



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, August 15, 2022 - 6:00 PM

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

ALSO, PRESENT: City Manager E. Jay Ellington, City Attorney George Matteson, City Clerk Heather Soyars, and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

Invocation given by guest of Director Brewer, pastor of New Walk Christian Church and president of Miller County NAACP, Dr. Larry Shaw.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief David Fletcher.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Allison Rider, 4806 Charleston Street, told the Board she was in favor of the animal ordinance being voted on tonight.

Amy Wurtele, 1903 Razorback Drive, also stated she was in favor of the animal ordinance.

Robin Townsend said she hoped the Board would vote to pass the animal ordinance tonight and maybe the Texas-side would agree to the same.

CONSENT

Director Hart made the motion to adopt the Consent agenda, Seconded by Director Brewer. The motion carried and the following items were approved:

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting August 1, 2022. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
2. Resolution No. 2022-47 authorized the City Manager to enter into a construction contract with Contech Contractors, Inc., for Tennessee Road, Meadows Road and Union Road Rehabilitation Projects. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

3. Resolution No. 2022-48 approved the reimbursement of \$173,598.82 to the Texarkana Regional Airport from American Rescue Act Funds. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson
4. Resolution No. 2022-49 adopted a Joint Resolution with the City of Texarkana, Texas, to establish a pilot scooter program with Bird Rides, Inc., in Texarkana, USA. (ADMIN) City Manager E. Jay Ellington
5. Resolution No. 2022-50 granted the dissolution of the Arkansas Municipal Auditorium Commission. (ADMIN) City Manager E. Jay Ellington

REGULAR

6. Consider the following action concerning the maintenance of overgrown lots:

Conduct a Public Hearing regarding the placing of liens on (27) twenty-seven overgrown lots.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing.

Director Brewer asked if the Public Works Department outsourced the weed lots.

Tyler Richards Public Works Director said no.

Assistant Mayor Hollibush asked if the lien amount would in time accrue interest or penalties.

Mayor Brown said after the City enforced the lien, then it would accrue interest or penalties.

He also said the collectability on these liens were slim to none and the properties would receive a free mow from the City. He said he would like a better process for the weed lots because the City could not take care of all the lots they have now and would not be able to keep up with additional lots.

Tyler Richards Public Works Director said he would like to find a better process and said the landowner needed to be held responsible.

Director Roberts said he and several citizens from his ward went and cleaned an area this past Saturday. He said maybe each ward could encourage citizens and churches to become involved in the cleaning or mowing of lots in their ward.

Director Brewer said the Public Works Department might check with the colleges in town and see if there were any undergraduates that would help.

David Peavy said maybe the City could foreclose on the property and recoup the money back.

Mayor Brown said most foreclosure costs were not cheap and he did not think the City would recoup the money back.

Director Harris said he mentioned three or four years ago the City would become the largest landowner, and now it seemed like it would come true.

Director Miner said she had two men in her ward that mowed around the area of the cemetery, and now she also mowed different lots in her ward. She said if everyone did just a little it would help so much.

Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing

Resolution No. 2022-51 placed liens on (27) twenty-seven overgrown lots. (PWD) Shawn Maxey Building Official

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

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this resolution.

No one came forward.

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

7. Resolution No. 2022-52 authorized the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Bi-State Criminal Justice Center. (ADMIN) City Manager E. Jay Ellington

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

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this resolution.

No one came forward.

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

8. Consider the following action concerning the 2022 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program:
Conduct a Public Hearing to allow citizen input regarding the use of Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program monies for the Texarkana, Arkansas Police Department.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing.

Assistant Chief Bobby Jordan gave a brief presentation regarding this item.

Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing.

Resolution No. 2022-53 granted permission to submit the 2022 application and further authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Interlocal Agreement with Miller County, regarding the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG-yearly grant). (TAPD) Captain James Atchley

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

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this resolution.

No one came forward.

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

9. Ordinance No. 24-2022 levied the 2022 tax rate. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

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: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

The motion carried 7-0 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 Assistant Mayor Hollibush.

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

The motion carried 7-0 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 Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Seconded by Director Brewer.

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

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

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

No one came forward.

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the Mayor declared the ordinance adopted.

10. Ordinance No. 25-2022 amended Chapter 5 of the *City of Texarkana, Arkansas, Code of Ordinances* as related to animals. (ACAC) Director Lenor Teague

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: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

The motion carried 7-0 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 Hart.

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

Voting Nay: Director Harris.

The motion carried 6-1 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 Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

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

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

Susan Moore, with Fix-TXK Spay and Neuter, said her organization had spayed or neutered over 400 animals for free. She said the people in her organization were there to help the City with whatever they needed.

David Peavy said maybe something could be added to the tax statement to help with the collection of the fees.

Director Roberts said many of the past problems were solved by the committee put in place by the Animal Care and Adoption Center. He said the Board should help in any way they could.

Amy Wurtele said the Board had the support of the rescue groups and mentioned maybe the vet's office could give out a card for registration when they came in.

Prissy Hickerson, 2805 Forrest Avenue, thanked the Board for considering the animal ordinance. She said there were many ordinances not enforced, but it would raise awareness to help the situation.

Mayor Brown said he would support the ordinance but said there were several issues that needed to be worked through to enforced it.

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

Voting Nay: Director Harris.

The motion carried 6-1 and the Mayor declared the ordinance adopted.

11. Ordinance No. 26-2022 granted the request for prerequisite municipal approval of a private club application on behalf of David Peavy for the Banana Club located at 223 Front Street. (CCD)

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

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

The motion carried 7-0 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 Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

The motion carried 7-0 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 Hart, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Hollibush.

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

No one came forward.

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the Mayor declared the ordinance adopted.

An emergency clause requires a separate and distinct vote of the board and is valid only if there is a two-thirds vote of approval by the board. (Hdbk. Const. Amend 7)

Motion to enact the emergency clause made by Director Hart, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the emergency clause.

No one came forward.

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the Mayor declared the emergency clause enacted.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY

Director Harris said he received an email from the National League of Cities (NLC) stating they would help the City apply for three federal grants. He said in September flood grants would be available for the City. Director Harris received information from Southern City Initiative, and grant funds would be available for homes built in 1972 or before.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager E. Jay Ellington gave the following report:

- He said Express Employment had assisted him with the recruitment of a new Police Chief.
- He said he would host a breakfast at the Rec Center this Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 8:00 AM.
- He asked the Board for their feedback on the work plan he submitted to them.

- He said thank you for the approval of the stage cover and the Texarkana Water Utilities rate increase from the previous meeting.
- He said there would be a workshop on the ward redistricting on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 5:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 6, 2022

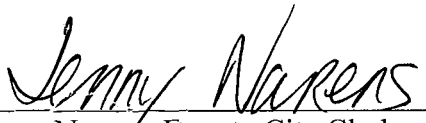
ADJOURN

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

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

APPROVED this the 6th day of September 2022.



Jenny Narens, Deputy City Clerk



Allen L. Brown, Mayor