

Brookland City Council Minutes
March 14, 2022

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 February 14, 2022, 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 minutes passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve February 24, 2022, Brookland City Council special meeting 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 minutes passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Craighead County Deputy Clerk Mary Dawn Marshall addressed the council to announce her intent to run for the vacant county clerk seat. After nearly five years with the clerk's office, Marshall said she is confident in her ability to lead the department and help it move forward. She noted she was very familiar with the city of Brookland and asked everyone to consider her for the position when they cast their vote in the election.

New Business

Brookland Parks Committee Update:

David Loggins updated the council on the happenings of the Brookland Parks Committee. Mr. Loggins noted that there would be a Brookland Parks Committee meeting Monday night on March 21 @ 6pm at City Hall. He said he would like to invite everyone to attend. They would be discussing the cost of the sports complex in more detail. Mayor Jones asked the members of the council to please attend if possible.

Discuss camera system for traffic with City of Jonesboro:

Police Chief Jon Moore addressed the council about the camera system that was viewed at the special meeting in February. He noted that several cameras would be needed in the area to be efficient. Nine or ten cameras would be placed in different areas of the city. The cost would be around forty-five thousand dollars with a maintenance cost of two thousand per camera per year. Mayor Jones did note that the final rule for American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) allows for some of this funding to be used for these type of purchases. After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons, it was decided to move forward with the project. David Gambill made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the camera system. 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 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Captain Janssen Settlemoir updated the council about adding two more vehicles to the police department. Janssen said that several state bid orders had been cancelled for police vehicles. This being the case, the vehicles may have to be purchased outside of the state bids. This could mean a higher cost per vehicle. Martin Crain asked if buying out of state was an option. Captain Settlemoir said he would check into that possibility. It was decided to move forward with the new process but to keep the cost as low as possible.

Chief Jon Moore told the council that he would like to add more officers to the department. He noted that the night shift is understaffed. He said he would like to add two more officers but three would help with the scheduling for time off and vacations. It would also allow for more coverage of the city both in the day as well as the night. The council agreed that more officers were needed in the city, so Martin Crain made a motion for the city to add three additional officers to the department. The motion was seconded by David Gambill. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council if there was any further discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Chief Jon Moore asked the council about "ride along" with the police department. He said the city does not allow "ride along" at this time but he would like the city to reconsider this because it would be a great way to recruit new officers. After discussion and legal advice from Attorney Kevin Orr, Mike Bishop made a motion for the city to allow the "ride along" with the approval of the person by Chief Jon Moore with a waiver of liability signed by the applicant. The motion was seconded by Martin Crain. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened the motion to the council if there was any further discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion passed 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Old Business

Previous Month's Financials:

Mayor Jones reviewed February's Financial Checking Account Reports. The following are 2-28-2022 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$709,622.48
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$371,254.16
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$516,427.44

404 W Matthews Street property zoning:

Attorney Orr said he was still working on this item but noted that the developer should have the language in writing on what he is wanting to do with the property and then he (Attorney Orr) could look at the wording and advise the city. Mayor Jones stated he would pass on the word to the developer.

Ward Map change - 2020 Census:

Mayor Jones showed a power point presentation show the different options for the new ward maps for the city. The main idea was to get a similar population in all three wards. After examining the options, it was decided to go with the layout with the smoother boundaries for

the change. Mayor Jones noted he would get the maps printed larger for the final approval at next month's meeting.

Attorney Kevin Orr told the council that he had the final document for the settlement with the Blocks. He noted that only a few more signatures were needed, and the issue would officially be closed.

Mayor Jones said that he needed to amend the amount of the meal that was reimbursed to David Loggins from \$63.38 to \$75.38. The tip was excluded from the previous amount. Martin Crain made a motion to amend the amount to \$75.38. 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 6 Yays to 0 Nays.

Mayor Jones asked if there is anything from the council?

There was none.

Mayor Jones asked if there is anything from the floor?

There was none.

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