



City of Brookland, Arkansas City Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: February 11, 2025

Type of Meeting: Regular

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

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

Previous meeting minutes:

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Wilson Shipman

To: Approve the Brookland City Council meeting minutes dated January 14, 2025, as written

Discussion: None

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

New Business:

1. **Jamie Gilmer – 118 Hayes 4-plex; drainage issues:**

No one was present to speak on this issue.

2. **Ordinance 2025-6 Water Rate Ordinance: (to repeal prior ordinance)**

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Candice Bishop

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-6 by titles only

Discussion: None

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

*Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Ordinance 2025-6 by titles only for 1st reading

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Wilson Shipman

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-6 by titles only for the 2nd reading

Discussion: None

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

*Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Ordinance 2025-6 by titles only for the 2nd reading

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Candice Bishop

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-6 by titles only for 3rd and final reading

Discussion: None

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

*Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Ordinance 2025-6 by titles only for the 3rd and final reading

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Candice Bishop

To: Adopt Ordinance 2025-6 as written

Discussion: None

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:					
David Gambill	Yes	Candice Bishop	Yes	David Loggins	
Pamela McGee	Yes	Jason Cooper	Yes	Wilson Shipman	Yes

*Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adopt the Emergency Clause in section 5 of Ordinance 2025-6

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Candice Bishop

To: Adopt the Emergency Clause in section 5 of Ordinance 2025-6

Discussion: None

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:					
David Gambill	Yes	Candice Bishop	Yes	David Loggins	
Pamela McGee	Yes	Jason Cooper	Yes	Wilson Shipman	Yes

3. Ordinance 2025-7 Sewer Rate Ordinance: (to repeal prior ordinance)

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Candice Bishop

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-7 by titles only

Discussion: None

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

*Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Ordinance 2025-7 by titles only for 1st reading

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Candice Bishop

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-7 by titles only for the 2nd reading

Discussion: None

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

*Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Ordinance 2025-7 by titles only for the 2nd reading

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Candice Bishop

To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-7 by titles only for 3rd and final reading

Discussion: None

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

*Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Ordinance 2025-7 by titles only for the 3rd and final reading

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Candice Bishop

To: Adopt Ordinance 2025-7 as written
Discussion: None
For: 5 **Against:** 0 **Motion:** Passed 5-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:					
David Gambill	Yes	Candice Bishop	Yes	David Loggins	
Pamela McGee	Yes	Jason Cooper	Yes	Wilson Shipman	Yes

*Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adopt the Emergency Clause in section 5 of Ordinance 2025-7
Motion by: David Gambill
Second by: Candice Bishop
To: Adopt the Emergency Clause in section 5 of Ordinance 2025-7
Discussion: None
For: 5 **Against:** 0 **Motion:** Passed 5-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:					
David Gambill	Yes	Candice Bishop	Yes	David Loggins	
Pamela McGee	Yes	Jason Cooper	Yes	Wilson Shipman	Yes

3. Trustee Bank to handle bond issued for Municipal Building:

Mayor Jones informed the council they needed to select a bank to act as trustee for the bonds for the Municipal Building Project-Phase 1. Jones recommended the council select First Community Bank.
Motion by: David Gambill
Second by: Wilson Shipman
To: Use First Community Bank as trustee for bonds for the Municipal Building Project-Phase 1
Discussion: None
For: 5 **Against:** 0 **Motion:** Passed 5-0

4. Legacy Landfill tipping fee increase-March 1, 2025:

Mayor Jones notified the council that the tipping fee for Legacy Landfill will increase by \$.50 per ton, beginning March 1, 2025. Jones added that, so far, Dedman’s Sanitation has not notified the city of a fee increase for residential trash pickup, however, he will keep the council notified. Attorney Kevin Orr notified the council of changes taking place at Legacy Landfill to their operations and suggested that the fee increase is conservative.

Old Business:

5. Ordinance 2025-4 Blazing Buffalo alcohol permit – 2nd Reading:

Motion by: David Gambill
Second by: Candice Bishop
To: Suspend the rules and read aloud Ordinance 2025-4 by titles only for 2nd reading
Discussion: None
For: 5 **Against:** 0 **Motion:** Passed 5-0
 *Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Ordinance 2025-4, Blazing Buffalo alcohol permit, for the 2nd reading by titles only. The 3rd reading will take place at the next regular meeting, on March 11, 2025.

6. ARDOT sidewalk project 101143 updates:

Mayor Jones informed the council that he is still waiting on ARDOT to decide on the right-of-way and possible movement of part of the Phase II sidewalk project so that it doesn't go across the yards of a few residents. Jones added that he will update the council as this project continues.

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

January 2025	General Fund:	Street Fund:	Utility Fund:
Beginning Balance:	\$855,580.58	\$368,617.90	\$535,202.71
Ending Balance:	\$810,557.80	\$371,639.40	\$545,420.46

Mayor's Notes:

- Review construction fund accounts for Parks/Municipal Building/Sewer and Sales Tax Bonds/Debt Service Reserve Account; how pay requests are reviewed & signed by Mayor and City Clerk and submitted for payment; Payments and accounts are managed by Farmer's & Merchant's Bank:**
 Mayor Jones took time to give a brief explanation of how pay requests are created, submitted, and paid through the accounts payable process for several of the city's project accounts. Jones included that the city does not have direct access to those accounts, instead, a payment request is submitted on behalf of the city and is then paid by Farmer's & Merchant's Bank. Jones discussed that Brookland is not alone in having difficulties finishing projects. The economy, inflation, and other factors have contributed to high costs of construction and building materials, making it tough for smaller cities and other entities to complete projects on budget and on time.
- Parks Committee update:**
 Mayor Jones informed the council that he recently spoke with Fisher & Arnold regarding construction of the sportsplex project. Jones said he explained to F&A that construction of one baseball ball field, the concession stand, and a walking trail (as a transportation alternative project) should be completed first. Jones added that, according to F&A, those components should be feasible to complete with the current budget, with the possibility of obtaining grant monies (TAP) for the walking trail. Jones said they hope to re-bid the project in the next few weeks.

Motion by: Wilson Shipman

Second by: David Gambill

To: Add the reading of two Proclamations to the meeting's agenda

Discussion: None

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

*Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Proclamation 2025-P1.

Motion by: Wilson Shipman

Second by: David Gambill

To: Adopt Proclamation 2025-P1 as read

Discussion: None

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

*Attorney Kevin Orr read aloud Proclamation 2025-P2.

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Wilson Shipman

To: Adopt Proclamation 2025-P2 as read

Discussion: None

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

Motion by: David Gambill

Second by: Jason Cooper

To: Pay David Loggins for being absent since he is working out of town and unable to attend

Discussion: None

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

- **Bobby Williams, Brookland Resident, seeking advice from the council:**

Bobby Williams, Brookland resident, came before the council to discuss his idea of asking the state and federal government to help fund Command Centers, like the one at Brookland Public Schools, at other schools in the State of Arkansas, and beyond. The council informed him they would help in any way with his endeavor. Williams also asked if the small city parks were open to the public. Mayor Jones informed him that they are.

Mayor Jones asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Wilson Shipman

Second by: Candice Bishop

To: Adjourn the meeting

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

Meeting adjourned at: 7:44 PM

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Julie Thomas, City Clerk/Treasurer