be interest payments only. After the first year, the amount would be re-financed for a certain amount of years. This would allow the city to sell the lots on the properties and reduce the loan amount. Martin Crain asked about the destruction of the house on the property on 307 N. Bernis. The mayor said there would be no problems. Mr. Shipman asked how many lots total would be for sale. The mayor stated that there would be a possible total of five lots. Being no further discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to accept the bid from First Community Bank passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

**Previous Month’s Financial s** – Mayor Jones reviewed October’s Financial Checking Account Reports. The following are 10-31-17 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$158,717.98
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$125,595.90
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$288,260.94

## **Mayor’s Notes –**

**Present General, Street, and Utilities Funds 2018 proposed budgets.** – Mayor Jones presented the 2018 proposed budgets to the council. The mayor went over each fund budget pointing out certain items. It was decided to review the budgets and address them again at next month’s meeting.

**Dog Clinic** - Mayor Jones announced that there would be a dog clinic on December 9, 2017. This will be a shot clinic only.

Mayor Jones said there was interest from local people in putting clothes racks outside the city hall for coats and winter items for people to drop-off and pick-up. It was decided by the council that this would not be a good idea due to the appearance and the uncovered outside area.

**Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the council?** Martin Crain asked about the condemned properties on School Street. The Mayor stated that the condemnation process was still ongoing.

Martin Crain asked about the job advertisement in the weekend paper for a city inspector. Wilson Shipman made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Martin Crain. 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 the motion passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

Council went into executive session at 8:31 PM and returned at 8:59 PM.

**Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the floor?** Mr. Rick Atkinson the owner of the property of 200 Church Street addressed the council. His property was on the condemnation list from several months before. He wanted to show the council the progress he was making on the house. The council agreed that as long as Mr. Atkinson was making improvements, then no condemnation process would be needed.

Wilson Shipman made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Maghen Carpenter. 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 adjourn passed 6 yeas to 0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, City Clerk/Treasurer