



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, October 16, 2023 - 6:00 PM

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

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

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

ABSENT: Ward 6 Director Jeff Hart.

Invocation given by Assistant Mayor Terry Roberts.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief David Fletcher.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Billy Ray Willis, 1020 Orleans Street, wanted to know if his complaint had been resolved.

Director Harris, 2005 Stephanie, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation. (See attached)

Pete Cheatham, 1507 Ray Street, asked what could be done regarding the Planning Commission suspending a meeting with the residents of Ward 3 and Tri-State Iron and Metal. (He spoke after City Manager Update)

PROCLAMATION(S)

1. Proclamation declaring October 28, 2023, as National First Responder's Day.
2. Proclamation declaring the month of November 2023, as Business Appreciation Month. (BOD) (This proclamation added at the request of Director Harris)

CONSENT

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

3. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting October 2, 2023. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
4. Resolution No. 2023-93 approved the purchase of additional system controls for the jail. (BI-STATE) Building Manager Kristine Barron

ACTION ITEMS

5. Consider the following action concerning the clean-up of nineteen (19) nuisance properties:
Conduct a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding certification of certain delinquent taxes.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards gave a brief description of the properties.

Director Harris asked if any Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to pay the liens.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said no.

Mayor Brown said these were lots the City cleaned up and billed the property owners, and they have not paid for the service.

No one else came forward.

Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing.

Resolution No. 2023-94 certified the amount to be put on tax books as delinquent and collected accordingly. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

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

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

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

6. Resolution No. 2023-95 authorized the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Texarkana, Texas, for the purpose of pursuing a \$500,000.00 Community Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

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

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

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

NON-ACTION ITEMS

7. Public Hearing to consider the following action regarding a request to abandon certain portions of undeveloped land east of Manor Way Road, west of Summit Drive and Pine Hill Circle, north of Tennessee Road, and south of Fortune Lane located in Ward 1.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing.

City Planner Jamie Finely gave a brief description of the undeveloped land.

No one came forward.

Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing.

Ordinance No. 33-2023 approved the abandonment of certain portions of dedicated undeveloped land east of Manor Way Road, west of Summit Drive and Pine Hill Circle, north of Tennessee Road, and south of Fortune Lane located in Ward 1. (Fricks) (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 Assistant Mayor Roberts, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

The motion carried 5-1 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 Director Hollibush, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Roberts.

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

The motion carried 5-1 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

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

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

No one came forward.

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY

Director Brewer announced there would be a meet and greet with the new City Manager for citizens of Ward 4. It would be held at the Rec Center Thursday, October 19, 2023.

Director Harris finished the PowerPoint presentation he started during citizen communication.

Director Hollibush said this Saturday, there would be a Stateline Food Fest, in front of Cleo's Furniture. There would be several food trucks, bounce houses, and a showing of a football game.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Robert Thompson gave a brief update on each department. (See attached)

Mayor Brown announced the Priscilla Block concert November 3, 2023, located at the Loading Dock Stage on Front Street.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 6, 2023

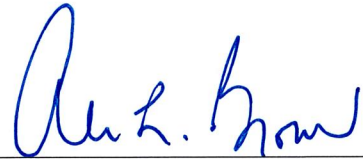
ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Assistant mayor Roberts.

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

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

APPROVED this the 6th day of November 2023.



Allen L. Brown, Mayor



Heather Soyars, City Clerk

Subtitle 3 - Municipal Government
Chapter 47 - City Manager Form Of
Municipal Government
§ 14-47-114 - Director not
compensated -- Per diem.

- **(a)** The board of directors of any city with the city manager form of government may, by ordinance, provide for the compensation of board members.

- **(b)** Directors of a city having a population of at least four thousand (4,000) but not more than four thousand five hundred (4,500) and located in a county having a population of one hundred thousand (100,000) or more may receive a per diem to be fixed by ordinance of the board not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for attending designated meetings of the board. In no event shall any director receive per diem in excess of two hundred dollars (\$200) for any one (1) month.

