



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, May 06, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Assistant Mayor Jeff Hart called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PRESENT: Assistant Mayor Ward 6 Jeff Hart, Ward 1 Director Terry Roberts, Ward 2 Director Laney Harris, Ward 3 Director Steven Hollibush, Ward 4 Director Ulysses Brewer, and Ward 5 Director Danny Jewell.

ALSO, PRESENT: City Manager Robert Thompson, City Attorney Joshua Potter, City Clerk Heather Soyars, and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

ABSENT: Mayor Allen Brown.

Invocation given by Assistant Mayor Jeff Hart.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Bi-State Justice Building Manager Kristine Shuffield.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Anita Pickett, 1601 Beech Street, wanted to introduce herself to the Board of Directors for their support of her application to the Planning Commission.

David Green, 1709 Harner Street, spoke about the problems with the trains and train tracks.

Craig Harland, 5406 E. Heights Road, wanted to speak about the Texarkana Regional Airport twenty-year expansion plan and the members of the Airport Authority.

Diana Lowe, 2002 Laurel Street, spoke about the off-street parking in the Historic District.

Donald Reid, 6624 Lakeridge Drive, gave a recommendation on renaming the Texarkana Recreation Center, the Terry Roger's Facility.

Mondo Barry, 4414 Magee Drive, spoke on behalf of renaming the Texarkana Recreation Center, the Terry Roger's Facility.

Billy Lavender, 6200 River Birch Way, recommended the Texarkana Recreation Center being renamed the Terry Roger's Facility.

Helen Cunningham, 4713 Glenlea Drive, said she had a house on the condemnation list and wanted to see what could be done to have it removed from the list.

PROCLAMATION(S)

1. Proclamation declaring May 5-11, 2024, as Municipal Clerks Appreciation Week.
2. Proclamation declaring May 5-11, 2024, as National Drinking Water Week.

PRESENTATION(S)

3. Presentation of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas Employee Service Awards. (ADMIN)

Sgt. Tanner Freeman	TAPD	10 Years
Jeffrey Shaw	TWU	10 Years

CONSENT

Director Harris requested Item 7. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase an Asphalt Zipper from Asphalt Zipper, Inc. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards, be removed from the Consent agenda.

Director Roberts made the motion to adopt the Consent agenda, Seconded by Director Hollibush. The motion carried and the following item was approved:

4. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting April 15, 2024. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
5. Resolution No. 2024-31 authorized the purchase of an updated fire panel for the Bi-State and Bowie County Jail located in the Bi-State Justice Building. (BI-STATE) Building Manager Kristine Shuffield
6. Resolution No. 2024-32 accepted the 2023 Public Facilities Board Annual Report. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

REGULAR

7. Resolution No. 2024-33 authorized the City Manager to purchase an Asphalt Zipper from Asphalt Zipper, Inc. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Harris, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

8. Consider the following action concerning twenty-six (26) substandard structures:

Conduct a Public Hearing regarding the condemnation of substandard structures.

Assistant Mayor Hart opened the Public Hearing.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards gave a brief presentation regarding the nuisance properties.

Assistant Mayor Hart asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this item.

Director Harris read an email that he sent to City Manager Robert Thompson and Public Works Director Tyler Richards.

Joseph Neal, 1604 Prospect, told the Board of Directors he did not think the house was condemnable, but he was trying to fix the house and did not want it to be condemned.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said the house would be condemned, but Mr. Neal could obtain a building permit to fix the house and bring it back to code.

Assistant Mayor Hart closed the Public Hearing.

Resolution No. 2024-34 condemned twenty-six (26) substandard structures. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

9. Adopt a Resolution naming the Texarkana Recreation Center gymnasium the "*Terry Lee Roger's Gym*". (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

After a brief discussion, the motion to table the resolution for additional public awareness and comments made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Jewell.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

Voting Nay: Director Harris.

The motion carried 5-1 and the Assistant Mayor declared the resolution tabled.

10. Adopt a Joint Resolution and Memorandum of Understanding of the Board of Directors of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas, and the City Council of the City of Texarkana, Texas supporting the fiscal year 2024 consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements (CRSI) grant application for Union Station improvements. (ADMIN)

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Brewer.

