



City of Brookland, Arkansas

City Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: February 13, 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 January 9, 2023, as written

Discussion: None

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

New Business:

1. Brookland Parks Committee Update:

David Loggins, Parks Committee President, bids received for sportsplex. Bids for the smaller city parks to be received on 2/14/23. Playground equipment will be decided at next meeting.

2. Approve 2023 Craighead County Solid Waste Disposal Authority Budget

Motion by: Mike Bishop

Second by: Jason Cooper

To: Motion to accept the budget as presented by Craighead County Solid Waste Disposal

Discussion: None

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

3. 111-E Brooks St. requesting water leak adjustment

No one was present to speak on this issue.

4. 25 MPH speed limit city wide, unless otherwise marked.

Code Enforcement Officer Danny Stallings spoke about the need for a uniform speed limit on city streets (unless otherwise posted) for the safety of citizens and for enforcement of an appropriate speed. Questions and discussion among councilmembers included what speed limits are appropriate for different city streets and subdivisions, depending on traffic congestion and other variables and whether existing limits would be affected by the adoption of a city ordinance. It was encouraged by Mayor Jones to create an ordinance to address this need and councilmembers agreed.

- 5. Proclamation 2023-P2 recognizing Brookland Bearcat Cheerleaders on their 3-4A Championship.**
Attorney Kevin Orr read the proclamation congratulating the Brookland Bearcat Senior High School Cheerleading squad on their 3-4A State Championship win. Whereby February 14, 2023, was declared as Brookland Bearcat Cheerleader Day.
Motion by: Mike Bishop
Second by: Jason Cooper
To: Approve the Proclamation 2023-P2 as read
Discussion: None
For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0
- 6. Wayne Koekemoer-Alley abandonment (N of 94 N Bernis “202 W Matthews”)**
Mr. Koekemoer is asking for an alley abandonment in order to build a house on the property. Mayor Jones advised Koekemoer to present the request to the Planning Commission at their next meeting.
- 7. Information Purposes Only: Legacy Landfill tipping fee increase**
Legacy Landfill is increasing the price of their tipping fee. New tipping fee per ton is \$42.50 to begin March 1, 2023.
- 8. Sportsplex Bid Approval**
Jason MacDonald (Fisher & Arnold) Bids opened 2/7/23 for rough grading at sportsplex. 5 local bidders responded. Lowest bid for all dirt work and drainage (minus gravel/rock) \$786,260 from Murphy Construction-Jonesboro. MacDonald recommended to proceed with the low bid.
Motion by: Mike Bishop
Second by: Jason Cooper
To: Approve the bid from Murphy Construction for dirt work and drainage at the sportsplex site for \$786,260.
Discussion: None
For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0
- 9. Appoint 2 new Planning & Zoning Commission Members**
Mayor Jones is asking the City Council to appoint Martin Crain and Lishelle Sipes to the Brookland Planning Commission to make the total number of commissioners 6.
Motion by: Wilson Shipman
Second by: Jason Cooper
To: Appoint Martin Crain and Lachelle Sipes to the Brookland Planning Commission
Discussion: None
For: 6 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 6-0
- 10. 301 Stevens St-Jeremy Bevill-requesting abandonment of undeveloped ROW and alleys.**
Jason MacDonald (Fisher & Arnold) requested an abandonment of the conceptual plat and approval for a 10-lot subdivision of the above-stated property. Mayor Jones explained that this request needs to be brought to the Planning Commission for review.

Old Business:

- 1. Campers in the city**

A draft ordinance for this issue has been created. The council recommends Attorney Kevin Orr finalize the draft and present for possible adoption at the March 2023 council meeting.

2. Municipal Building Project-discuss architect/engineer fees-contract.

Mayor Jones discussed a proposed contract from Civil Engineers/Cooper Mixon Architects for engineering and architect oversight fees for the planned Municipal Building. The proposed fees for their services (engineering and architectural) are a total of \$296,000. Mayor Jones recommended the city hire its own engineer. Mayor Jones will ask for the engineers/architects to present an itemized list of proposed fees. This item is tabled until further information is received.

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

January 2023	General Fund:	Street Fund:	Utility Fund:
Beginning Balance:	\$1,248,288.07	\$210,689.03	\$472,014.09
Ending Balance:	\$1,281,329.25	\$232,271.27	\$471,447.89

Miscellaneous:

1. Hire an engineer for the city:

Mayor Jones asked the council about hiring an engineer for the city due to continued growth and progress. Different needs within the city and consistent growth necessitate having someone who works for the city of Brookland. The current budget for employing an engineer is roughly \$70,000 total package of salary and benefits. No decision was made on this recommendation at this time.

2. Brookland Public Schools Update:

Superintendents Bunch and Kennedy updated the council on progress and activities going on at the school, including continued growth, building updates, and projected needs.

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: 8:23 PM

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Julie Thomas, City Clerk/Treasurer