Senator Tom Cotton DC Office Arkansas Cities To Benefit From Internet Sales Tax



- Went to Congressional City Conference DC in March of 2022
- Joined Strong Southern Communities Initiative (SSCI)

City was awarded \$2500 micro grant

• **Anthony Santiago** <santiago@nlc.org>Unsubscribe
• To:ssci@groups.io
• Mon, May 23, 2022 at 8:06 AM
• SSCI Leaders-

• Please join me in congratulating the below SSCI members for being awarded micro-grants for our most recent Round. We received many applications and we would like to thank all who applied. Though we cannot approve every application, we made our best effort to award those who had clear plans and demonstrated: need, readiness, impact, partnerships, equity and justice. All your efforts to invest in improving outcomes for children and families should be commended.

• **Round 1 Awarded Micro-grants:**
• Beaumont, MS
• Charleston, MS
• Pine Bluff, AR
• Texarkana, AR
• Baker, LA
• Baton Rouge, LA

• Those who submitted applications in **Round 1** and were not selected, can contact me for a [one-on-one review](#) of your application, where I can provide some guidance for strengthening your application for next round. Finally, we will have another round of micro-grants in 2022, so if you were not selected or did not apply this round, there is still time to apply this year.

• Best,

• **Anthony Santiago**
• DIRECTOR, PROGRAM AND PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
• INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH, EDUCATION, AND FAMILIES
• santiago@nlc.org
• (202) 626-3022
• www.nlc.org

Jackson Mississippi Omar Mohammed



WELCOME

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- OIIMAN Board Applications
- Access & Collaboration in Arkansas
- Geographical & Social Issues
- C.E.R.T.
- Community Assessment Model
- Best next steps



SATURDAY
19 AUGUST



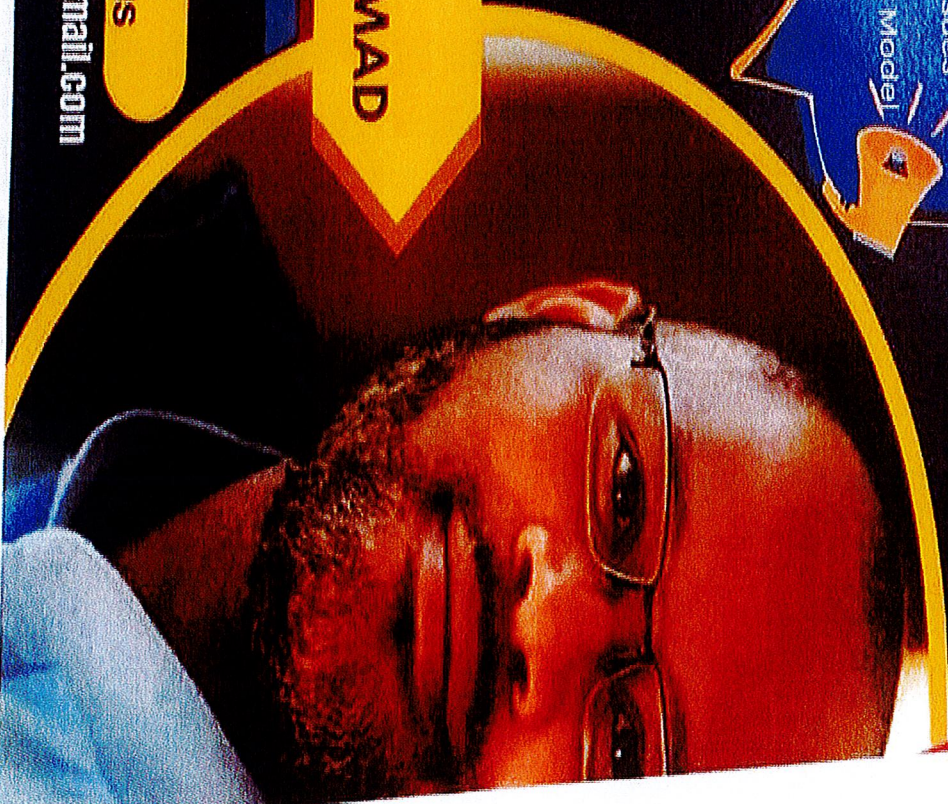
TIME
3:00 P.M.



LOCATION
1900 MARETTA ST.
TEXARKANA, AR 71854
*CAFETERIA

SPEAKER

OMAR MUHAMMAD



**INFO &
QUESTIONS**

(870) 330-4563
healthequitycommunitymobility@gmail.com

Amit Bose, Administrator Federal Railroad Administration





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Office of the City Manager

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Allen Brown
Directors

FROM: Robert Thompson
City Manager

DATE: October 16, 2023

SUBJECT: City Manager Update

Good afternoon Gentlemen,

Below are some updates from the different departments within the city. I've highlighted the areas I will be discussing during tonight's council meeting. If anyone requires additional information on a department, please inquire.

