



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, October 21, 2024 - 6:00 PM

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

PRESENT: Assistant Mayor Ward 6 Director 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 Tyler Richards, City Attorney Josh Potter, and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

ABSENT: Mayor Allen Brown and City Clerk Heather Soyars.

Invocation given by Director Ulysses Brewer.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Interim Police Chief Ed Chattaway.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Henry Stine, 80 South Valley Drive, wanted to know if the roads in his neighborhood could be repaired.

Della Johnson, 502 Baden Street, wanted to let the Board know she was not satisfied with the District Courts Department and their lack of customer service.

Michele Kegley, 91 South Valley Drive, also asked about the roads being repaired in Ward 1.

Director Hollibush read the attached statement from Courtney Blair.

PROCLAMATION(S)

1. Proclamation declaring October 28, 2024, as National First Responders Day. (CCD)
2. Proclamation declaring the month of November as Business Appreciation Month. (BOD)

CONSENT

Director Harris requested Item 5. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Cunningham Recreation for the design, build, and installation of an inclusive playground at the Texarkana Recreation Center. (PARKS) Parks Superintendent Adam Dalby

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

3. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting October 7, 2024. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
4. Resolution No. 2024-83 amended the FY2024 Budget (Resolution No. 2023-103) and the Public Works Budget to include additional funding from Miller County Property Tax Revenue for Roads and the expense for road improvements. (PWD) Interim Public Works Director Tracie Lee

REGULAR

5. Resolution No. 2024-84 authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with Cunningham Recreation for the design, build, and installation of an inclusive playground at the Texarkana Recreation Center. (PARKS) Parks Superintendent Adam Dalby

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.

6. Consider the following action concerning the 2024 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.

Assistant Mayor Hart opened the Public Hearing.

Grants Coordinator Amy Smith gave a brief presentation regarding the 2024 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program.

Assistant Mayor Hart closed the Public Hearing.

Resolution No. 2024-85 granted permission to submit the 2024 application and authorized 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) CID Secretary Amy Smith

Motion to adopt the resolution 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 Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

7. Ordinance No. 25-2024 waived competitive bidding requirements and authorized the purchase of a new Motorola RMS/CAD program called Command Central. (TAPD) Interim Police Chief Ed Chattaway

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 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 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 Roberts.

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

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

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

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.

The applicant requests an emergency clause. 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 Roberts, Seconded by Director Brewer.

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

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 emergency clause was enacted.

8. Ordinance No. 26-2024 granted the request for prerequisite municipal approval of a private club application for 116 East Broad Street, Eagles Full House. (Westmoreland) (ADMIN) City Manager Tyler Richards

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 Brewer, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

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

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

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

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.

9. Resolution No. 2024-86 authorized the Airport to enter into a contract with McClelland Engineering for the Primary Runway 500' Extension Design Part A. (AIRPORT) Executive Director Paul Mehrlich

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

10. Resolution No. 2024-87 authorized the Airport to enter into a contract with McClelland Engineering for the Primary Runway 500' Extension Design Part B. (AIRPORT) Executive Director Paul Mehrlich

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution 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 Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

11. Resolution No. 2024-88 authorized the Airport to enter into an agreement with McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc., for engineering and survey services for the Apron Phase II Construction Part A. (AIRPORT) Executive Director Paul Mehrlich

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.

12. Resolution No. 2024-89 approved and accept the FAA Airport Improvement Program Grant for Airport Apron Phase II Construction Part B. (AIRPORT) Executive Director Paul Mehrlich

After a brief discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution 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 Assistant Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

13. Resolution No. 2024-90 approved the Airport Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. (AIRPORT) Executive Director Paul Mehrlich

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.

14. Ordinance No. 27-2024 granted an easement on airport property south of East 19th Street, adjoining Chamber of Commerce property, to Project Moonbeam, to allow access to clear and maintain trees and brush. (AIRPORT) Executive Director Paul Mehrlich

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, and 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, and 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.

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.

The applicant requests an emergency clause. 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 Brewer, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

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 emergency clause was enacted.

