

Brookland City Council Minutes
February 8, 2021

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, Pamela McGee, David Gambill, Mayor Kenneth Jones, Attorney Kevin Orr, and City Clerk Billy Dacus.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve January 11, 2021 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 11, 2021 passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

New Business

Kevin Orr- Drainage Easement Re: Bearcat Crossing (Heritage Trace):

Kevin Orr updated the council about the drainage easement for the area of Bearcat Crossing (Heritage Trace). It had been first discussed that the City of Brookland would get the easements so that they could work on the drainage issues in the area. However, the developers have decided that they wanted to get the easements and do the work themselves. Attorney Orr noted that every time there are heavy rains in the area, the city gets a lot of calls asking that something be done about the drainage. Kevin wanted the council to know that this issue was being attended to and there would be an update later.

Old Business

Karla & Darrin Block - regarding sewage issue at 107 N Oak St:

Attorney Kevin Orr updated the council on the on-going situation. After discussions with attorneys with the Municipal League and research on his own, Attorney Orr opined that the City of Brookland was immune from liability in this particular instance. Attorney Orr noted this does not mean that the City cannot be named in a lawsuit but means that it should be protected by Arkansas Code Annotated Section 21-9-301. The council accepted the findings.

City Park Land Purchase, Stephens Inc.:

This item on the agenda was skipped for now until Michael McBryde could arrive. This item was taken up after the Holman sidewalk project was discussed.

Jason MacDonald of Fisher Arnold and Michael McBryde of Stephens Inc. addressed the council about the City Parks and Land Purchase. Mr. MacDonald presented a drawing of a layout of the ball parks. Mr. McBryde presented the options that he thought was best for the land purchase for the city. There were mainly (2) options that where best to serve the city needs. The dollar amount, maturity length, and estimated tax were the variables that were in question. There was a long and lengthy discussion on these variables with great input from the council and the floor. A motion was first made and seconded, then rescinded only to form a new motion. David Gambill made a motion to allow Stephens Inc to seek a two percent sales tax extension. The motion was seconded by Martin Crain. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then

opened the motion to the council for further discussion. After more discussion from many, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays. Stephens Inc. will start the process that will be needed to be ratified by an ordinance and then sent to the voters for approval later.

Attorney Orr then explained the purchase and sale agreement that needed to be approved to the council. He noted that he had it reworded so that the city would not be out any expense if the tax extension did not pass. Martin Crain made a motion for Mayor Jones to enter into a land purchase agreement with HJG II, LLC to purchase 50 acres at \$15,000 per acre, upon approval by voters on the sales tax extension. 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 none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

City of Brookland Sanitation & Discuss Bluebag Recycle Program:

Mayor Jones stated he thought it would not be feasible for the City of Brookland to have and run its own sanitation department at this time. He noted that the city would lose too much money. This project will possibly be looked at next year to see if it would then be more beneficial to the city.

Previous Month's Financials:

Mayor Jones reviewed both January's Financial Checking Account Reports. The following are 1-31-2021 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$361,878.17
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$253,111.46
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$329,034.67

Parks Committee: Mayor Jones submitted three names to serve on the Parks Committee.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve David Loggins, Bobby Bishop, and Sharon Hopkins to serve on the Parks Committee. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and opened the motion to the council for discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones then called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

The Mayor did note that there needs to be two more members for a total of five. He asked the council to help find others that might be interested in serving on this committee.

ARDOT Project #100935 - Holman Sidewalk Project:

Mayor Jones updated the process of the Holman sidewalk project. He noted that all easements have been obtained and the project will now move forward.

Mayor's Notes:

- ✓ *State of the City Report.*

Mayor Jones started to read the State of the City Report to the council. The Mayor realized shortly into the reading that he did not have all his notes. He said he would read the report in its entirety at next month's meeting.

Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the council?

There was none.

Mayor Jones ask if there is anything from the floor?

David Loggins from the Brookland Hills Subdivision asked about the process of the speed bumps in the subdivision. Mayor Jones noted that this was an ongoing project. Mayor Jones said he and City Attorney Kevin Orr had discussed this issue in length. After discussion Attorney Orr will draft a petition that citizens can use to ask for speed bumps, streetlights, etc. The petition would allow all citizens that live in the area knowledge of the request.

Wilson Shipman made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Martin Crain. 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 8:34 pm by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, City Clerk/Treasurer