



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, July 15, 2019 - 6:00 PM

Mayor Allen Brown called the meeting to order.

PRESENT: Mayor Allen Brown, Ward 1 Assistant Mayor Linda Teeters, Ward 2 Director Laney J. Harris, Ward 3 Director Steven Hollibush, Ward 4 Director Travis Odom, Ward 5 Director Barbara S. Miner, and Ward 6 Director Terri Peavy.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin, City Attorney George Matteson, City Clerk Heather Soyars and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

Mayor Brown gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT

Director Harris asked to remove Agenda Item 2. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for the Millwood Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Cleaning of the Sludge Ponds Project from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Director Harris, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

The motion carried unanimously, and Mayor Brown declared the Consent Agenda approved. The items approved were:

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting July 1, 2019. (CCD)
3. Resolution No. 2019-26 authorized the City Manager to purchase One (1) Compact Excavator E85 T4. (TWU)

REGULAR

2. Resolution No. 2019-27 authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract for the Millwood Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Cleaning of the Sludge Ponds Project. (TWU)

Director Harris asked if the Texas-side shared cost for Millwood with the Arkansas-side.

J.D. Phillips Texarkana Water Utilities Executive Director said yes.

Director Harris said he saw where the Texas-side would start charging customers in September to help pay for a bond. He asked what role the City of Texarkana, Arkansas, would play in the New Boston Road plant.

J.D. Phillips Texarkana Water Utilities Executive Director said that had not been decided yet. He said that would be between the City Managers and Mayors to figure out all the details.

Director Harris asked if the Millwood plant could sustain just the City of Texarkana, Arkansas, if the Cities could not come to an agreement.

J.D. Phillips Texarkana Water Utilities Executive Director said yes.

Mayor Brown asked J.D. Phillips Texarkana Water Utilities Executive Director to explain how he came up with the \$13,946.25.

J.D. Phillips Texarkana Water Utilities Executive Director said they reallocated from other Millwood depreciation funds to get the additional funds and \$13,946.25 was the Arkansas-side portion.

Motion to adopt the resolution made by Assistant Mayor Teeters, Seconded by Director Miner.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner and Director Peavy.

Mayor Brown declared the resolution adopted 7-0.

Assistant Mayor Teeters gave a brief statement saying since the recent publications in the Texarkana Gazette she came up with a competitive pay plan for Police and Fire several weeks ago. She said the Fire Department fully supported the plan, but the negotiations were still ongoing with the Police Department. She said the plan was on the agenda for tonight, but she wanted to pull it in good faith effort to allow the negotiations to continue. Assistant Mayor Teeters said everyone might not agree with the plan, but she would bring her plan to the Board for a straight up or down vote in the near future.

4. Ordinance No. 14-2019 granted the request for prerequisite municipal approval of a private club application for The Paragon Lounge. (Susan Trevillion) (CCD)

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)

Joshua Potter, Potter Law Firm, said everything was the same from the previous Board vote on The Paragon Lounge, they just had to switch the applicant. He said the renovations looked great and they were almost ready to open.

Mayor Brown asked if the permit had been granted yet.

Joshua Potter said no, the permit had to have the new applicant name on it. He said there was an issue with the previous applicant's address.

Director Peavy asked if the owner were still the same.

Joshua Potter said yes, the owner was still William Bullock, applicant did not mean owner.

City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin asked Joshua Potter's client to tell the Board about the Paragon Lounge.

Susan Trevillion said the Paragon Lounge was going to be a fine dining establishment, family friendly environment that would serve alcohol. She said they had restored much of the old ceilings and floors as they could, and it was going to be very beautiful.

Motion to read the ordinance the first time in abbreviated form made by Director Peavy, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner and Director Peavy.

The motion carried 7-0. 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 Miner, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Teeters.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner and Director Peavy.

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

Motion to further suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third and final reading in abbreviated form made by Assistant Mayor Teeters, Seconded by Director Miner.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner and Director Peavy.

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

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Director Miner, Seconded by Director Odom.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner and Director Peavy.

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

Motion to adopt the emergency clause made by Director Peavy, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Teeters.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner and Director Peavy.

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

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Vincent Earl Brown spoke to the Board on behalf of his 95 year old mother. He said his mother and her surrounding neighbors had been without a telephone since the 3rd week of June. Mr. Brown said he spoke with Windstream and they told him they were waiting on a part to come in or they were waiting on the Railroad to approve them to be able to work on the lines. He said he called her every day to check on her and now he had to drive over and check on her every day. Mr. Brown wanted the Board to help him get this situation resolved.

Director Peavy asked if it were a neighborhood or just a house.

Mr. Brown said it was an entire neighborhood without telephone service and it ran from Dudley Street to Oats Street then Preston Street to the railroad track.

Mayor Brown said he worked on this issue today. He said there were several businesses without the use of their phones as well. Mayor Brown said he contacted Mike Malone of the Chamber of Commerce to see what we could do about the problem. He said they were getting different scenarios as to what was going on and it was a major problem. Mayor Brown said hopefully with the legislatures, City Manager, Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce we could get the problem fixed. He said with the businesses now calling it should help the situation.

Director Harris said he spoke with a man from Southwest Arkansas Telephone Co-Op when he was running fiber optics around 9th Street. He asked him what could be done for them to replace Windstream, he said a City official would need to see how many people it would service in the area to be economically justified. Director Harris said he thought since Windstream went bankrupt, they were using the Railroad as an excuse and since the City did not have a contract, he did not feel they were going to fix the problems.

Mayor Brown said Southwest Arkansas Telephone Co-Op was a viable alternative and there were several businesses looking into them. He said Cable One was another option for a phone. Mayor Brown said his business was set up online with Windstream and they were getting a faster response with any issues and notifications. He said this was an issue he had been working with the Chamber of Commerce for over two years and it was a major utility for the citizens.

Donna Odom said it took 32 days for Windstream to change her service over to Cable One because they had her account as a Texas address instead of Arkansas address. She said she also contacted the Attorney General in Little Rock and they told her Windstream was not an Arkansas business and they had no control over it.

Mayor Brown said in March the Chamber of Commerce had a meeting of the round table with the Attorney General and the Windstream problem was on the list. He said she was aware of the problems and she was looking into a solution.

Lorenzo Paxton said when he came to the Arkansas-side to attend church and visit family there was a train on Pinehurst Street that blocks the road all the time. He said he went to the rail yard to complain and they told him to get the engine number and give it to them. Mr. Paxton said the train blocks the road for hours, and he saw a man riding a bicycle climb under the train to get around it. He asked if there were anything the Board could do to help with this problem. Mr. Paxton wondered why all the money that used to go into Hobo Jungle went to the parks on the North side. He said the basketball goal the police put up on Pinehurst Street was good but not enough, the kids needed more. Mr. Paxton said he thought the old Boys and Girls Club was too small and we needed to focus more on the kids than a new dog pound. He said we need to get off our do nothing and help the kids.

Director Harris said the train stayed on the track all day long and we need to try to do something about it. He said he called the 800 number on the train several times to complain.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, August 5, 2019

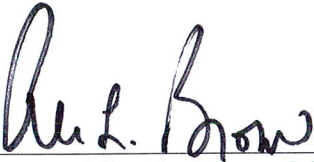
ADJOURN


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

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner and Director Peavy.

The motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

APPROVAL of the minutes on this 5th day of August, 2019.


Allen L. Brown, Mayor


Heather Soyars, City Clerk