Assistant Mayor declared the motion failed for lack of a second.

11. Resolution No. 2024-35 accepted the 2023 audit engagement letter prepared by the accounting firm FORVIS, LLP. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Jewell.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

Voting Nay: Director Harris.

The motion carried 5-1 and the Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

12. Ordinance No. 8-2024 amended Ordinance No. 10-2021, to correct the street name from George Street to George Avenue. (PWD-Planning) City Planner Jamie Finley

After a brief discussion, the motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Brewer.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the first time in abbreviated form.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its second reading in abbreviated form made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the second time in abbreviated form.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third and final reading in abbreviated form made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Brewer.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Brewer.

Assistant Mayor Hart asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this ordinance.

No one came forward.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the Assistant Mayor declared the ordinance adopted.

13. Ordinance No. 9-2024 amended the *City of Texarkana, Arkansas, Code of Ordinances*, Section 28-22 Commercial District in order to consolidate and clarify permitted and conditional uses for medical related businesses. (PWD-Planning) City Planner Jamie Finley

After a brief discussion, the motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Brewer.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the first time in abbreviated form.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its second reading in abbreviated form made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the second time in abbreviated form.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third and final reading in abbreviated form made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Assistant Mayor Hart asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this ordinance.

No one came forward.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the Assistant Mayor declared the ordinance adopted.

14. Ordinance No. 10-2024 rezoned Lot 1 of the proposed JK Acres subdivision located at 4804 East 9th, from R-2 Single Family Residential to C-1 General Commercial District for the purpose of building and operating a landscaping business. (Ward 3) (PWD-Planning) City Planner Jamie Finley

After a brief discussion, the motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the first time in abbreviated form.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its second reading in abbreviated form made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the second time in abbreviated form.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third and final reading in abbreviated form made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Assistant Mayor Hart asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this ordinance.

No one came forward.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the Assistant Mayor declared the ordinance adopted.

15. Ordinance No. 11-2024 regulated off-street parking in all residential historic districts. (PWD-Planning) City Planner Jamie Finley

After a brief discussion, the motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the first time in abbreviated form.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its second reading in abbreviated form made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Brewer.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the second time in abbreviated form.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third and final reading in abbreviated form made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Brewer.

Assistant Mayor Hart asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this ordinance.

No one came forward.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the Assistant Mayor declared the ordinance adopted.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY

Director Roberts said thank you to Assistant Mayor Hart for a job well done conducting the meeting.

Director Brewer said he asked Swepeco to launch an investigation from 19th Street through 22nd Street regarding all the power outages.

Director Harris asked if City's events and meetings were posted on the Facebook page and website.

Director Jewell asked if the trees and overgrown weeds inside the ditches in Ward 5 be cleaned out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors entered Executive Session at 8:14 PM to discuss appointments to the Airport Authority and the Planning Commission.

The Assistant Mayor reconvened the meeting at 8:29 PM and the following action was taken.

ADDENDUM – THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REQUESTED SEPARATE RESOLUTIONS FOR EACH VACANCY ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

16. Resolution No. 2024-37 reappointed Ray Abernathy to the Airport Authority. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

17. Resolution No. 2024-37 appointed Chris Owens to the Planning Commission. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

18. Resolution No. 2024-38 reappointed Jason Dupree to the Planning Commission. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

19. Resolution No. 2024-39 reappointed Adger Smith to the Planning Commission. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Hollibush, and Director Jewell.

Voting Nay: Director Harris and Director Brewer.

The motion carried 4-2 and the Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

20. Resolution No. 2024-40 appointed Anita Pickett to the Planning Commission. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Brewer.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 20, 2024

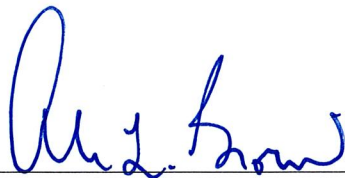
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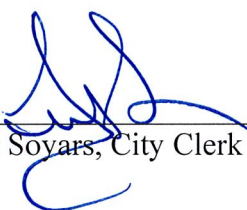
Motion to adjourn made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

APPROVED this the 20th day of May 2024.


Allen L. Brown, Mayor


Heather Soyars, City Clerk