



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, October 17, 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 5 Director Barbara Miner, and Ward 6 Director Jeff Hart.

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

ABSENT: Ward 4 Director Ulysses Brewer and City Clerk Heather Soyars.

Invocation given by Evangelist Donna Quarles, guest of Director Laney Harris.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Animal Care and Adoption Center Director Lenor Teague.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- Chris Owens, spoke about the Ingraham Pool being unsafe for the community.
- Cody Barling, 2407 Laurel Street, is the new owner of the Wild Hare, formally the Railyard Saloon. He wanted to know what the City's plan was in reference to the barricades in front of his bar.
- Dearica Gates gave a freedom of speech rap performance.

PROCLAMATION(S)

1. Proclamation declaring October 23-29, 2022, as Pro Bono Week. (ADMIN)
2. Proclamation declaring October 28, 2022, as First Responder Appreciation Day. (ADMIN)
3. Proclamation declaring November 2022, as Business Appreciation Month. (BOD) (This proclamation added at the request of Director Harris)

PRESENTATION(S)

4. Presentation of upcoming street projects. (TWU) Public Works Director Tyler Richards
5. Presentation of the 2022 General Fund Variance Report. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

CONSENT

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

6. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting October 3, 2022. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

REGULAR

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

Conduct a Public Hearing regarding the placing of liens on (37) thirty-seven overgrown lots.

Adopt a Resolution placing liens on (37) thirty-seven overgrown lots. (PWD) Shawn Maxey Building Official

After a brief discussion motion to table the resolution was made by Director Harris, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Hollibush.

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

Voting Nay: Director Miner

The motion carried 5-1 and the resolution was tabled.

8. Resolution No. 2022-63 recommended the Texarkana Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) request design plans from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) for the Stateline Avenue Corridor Plan Alternative Two. (ADMIN) City Manager E. Jay Ellington

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

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

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

9. Resolution No. 2022-64 to accept employee health benefits rate increase to the Municipal Health Benefit Fund Premium. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, and Director Miner.

Voting Nay: Assistant Mayor Hollibush and Director Hart.

The motion carried 4-2 and the Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

10. Adopt a Resolution requesting the Miller County Quorum Court to increase the County Road levy to the maximum 3.0 mills. (ADMIN) City Manager E. Jay Ellington

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

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

The motion carried 6-0 and the resolution was tabled.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY

Director Harris said National League of City's (NLC) Federal Advocacy Committees were open for any Board of Director to join until November 30, 2022. He said last Saturday there was a food truck festival at Bobby Ferguson Park. Director Harris said the City was to receive funds from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and wanted to know if some of the funds could be used at Bramble Park. He also said the Ingraham Pool needed to be fixed up again.

Assistant Mayor Hollibush said due to the upcoming election, there would be an open forum at the Church of the Living God and Christ on Thursday, located on Laurel Street, beginning at 6:00PM.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager E. Jay Ellington gave the following report:

- The new Police Chief would start on October 24, 2022.
- Miller County Judge gave him a verbal notice that the Juvenile Detention Center would close November 1, 2022.
- He said inside the entertainment district there would be a reduced speed for the scooters, and they were trying to figure out where to put the bollards if needed.
- He said work on the stage cover for the Front Street Plaza would begin in the next few weeks.
- He said discussions about the budget had been going on for several weeks and he would bring recommendations to the Board at the end of November or first of December.
- He said there were several events happening in Texarkana and he mentioned the Gotxk website to view them all.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 7, 2022

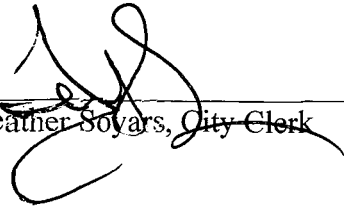
ADJOURN

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

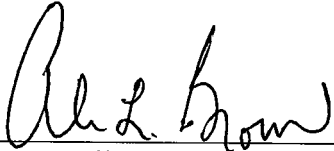
Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

APPROVED this the 7th day of November 2022.



Heather Soyars, City Clerk



Allen L. Brown, Mayor