



## **Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

**Minutes - Monday, March 02, 2020 - 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 Ulysses Brewer, 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.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance given by Director Terri Peavy

### **PRESENTATION(S)**

1. Presentation of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas Employee Service Awards. (CCD)

Mayor Brown presented an award and pin to Tammy Cowdrey for 20 years of service with the Texarkana Water Utilities and Angela Hogan for 25 years of service with the District Court.

Mayor Brown also acknowledged Shawn Maxey for 5 years of service with the Public Works Department and Patrick Allen for 10 years of service with the Fire Department.

### **CONSENT**

Director Harris requested the following item be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion:

5. Adopt a Resolution to accept the 2019 Audit Engagement Letter prepared by the accounting firm BKD, LLP. (FIN)

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

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

2. Approval of the minutes of the rescheduled regular meeting February 18, 2020. (CCD)
3. Resolution No. 2020-7 making staff appointments to the Personnel Policy Committee: TAPD Finance Officer Dara Cornett, Assistant Public Works Director Tracie Lee and Deputy Clerk Jenny Narens. (CCD)
4. Resolution No. 2020-8 authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a renewal agreement with the Texarkana Housing Authority for services of two (2) officers assigned

from the Texarkana, Arkansas Police Department for special patrols and enforcement operations on Housing Authority properties. (TAPD)

## **REGULAR**

5. Resolution No. 2020-9 accept the 2019 Audit Engagement Letter prepared by the accounting firm BKD, LLP. (FIN)

Director Harris said his concern was to save the taxpayers money. He said he called the Legislative in Little Rock, Arkansas, and they did the county and school district audit.

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said she had spoken with the Legislative Audit and they had a significant backlog of two to three years. She said the state audit did a cash based audit not a full accrual audit and they would not write the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Ms. Henderson said the city was required to have a (CAFR) for grant and bond issues. She said if they went with the state audit, they would still need to outsource several parts of the audit to have it completed.

Motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Peavy, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

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

Voting Nay: Director Harris.

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted 6-1.

6. Consider the following action concerning an amendment to the FY2020 Budget:

Conduct a Public Hearing to allow citizen input regarding amending the FY2020 Budget.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said both projects were budgeted last fall, and he had been trying to complete them but could not due to weather. He said the projects needed to be relocated into this year's budget. Public Works Director Tyler Richards said the Ermer Dansby Pondexter (EDP) Sports Complex Concession Stand/Bathrooms came out of Public Works Fund Balance and the Palomino Drive Drainage Improvements came from the Stormwater Reserve Fund.

After some discussion Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing.

Resolution No. 2020-10 amending the FY2020 Budget (Resolution No. 2019-45) and the Public Works Budget to include the expense for Palomino Drive Drainage Improvements and Ermer Dansby Pondexter (EDP) Sports Complex Concession Stand/Bathrooms. (PWD)

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

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

Voting Present: Director Harris.

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted 6-1.

7. Ordinance No. 2-2020 providing for the vacation and abandonment of an undeveloped right-of-way located as part of 1200 Mitchell Street, to the City of Texarkana, Arkansas; for declaring an emergency; and for other purposes. (PWD-Planning)

City Planner Mary Beck said several months ago she was contacted by Thomas Looney and he wanted to know if he could use 10 feet of an undeveloped right-of-way behind his home to build a fence. She told Mr. Looney to petition the City for abandonment of the right-of-way, but some of his neighbors on the west side did not want to participate. Ms. Beck said the neighbor on the north side, Mr. Tefteller, wanted to abandon the eastern end of the right-of-way. She said they had numerous conversations with the City Attorney to determine what they could abandon. City Planner Mary Beck said the utilities asked for a 10 foot easement on either side in case they would need to do any work. She said she did not see any future problems with this abandonment.

Motion to read the ordinance the first time in abbreviated form made by Director Harris, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Teeters.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, 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 Harris, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, 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 Director Harris, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, 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 Hollibush, Seconded by Director Harris.

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

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

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

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

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

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

- Mike Malone with the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce invited the board to a meeting on March 13, 2020, at Williams Memorial Church from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. He said the group TEX 21, would be conducting the meeting about transportation projects.

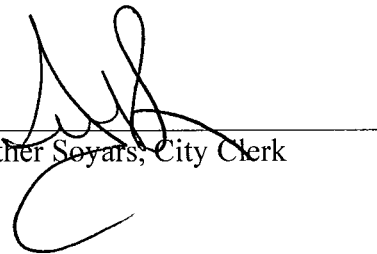
**NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 16, 2020**

**ADJOURN**

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

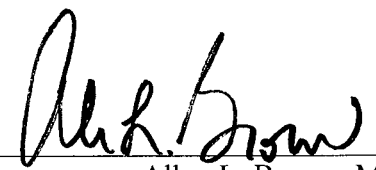
Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Miner, Director Peavy.

The motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM



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Heather Soyars, City Clerk



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Allen L. Brown, Mayor