

Brookland News

Published Quarterly - Vol. 15, Issue 1

January 2021

From the Mayor's Desk:
2020 a year we will not soon forget. The Corona virus started beginning to really take effect by mid-March and on March 28, 2020, we had a tornado that went through the south and east side of town. We are starting a new year and nine month later, still dealing with COVID-19. There are two vaccines that should be approved by the end of 2020 and I am just thankful for the vaccines. However, with the vaccines we still have to be cautious.

As a city we were very cautious with our spending throughout 2020. From what we were told at the start of this crisis, we estimated around a 30% to 40% projected loss in city revenue. In the fall of 2018, the Supreme Court reviewed the need for point of delivery sales tax. They saw that a law to protect the small companies in their start up, now gave these companies an advantage over brick-and-mortar stores located in our cities. They overturned this law and now require current state/local taxes to be charged on items purchased online and delivered to our city. A product ordered online now brings revenue to our city that is delivered here, which has kept our revenue steady since online sales skyrocketed during the pandemic.

The first few months of 2021 will be a cautious move forward for our city with several projects planned for the new year. There are several asphalt overlay projects, drainage ditch work projects, sewer extension, and parks.

Brookland is moving forward with three City Park Projects. A park at the corner of Nelms and

E Matthews, and a second at the corner of Smith, and N Bernis. The third park project is a Sports Complex with four (4) ball fields and more. City is currently trying to purchase fifty (50) acres west of Whitten Creek Apartments. This is where we will need your help. One way is re-working our current Bond project to pay for the purchase of the property and equipment. In order to re-work our Bonds, this will have to be brought to you our citizens to decide by election vote if this is what you want for our city. Our city council meeting attendance is restricted due to COVID-19 regulations. But I ask you to look at cityofbrookland.com, our city website for updates and stay involved in this project.

Brookland Street Department also has several major projects scheduled for 2021. One major project is the upgrade to HWY 49 and School Street Intersection. A traffic study and project design for this intersection is scheduled to start January 2021. This will add turn lanes on east and west school street with signalization. We have written a letter of intent to Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) requesting they help with this project by adding on and off shoulder ramps to north and south lanes of HWY 49 as a part of their dedication to improve this intersection. They are going to look at our traffic study when complete and make a decision based on need. There are several streets that are scheduled to be overlaid in 2021 and sidewalks are scheduled to begin repair or replacement. Along with this work, residents should start seeing street work

that include curb and gutter. Some main ditches through our city will be cleaned, straightened out, rocked, or possibly concreted where allowed.

How, where is Brookland getting the money to do these things now? The revenue for the projects I have talked about will come from our 2020 Census. Our projected population count from 2020 Census will increase our General and Street revenue. This will change how we look at projects and work on projects in the future.

I want to thank you for your patience in 2020. It has been a difficult year, dealing with Covid 19 restrictions, keeping city employees safe and still being able to complete projects. We look forward to getting started on these new projects that will prepare our city for a bright future. Have a Blessed 2021!

Sincerely,

Mayor Jones



Winter Tips

Once again, winter is upon us. Just a few tips to help you through the cold: **1)** Keep your cabinet doors open on cold nights to help keep your pipes from freezing. **2)** Have someone check the antifreeze in your car. **3)** Care for your animals outside.





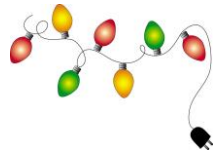
RECYCLE!

The following residents' names were drawn and they won \$25 in the Bluebag Recycle Program sponsored by the City of Brookland. The following items can be recycled: all metal cans, all colors of glass and all grades of plastics with the recycle triangle. Everything goes in the same bag together. Bluebags are available at City Hall. Just fill out the attached tag and your name will be entered in the weekly drawing. Citizens who live in the county and bring their blue bags to put them in the recycle trailer need to remove the name tags and bring them into City Hall or leave them in the drop box.

Also, remember to recycle your newspapers and old magazines. Put them in a separate sack and put them out with your bluebag.

Bluebag Winners:

- 10/2/20 - Bobbie Sartain
- 10/9/20 - Donald Forehand
- 10/16/20 - Kristine Hammonds
- 10/23/20 - Craig McAlister
- 10/30/20 - Patricia Kimble
- 11/6/20 - Era Jean Jackson
- 11/13/20 - Barbara Dacus
- 11/20/20 - MC Taylor
- 11/27/20 - Eric Dacus
- 12/4/20 - Jeanne Garrett
- 12/11/20 - Robbie Polsgrove
- 12/18/20 - Pansy Williams
- 12/25/20 - Heidi Dacus



Christmas Light Contest Winners:

The judging of the annual residential Christmas light contest for city residents was held December 17. Timothy Morris at 113 Sophie Dr. was the first place winner and received the \$100 prize. Jeff & Shelly Chaplain at 119 Nelda was the second place winner and was awarded the \$75 prize. Michelle Cobb at 117-A Hayes won the \$50 third place prize, with her Star Wars display.

Thanks to everyone in the community who decorated their homes for the holidays.

City Calendar:

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January



01/01 - City Offices Closed - New Year Holiday

01/05 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

01/11 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

01/18 - City Offices Closed - MLK Holiday

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February



02/02 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

02/08 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

02/15 - City Offices Closed - President's Day Holiday

02/19 - Make A Wish Wish-A-Thon



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March



03/02 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

03/08 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

REMINDER TO BUSINESS OWNERS:

2021 Privilege License are due February 28.

