



## Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

**Minutes - Monday, February 05, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

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

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

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

Invocation given by Director Terry Roberts.

Pledge of Allegiance led by District Court Karen Reed.

### CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Austin Coleman, 101 Reserve Street, Hot Springs, said he was a field representative for Congressman Westerman. He said they were reviewing the RAISE Grant application that was submitted, and they were going to write a letter of support for application.

Danny Gray, 10 Cambridge Drive, wanted to voice his concerns for the neighborhood regarding the rezoning request for a house on Downing Drive.

Ruth Bell, 2700 Forest Avenue, also wanted to let the Board of Directors know rezoning this house on Downing Drive would be detrimental to the senior citizens in this neighborhood.

Leedell Robertson, 2100 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, wanted the Board of Directors to know how bad it was in his neighborhood from Tri-State Iron and Metal. He said it was not only the noise but also the smell and smoke coming from the company.

### PRESENTATION(S)

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

Dillon J. Foreback	TAFD	5 Years
Perry Hawkins	TAPD-Specialized & Transport	5 Years
Otis Wimley, Jr.	TWU	10 Years

## **CONSENT**

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

2. Approval of the minutes of the rescheduled regular meeting January 29, 2024. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
3. Resolution No. 2024-8 authorized the City Manager to enter into a purchase agreement with Artex Truck Center for a Dump Truck. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards
4. Resolution No. 2024-9 authorized the purchase of a Fire Department Command Vehicle from Red River Dodge located in Heber Springs, Arkansas. (TAFD) Fire Chief David Fletcher
5. Resolution No. 2024-10 approved the reimbursement of \$970,559.82 to the Texarkana Regional Airport from American Rescue Act Funds. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson
6. Resolution No. 2024-11 authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with RBIS, LLC, for the Jefferson Avenue Sewer Extension Project. (TWU) Executive Director Gary Smith

## **REGULAR**

7. Resolution No. 2024-12 authorized the City Manager to donate .32 acres located along E. 19th Street to the Chamber of Commerce. (Ward 3) (Admin) City Manager Robert Thompson

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

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

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

8. Ordinance No. 2-2024 authorized the purchase of one (1) 2024 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor from McClarty Ford. (TAPD) Assistant Police Chief Bobby Jordan

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Jewell, and Assistant Mayor 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 Hollibush, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

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

*An emergency clause is requested. 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.*

Motion to enact the emergency clause made by Assistant Mayor Hart, Seconded by Director Brewer.

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, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Jewell, and Assistant Mayor Hart.

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

9. Hear appeal of denial by Planning Commission to approve a rezoning request by Carlotta Powell to operate a boarding house at 14 Downing Drive. (Ward 5) (PWD-Planning) City Planner Jamie Finley

After a discussion, the appeal of denial requested by Carlotta Powell, was denied due to lack of a motion and second.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY**

Director Harris asked why Ingraham Pool was being turned into another baseball field, instead of fixing up the pool. He then played a brief video of children swimming in the pond at Bramble Park last year. Director Harris also mentioned February was Black History Month.

Director Jewell asked if the asphalt company was back in business and if the potholes were getting filled.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said the asphalt company was back open and the Street Department had started filling potholes.

Director Brewer said thank you to the Public Works Department for their work on potholes in his ward, and for the street work on County Avenue.

Director Hollibush said Friday night was the downtown live event, and the Mardi Gras parade would be this Saturday night.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Assistant Mayor Hart, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

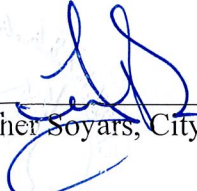
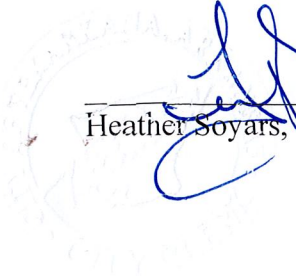
Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Jewell, and Assistant Mayor Hart.

The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

**APPROVED** this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.



Allen L. Brown, Mayor



Heather Soyars, City Clerk