



**Called Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
City of Texarkana, Arkansas  
216 Walnut Street  
**Minutes - Tuesday, December 29, 2020 - 11:00 AM**

**THIS VIRTUAL MEETING WAS HOSTED BY ZOOM AND STREAMED LIVE  
ON THE CITY'S YOUTUBE PAGE.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2zU02o8zTodtzQ8IuiWL2Q>

Mayor Allen Brown called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM.

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

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

This was a special called meeting of the Board of Directors to approve a settlement.

Arkansas Municipal League Attorney Sara Monaghan said after mediation yesterday, she received the settlement offer with the following terms: the court would enter a decree which would read as follows: pursuant to settlement agreement in this case, the court decreed that Ordinance No. K-553 and Ordinance No. K-554, required all revenues collected from the .25% sales and use tax that was passed on January 9, 1996 would be used to pay salary increases for the officers of the Texarkana, Arkansas Police Department and to maintain salaries and salary increases of officers of the Texarkana, Arkansas Police Department. The second term would be that the City pay \$50,000.00 in attorney's fees and \$1,000.00 in court costs. Ms. Monaghan said City Attorney George Matteson raised two points, 1 that all claims needed to be dismissed with prejudice and 2 that the settlement included a waiver of all past collections. She said she spoke to the plaintiffs about this and said she had a standard settlement agreement that included a release of all claims that would address both of those items and would clarify the City was admitting no liability for this. She said again the plaintiffs agreed to those items being in the settlement.

Assistant Mayor Teeters asked if the Fire Department ordinances needed to be included in the settlement agreement.

Ms. Monaghan said it was not appropriate to include the Fire Department because the Fire Department ordinance had never been a part of this lawsuit. She said she recommended approval of the terms of the settlement to the Board.

Mayor Brown asked how soon the City would receive the actual settlement agreement and when would the attorney's fees have to be paid.

Ms. Monaghan said the settlement would be ready this afternoon or tomorrow and the attorney's fees would have to be paid within a reasonable amount of time.

Director Miner asked to whom the City would remit the check.

Ms. Monaghan said the check would be written to either one or both plaintiff's law firms.

Mayor Brown said he wanted to make sure this agreement would satisfy any litigation going forward with the unconstitutionality of the parity case.

Ms. Monaghan said she would make sure that was explicit in the settlement agreement and the plaintiffs agreed.

Director Harris asked when this agreement was made.

Ms. Monaghan said the plaintiff's attorneys called her last night after the mediation.

Director Peavy thanked Ms. Monaghan and John Goodson for hanging in there yesterday during the mediation. She said it had always been her intention and the Board's intention to do the best they could by our Police, our Fire and for our City.

Director Peavy made the motion to approve the settlement, Seconded by Director Brewer.

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

Voting Present: Director Harris

The motion carried 6-1 and the Mayor declared the settlement approved.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, January 4, 2020.

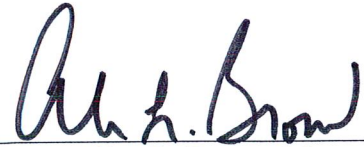
**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Assistant Mayor Teeters, Seconded by Director Miner.

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

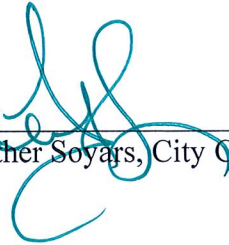
The motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.

**APPROVED** this the 4th day of January 2021.



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Allen L. Brown, Mayor



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Heather Soyars, City Clerk