15. Ordinance No. 28-2024 granted a right-of-way easement for SWEPCO to install a transformer on airport property to connect the Solar Canopy to begin producing electricity. (AIRPORT)
Executive Director Paul Mehrlich

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 Brewer, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

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

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

Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts,

Voting Nay: Director Harris.

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

The applicant requests an emergency clause. 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 Hollibush, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

No one came forward.

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 emergency clause was enacted.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY

Director Brewer said Ward 4, would have a community meeting November 9, at 10AM.

Director Harris said he had been asked how much the Director's got paid for their job. He wanted to know when Senator Street was going to have the potholes filled.

Director Hart said he represented the City at the Tough Cookie Breast Cancer Race and wanted to encourage all women to have mammograms for early detection of breast cancer.

Director Hollibush said there would be a Food Truck Festival this weekend at Bobby Ferguson Park.

Director Roberts said this Saturday, from 11AM-2PM at the Animal Care and Adoption Center, there would be a pet costume contest.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 4, 2024

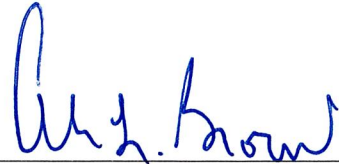
ADJOURN

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

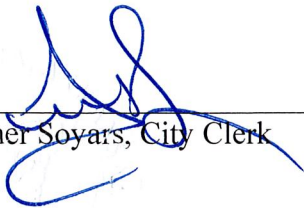
Voting Yea: Assistant Mayor Hart, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

APPROVED this the 4th day of November 2024.



Allen L. Brown Mayor



Heather Soyars, City Clerk

From: ARBOD-Hollibush, Steven
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2024 7:17 PM
To: Courtney Blair; ARK-Richards, Tyler
Cc: ARK-Soyars, Heather; ARBOD-Roberts, Terry; laneyharris.ward2@yahoo.com; ARBOD-Brewer, Ulysses; danjojew@yahoo.com; ARBOD-Hart, Jeff (Personal)
Subject: Re: Traffic Signal

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns. I'll be sure this is read during the meeting.

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From: Courtney Blair <cmlblair90@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2024 3:21:33 PM
To: ARK-Richards, Tyler <tyler.richards@txkusa.org>
Cc: ARK-Soyars, Heather <heather.soyars@txkusa.org>; ARBOD-Roberts, Terry <troberts@txkusa.org>; laneyharris.ward2@yahoo.com <laneyharris.ward2@yahoo.com>; ARBOD-Hollibush, Steven <Steven.hollibush@txkusa.org>; ARBOD-Brewer, Ulysses <Ulysses.Brewer@txkusa.org>; danjojew@yahoo.com <danjojew@yahoo.com>; ARBOD-Hart, Jeff (Personal) <jeffhartbodward6@outlook.com>
Subject: Traffic Signal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside our email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings,

I would like for this to be read during the Citizen's Communication portion during the October 21st city meeting.

My name is Courtney Blair, and I am a concerned resident of Ward 3. On Friday, October 11th, I observed signage indicating that the traffic signal at the intersection of Pinehurst and East 9th Street is under consideration for removal. Although the presence of these signs denotes a study and does not guarantee removal, I am deeply apprehensive about the potential decision to eliminate this traffic signal. The intersection experiences significant traffic volume, including school and city buses and many walkers. Despite the posted speed limit of 35 mph, not all motorists adhere to this regulation. The removal of this traffic signal, leaving an open expanse of road until the subsequent signal, raises concerns about safety and the likelihood of accidents. Numerous incidents, including collisions and near-misses, have been witnessed at the intersection of 12th and Hickory. (where a traffic signal was removed recently) I, too, have been involved in an accident at this location, when a vehicle disregarded the stop sign and collided with my own at a high rate of speed. Furthermore, patrons of Tri-State Iron and Metal will continue to obstruct the lane leading to their establishment without due consideration for other traffic. The removal of the traffic signal is anticipated to exacerbate traffic congestion in the area. I firmly believe that alternative measures should be explored and implemented to positively address the challenges in this location. While it is plausible that other traffic signals are under similar scrutiny (although no additional signage has been observed), I maintain the conviction that the removal of this particular signal would yield adverse rather than beneficial outcomes.

Thank you for your time,

Courtney