ACAC Had an intake of 23 animals during September, with 16 adoptions and 8 reclaims.

We are working with Texarkana Texas on an interlocal agreement.

For October, the shelter is offering a reduced adoption fee of \$30 (\$10 fee/\$20 microchip) for our black cats. These have all already been spayed/neutered.

Bi-State **Flooring at Bi-State** – Although we have replaced a large portion of carpeting at Bi-State, the goal is to replace all soiled carpet in each office and hallways. I am currently receiving quotes from various vendors looking for carpet that matches closely to what was installed in the past. I hope to start this project after the first of the year.

Court of Appeals Makeover -- Court of Appeals does not ask for much. They have outdated lighting; walls and ceilings need repair and paint. The old, soiled flooring needs to be changed due to past leaks. I am working with Chief Justice Scott Stevens on this project. We are hoping to get flooring and painting approved soon and act on this before the first of the year. The lighting project is still being decided. They have very old furniture so it will need to be professionally moved.

Courts Had a very productive September with collections of \$80,896

Filed 3 new small claims and 28 new civil cases, with filing fees of \$1,320

Finance Attended 2024 ICMA conference in Austin, TX, which provided training opportunities for leadership, management, and conflict resolution. It was also an awesome networking experience that provided helpful insight in how municipalities around the country are operating.

The 2024 budget process is in full swing. I expect this to be a tight budget year since revenue is starting to flatline.

Fire As is traditional in the month of October, the Fire Department has been busy with fire safety presentations. We have visited 7 local schools and two daycares with more still on the schedule.

The Fire Department will be conducting our Civil Service promotional exam on October 17 and our Civil Service entrance exam on October 21. We have received 21 applications to take the entrance exam.

Parks **Rec Center** – **Parks & Recreation Department is hosting eight exciting events during Breast Cancer Awareness Month at the Rec Center.** You can register at Texarkanaparks.recdesk.com or sign up day of event. We are asking everyone to wear pink clothing, hats, jewelry, etc. Be creative and “thinking pink” in October.

Front Street Festival Plaza – Put new rules in place.

- 10/28, 1-5 p.m.—4th Annual Fall Festival—trick or treating, carnival rides, food.
- 11/3—Priscilla Block concert with Jesse Jenkins & Lil Skinny and Budweiser Clydesdales (90th anniversary brought by Eagle Distributing)
- 11/4—4th Annual Universal Vibe Festival, noon-10 p.m.—health, wellness, and music, 75 vendors, food trucks, kids’ activities.

PWD

Planning Commission is currently developing an ordinance to address short-term private rentals such as Airbnb’s. Part of the process will include a means to capture these businesses for the purpose of collecting A&P taxes.

Public Works has a contractor working on Woodland Road where we expect paving to start mid-week. When completed, the contractor will move to County Avenue between Arkansas Boulevard and Realtor. Extensive base work will be conducted there so heavy traffic impact is expected. Public Works will ensure notices are sent to businesses and residents affected by delays. Following County Avenue, the contractor will move to Dudley.

TAPD

PD has completed salary survey for police officers across the State.

PD is accepting monetary donations for “Shop with A Cop.”

TWU

Automatic Metering Infrastructure System – Working with Johnson Controls to determine best AMI system to replace all water meters over five years old with ultrasonic meters. Includes two flyovers by Asterra satellite leak detection system and analysis with up to 40 days of field correlation to locate actual leak site. The Asterra satellite will provide a potential leak site within a 300’ radius, and field correlation then will locate the leak site within a 3’ radius for excavation and repair. This will reduce water loss and improve revenue.

Lead & Copper Rule Revised (LCRR) – Purpose of the Lead and Copper Rule is to eliminate any traces of lead and copper from `drinking water because of severe health problems resulting from ingestion of lead and copper by young children and babies during gestation, including damage to the brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning behavior problems, and hearing and speech problems. Adults are also susceptible to lead poisoning but not to the level of problems young children are. Lead and Copper Rule Improved (LCRI) is under final review and expected for final release in December 2023 or 1st Qtr. 2024. This revised rule is expected to clarify some definitions and testing procedures. It is also anticipated that this improved rule will require more stringent record keeping and testing.