

Brookland City Council Minutes

April 11, 2022

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

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

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve March 14, 2022, Brookland City Council minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones said 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 minutes passed 5 Yays to 0 Nays.

New Business

David Vaughn - Circuit Clerk Candidate:

David Vaughn, a detective sergeant with the Craighead County Sheriff's Office, addressed the council to announce his plans to run for the Craighead County Circuit Clerk's Office in 2022. Mr. Vaughn, a Craighead County resident for nearly 50 years and being from the city of Brookland, cited his career with the sheriff's department as an asset to the office. If elected, he plans to immediately begin rebuilding relationships with other offices in Craighead County and work with Eastern District Officials to provide top level service to all Craighead County residents. David noted that communication is the key. If elected he would keep an open dialogue with law enforcement, the prosecutor's office, area officials and the residents of Craighead County to ensure their voices and concerns are heard. He said he will serve with the same honesty, integrity, and professionalism that he has shown in his 20 years as a law enforcement officer.

Nancy Robbins - County Clerk Candidate:

Mayor Jones announced that Nancy Robbins would not be at the meeting due to illness.

Brookland Parks Committee Update:

David Loggins updated the council on the happenings of the Brookland Parks Committee. David noted that the complex cost is very high and that certain adjustments must be made to stay within the budget. This will be discussed in the next meeting. Mr. Loggins noted that there would be a Brookland Parks Committee meeting Monday night on April 18 @ 6pm at City Hall. He said he would like to invite everyone to attend.

Old Business

Previous Month's Financials:

Mayor Jones reviewed March's Financial Checking Account Reports. The following are 3-31-2022 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$749,370.74
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$382,042.68
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$540,765.43

Ward Map change - 2020 Census:

Mayor Jones passed out two different maps for the ward changes. One map was drawn-up by the Civil Engineering Service and one was taken from the census website. There is a question on which map should be used due to legal requirements. Jeff Hawkins, Executive Director at the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission is helping the city investigate this matter so they can stay in compliance with the law. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mayor Jones told the council that Wilson Shipman missed the meeting tonight due to sickness. Mike Bishop made a motion for the city of Brookland to pay Wilson Shipman for this month's meeting since he was out due to illness. 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 passed 5 Yays to 0 Nays.

Review ARPA Fund - police vehicles and traffic camera system purchases:

Police Chief Jon Moore updated the council about the police vehicles and traffic camera system that was discussed at last month's meeting. The chief noted that they had found three vehicles in Siloam Springs. Two of the vehicles are Tahoes and one is a Ram. The price was in the allowed range set by the council, so purchase orders were made.

Chief Moore said there were twelve different areas that they would like to place cameras inside the city, and they wanted to place a grid camera at the intersection of School Street and Highway 49N. The cost of the cameras that would be placed throughout the city would be \$2,700 each. The cost of the grid camera would be \$18,000. This would make the total cost of the camera system \$50,400. It was noted again that the final rule for American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) allows for some of this funding to be used for these types of purchases.

The council approved the purchase of the cameras at last month's meeting, however; the 2022 budget would have to be amended with the adding of officers and expenses. Also, the Mayor noted that according to the Johanson Group analysis done last year, that an adjustment for salaries would need to be done to adjust for the cost of living.

Mayor Jones passed out copies of the amended budget for the council to review. He noticed that some of the copies were not accurate and needed a recess to reprint the errored documents. Before the recess, interim superintendent George Kennedy updated the council about some of the happenings at the school. He said they were getting ready for the end of the school year and are trying some different things to help relieve the dense traffic in the mornings around the school.

Mike Bishop made a motion to take a ten-minute break. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. 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 5 Yays to 0 Nays. Council recessed at 7:55 PM.

Mike Bishop made a motion to go back in session. The motion was seconded by Jason Cooper. 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 5 Yays to 0 Nays. Council back in session at 8:14 PM.

Once the correct budget documents were passed out, Mayor Jones reviewed the changes with the council. There were no objections.

Attorney Kevin Orr read Resolution 2022-04 in its entirety. This resolution is for amending the annual General, Street, and Utility fund budgets for 2022 for the city of Brookland. Mike Bishop made a motion to accept Resolution 2022-04 as read. Jason Cooper seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council for discussion. Mayor Jones asked if there is any discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to accept Resolution 2022-04 has passed by a vote of 5 Yays to 0 Nays.

Mayor Jones asked if there is anything from the council?

Martin Crain asked about the long waiting period at the light at Holman and Hwy 49N. Mayor Jones stated that he was aware of the situation, and he was checking with others to adjust the light. He noted that there could be a broken loop.

Also, the future light at the Pine Log Road crossing was discussed. The mayor said it would probably take up to two years to go into effect.

Mayor Jones asked if there is anything from the floor?

There was none.

In closing, Mayor Jones announced that the Kubota company going in north of Pine Log Road was seeking annexation into the city. This could allow for others to come into the city as well.

Martin Crain made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Jason Cooper. Mayor Jones stated motion and second, then called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to adjourn passed 5 Yays to 0 Nays. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, City Clerk/Treasurer