



City of Brookland, Arkansas

City Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: May 22, 2023

Type of Meeting: Special

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

COUNCILMEMBER ATTENDANCE: (P = Present A = Absent)					
Mayor Kenneth Jones	P	David Gambill	P	Jason Cooper	P
Attorney Kevin Orr	A	Pamela McGee	P	David Loggins	P
City Clerk Julie Thomas	P	Candice Bishop	P	Wilson Shipman	A

New Business:

1. Resolution 2023-13 – Phase III (School St. to Stevens St. Sidewalk project):

Mayor Kenneth Jones read aloud Resolution 2023-13 which expresses the willingness of the City of Brookland to utilize federal transportation alternative/recreational trail program funds to improve sidewalks along HWY 49. These funds are granted to the city at an 80% federal, 20% local match. The funding is made available after completion of the project.

Motion by: David Loggins

Second by: Jason Cooper

To: Approve Resolution 2023-13 (Phase III School St. to Stevens St. Sidewalk project) as read

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

2. Blue Bag Recycling Program:

- Mayor Jones read aloud a letter from Darin May, Abilities Unlimited representative, regarding ongoing vandalism issues of glass products intended for recycling through the Blue Bag program. Per Darin May, effective July 1, 2023, Abilities Unlimited will no longer accept glass items through the Blue Bag recycling program due to the dangers imposed on personnel handling bags containing broken glass.
- Mayor Jones then invited Jeff (City of Brookland street supervisor) to address the council regarding issues he and his workers regularly encounter carrying out the city’s blue bag recycling program effectively. Some of Jeff’s concerns related to the program include time and money spent collecting and sorting through the bags (when they include garbage or other unrecyclable items), time and money spent on properly disposing of large items that get left on the recycling trailer which cannot be recycled, and ongoing issues related to the cost ineffectiveness of maintaining the blue bag program. Jeff explained to the council that he would like to see either a solution to continue the blue bag program more cost effectively or an end to the program altogether. Councilmember David Loggins expressed a desire to end the program. David Gambill did as well. Gambill questioned the mayor regarding the cost to the city to maintain the blue bag program. Jones stated that the current costs to the city are somewhere between \$35,000 and \$40,000, not counting \$5,000 in grant monies received. Discussion among the council included the possibility of implementing a trial period with changes, looking to other communities who

have recycling programs, citizens who may be opposed to ending the blue bag program, Marck Recycling who will not accept blue bag recycling items, placing the recycling trailer in a secured location to prevent incorrect dumping, continued interest in cardboard recycling (which is still available through Marck Recycling), and the impacts of ending the blue bag recycling program altogether. The city will notify residents regarding the end of the blue bag recycling program through city newsletters, water bill statements, and signage at city hall.

Motion by: Jason Cooper

Second by: Candice Bishop

To: Approve ending the Brookland's Blue Bag Recycling Program, effective June 30, 2023

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

3. Discuss Direct Deposit for Payroll:

Mayor Jones asked the council to consider approving the implementation of direct deposit for payroll for city employees, as soon as possible.

Motion by: David Loggins

Second by: David Gambill

To: Approve direct deposit for payroll for city employees

Discussion: None

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion by: David Loggins

Second by: David Gambill

To: Adjourn the meeting

For: 5 Against: 0 Motion: Passed 5-0

Meeting adjourned at: 7:25 PM

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Julie Thomas, City Clerk/Treasurer