



City of Brookland, Arkansas

City Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: April 10, 2023

Type of Meeting: Regular

Called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Kenneth Jones

Council members Present/Roll Call: David Gambill, Pamela McGee, Mike Bishop, Attorney Kevin Orr, Mayor Kenneth Jones, City Clerk Julie Thomas, Jason Cooper, David Loggins, and Wilson Shipman

Absent: None

Previous meeting minutes:

Motion by: Mike Bishop

Second by: Jason Cooper

To: Approve the Brookland City Council meeting minutes dated March 13, 2023, as written

Discussion: None

For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0

New Business:

1. Brookland Parks Committee Update:

David Loggins, Parks Committee Chairman, gave the update. Dirt work on the sportsplex has started. Bids for the two smaller parks were placed in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette on April 2 and will be read aloud at city hall on April 18 at 2 pm. Next meeting set for April 17.

2. Utility Vacu Tron Trailer:

Tim Harrington, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, asked the council to consider purchasing a utility Vacu-Tron machine to help with locating buried cables, assisting with the city's sanitation needs, and cleaning sludge and drainage issues. Harrington presented the council with 3 Vacu-Tron models for consideration. Mayor Jones assured the council that this purchase was within the city's budget.

Motion by: David Loggins

Second by: Wilson Shipman

To: Purchase HURCO 3000G Vacu-Tron trailer

Discussion: None

For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0

3. Dedman's Sanitation monthly rate increase of \$2.00 effective May 1, 2023 (monthly fee now \$16):

Per Mayor Jones, Dedman Sanitation needs to raise their monthly fees from \$14 - \$16 per month to accommodate the increased cost for their sanitation services due to inflation and other factors.

Motion by: David Loggins

Second by: Jason Cooper

To: Accept the monthly rate increase from \$14 to \$16 by Dedman Sanitation

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 1 (Wilson Shipman) Motion: Passed 5-1

4. First Community Bank Note #3028361 (Library/Museum):

Mayor Jones asked the council about paying off the First Community Bank note for the purchase of the Brookland Library/Museum. Per Mayor Jones, the possible interest rate for refinance would be around 5% and the current rate is around 3%. Councilmember David Loggins asked about paying off the balance and the effect on the city’s budget. Mayor Jones assured that it was within the city’s financial means to pay off the note completely. Kevin Orr asked about interest rates. David Gambill recommended paying off this note.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Loggins

To: Pay off FCB Bank note #3028361

Discussion: None

For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0

Old Business:

1. Ordinance 2023-05 Campers/trailers in the city:

First reading in full of Ordinance 2023-05 read aloud by Attorney Kevin Orr. There were no questions from the council or public regarding this ordinance.

2. Draft Ordinance 2023-06 25 MPH speed limit-city streets not otherwise marked:

The council was presented with a draft ordinance for speed limits on city streets. The council will take up this issue next month with any recommendations they may have for amendments.

3. Monthly financials for General, Street, and Utility Funds:

April 2023	General Fund:	Street Fund:	Utility Fund:
Beginning Balance:	\$1,327,752.80	\$251,603.79	\$464,149.63
Ending Balance:	\$1,334,852.87	\$261,748.33	\$482,860.11

Mayor’s Notes:

1. City worker’s 4-day/10-hour work weeks:

Mayor Jones asked the council to consider approving a 4-day work week for city workers. Discussion among the council members involved what days/times would they work, what days city hall would be open for business, whether there would be a 4/10 schedule for summer and 5/8 schedule for winter. Mayor Jones responded with some of his ideas for each of those questions. He encouraged the council to consider adopting this for city workers in the near future but stated that a decision was not necessary at this time.

2. Work has started on the sportsplex, Harp’s grocery store, etc.

Mayor Jones noted that work has started on several projects around town such as the sportsplex, Harp’s Grocery Store, and soon to be McDonald’s restaurant. He expressed gratitude for this continued growth.

3. Keep Brookland Beautiful! Program

Mayor Jones informed the council that the Brookland EAST Lab is partnering with citizens of Brookland and some local businesses for a city cleanup the first weekend of May 2023. He encouraged all council members to get involved in this endeavor to keep our city beautiful.

4. Resignation of Council member Mike Bishop/Recommendation of Council member Candice Bishop

Mayor Jones read aloud a letter of resignation for council member Mike Bishop. Bishop has accepted a position working full-time for the city of Brookland as an engineer. His resignation is to take effect on April 10, 2023, at midnight. Mayor Jones also recommended to the council to approve the appointment of Candice Bishop to replace Mike Bishop in Ward 1, Position 1, for the remainder of Bishop's current term.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: David Gambill

To: Appoint Candice Bishop to the council position of Ward 1 Position 1 of the Brookland City Council

Discussion: None

For: 5 (Mike Bishop Abstaining) Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Wilson Shipman

Second by: David Loggins

To: Adjourn the meeting

For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0

Meeting adjourned at: 8:02 PM

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Julie Thomas, City Clerk/Treasurer