



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, April 19, 2021 - 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 4 Director Ulysses Brewer, Ward 5 Director Barbara Miner and Ward 6 Director Jeff Hart.

ALSO, PRESENT: Interim City Manager David Haak, City Attorney George Matteson, City Clerk Heather Soyars and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given by Director Jeff Hart.

CONSENT

Director Miner made the motion to adopt the Consent agenda, Seconded by Director Hart. The motion carried and the following items were approved:

1. Approval of the minutes of the called meeting April 1, 2021, and the regular meeting April 5, 2021. (CCD)
2. Resolution No. 2021-21 - authorized the Interim City Manager to enter into a contract for the Millwood Water Treatment Plant Cleaning of Sludge Ponds Project (TWU)
3. Resolution No. 2021-22 - approved the purchase of emergency backup generators at four fire stations. (TAFD)

REGULAR

4. Consider the following action regarding a request to vacate the right-of-way in the undeveloped section of George Avenue:

Conduct a Public Hearing for comments concerning this request.

Mayor Brown opened the public hearing.

The property owner was present and announced he would answer any questions.

No one else came forward and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Ordinance No. 10-2021 - vacated the right-of-way in the undeveloped section of George Avenue (Moses) (PWD Planning)

City Planner Mary Beck gave a brief summary of the item.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by Director Hart, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

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

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

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

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Director 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, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

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

5. Consider the following action regarding a request to vacate the right-of-way in the undeveloped section of Marietta Street:

Conduct a Public Hearing for comments concerning this request.

Mayor Brown opened the public hearing.

The property owner was present and announced he would answer any questions.

No one else came forward and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Ordinance No. 11-2021 - vacated the right-of-way in the undeveloped section of Marietta Street (Walter Street Church of Christ) (PWD Planning)

City Planner Mary Beck gave a brief summary of the item.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Ordinance No. 21-2021 - waived competitive bidding and authorized the Interim City Manager to enter into a lease and incur setup, configuration, installation and training costs of case management software for the Miller County District Court, Texarkana Division. (ARC)

Chief Clerk Karen Reed said as a result of the ransomware attack, the District Court had been without case management software. The current vendor had reinstalled the system but was unable to provide direct, hands-on training to Court staff until sometime after June. The Virtual Justice program was designed specifically for Arkansas courts and was used by all other departments of the 37th District Court: Miller County, Lafayette County, Lewisville, Stamps, and Bradley. It was utilized by over 180 Arkansas courts and was fully compliant with the requirements of the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts.

Mayor Brown asked if there were a contract the City would be forfeiting.

Chief Clerk Karen Reed said the City would not be penalized because the contract was year-to-year.

City Attorney George Matteson said once the Board approved the ordinance, then they would make sure what the termination options would be.

Mayor Brown asked if it were better to lease the program instead of purchasing it.

Chief Clerk Karen Reed said yes, it was better to lease because in a couple of years the courts would use the state software.

Director Roberts said the court system desperately needed the software.

Director Brewer said it should only take training and the system to be up and running within two weeks.

Chief Clerk Karen Reed said yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Harris.

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

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

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

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

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Director 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, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director 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 adopt the emergency clause made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Brewer.

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

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

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

David Peavy, 105 Olive Street, asked when the Board of Directors were not permitted to speak to the citizens during Citizens Communication and when was it written on the agenda. He asked if an evaluation was done on the city manager who resigned.

Director Harris said on April 6, 2021, the National League of the Cities had a meeting and it was mentioned Texarkana, Arkansas, should receive \$6.9 million due to COVID-19 relief.

Director Roberts said he signed up for free online courses offered by Arkansas Municipal League. He said anyone could sign up for them and it looked like there was really good information to learn.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:36 PM.

The Board reconvened at 7:02 PM.

Director Hart made the motion for the City to spend up to \$10,000.00, in relocation expenses in anticipation of hiring a new city manager, Seconded by Director Brewer.

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

The motion carried 7-0 and the Mayor declared the motion passed.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 3, 2021

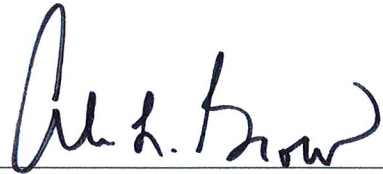
ADJOURN

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

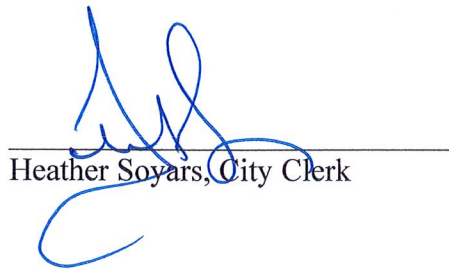
Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

APPROVED this the 3rd day of May 2021.



Allen L. Brown, Mayor



Heather Soyars, City Clerk