



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

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

**Minutes - Monday, October 18, 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: City Manager E. Jay Ellington, City Attorney George Matteson, City Clerk Heather Soyars and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance given by Director Barbara Miner.

### **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

- Ruby Nelson, 11 N. Valley Drive, said the American Rescue Plan Act funding should be used to fix her street. She also said the lighting along I-30 had not been completed.
- Director Harris said he brought forth the proclamation for November as Business Appreciation Month which he started in 2010. He also acknowledged Black Restaurant Week with a proclamation, which he initiated a few years ago.

### **PROCLAMATION(S)**

Mayor Brown read and presented the following proclamations:

1. Proclamation declaring October 17-23, 2021, as Texarkana, Arkansas Black Restaurant Week. (BOD) (This item added to the agenda at the request of Director Laney Harris.)
2. Proclamation declaring October 18-23, 2021, as Chamber of Commerce Week. (Admin)
3. Proclamation declaring October 24-30, 2021, as Pro Bono Week. (Admin)
4. Proclamation declaring November 2021, as Business Appreciation Month. (BOD) (This item added to the agenda at the request of Director Harris.)
5. Proclamations given by Ward 4 Director Ulysses Brewer recognizing Greg Gallagher, Sarah Meredith and Tony Nix for their volunteerism and community service. (BOD) (This item added to the agenda at the request of Director Ulysses Brewer.)

## **PRESENTATION(S)**

6. Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) Budget Presentation given by Interim Executive Director Gary Smith and TWU Finance Director Tricia Briggs. (TWU)
7. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Presentation given by Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson. (FIN)

## **CONSENT**

Director Roberts requested item 9. Adopt a Resolution approving the Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) FY 2021-2022 Budget, be removed from Consent for discussion.

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

8. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting October 4, 2021. (CCD)

## **REGULAR**

9. Adopt a Resolution approving the Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) FY 2021-2022 Budget. (TWU) Interim Executive Director, Gary Smith and TWU Finance Director, Tricia Briggs.

Director Roberts asked this item be removed from the Consent Agenda. He said he would like more time to review the budget.

Director Roberts made the motion to table this item until the next scheduled Board meeting, November 1, 2021, Seconded by Director Hart.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against tabling this item.

No one came forward.

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

Voting Nay: Mayor Brown, Director Brewer, and Director Miner.

The motion carried 4-3 and the Mayor declared the agenda item tabled until the next meeting.

10. Resolution No. 2021-47 approved the American Rescue Plan Act Budget. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

Director Harris said he would not support this resolution as it was written.

Mayor Brown and Director Hart stated they both supported this resolution.

Assistant Mayor Hollibush made a motion to adopt the resolution, Seconded by Director Hart.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this item.

No one came forward.

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

Voting Nay: Director Harris

The motion carried 6-1 and the Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

11. Resolution No. 2021-48 approved premium pay and designated essential employees. (FIN)  
Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

Director Hart made a motion to adopt the resolution, Seconded by Director Brewer.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this item.

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 resolution adopted.

12. Resolution No. 2021-49 amended the General Fund Budget and Public Works Budget for the inclusion of a retroactive Premium Pay. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

Assistant Mayor Hollibush made a motion to adopt the resolution, Seconded by Director Brewer.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this item.

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 resolution adopted.

13. Ordinance No. 29-2021 authorized the purchase of a Simtek Modular Training Structure.  
(TAPD) Capt. James Atchley

After a brief discussion, motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by Director Brewer, 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 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 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 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 item.

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 Brewer, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this emergency clause.

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 and the Mayor declared the emergency clause adopted.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY**

- Director Roberts invited the Board and public to be a part of the Citywide Cleanup Day, Saturday October 23, 2021.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager E. Jay Ellington gave the following report:

- The City received a \$30,000 donation from Tim O'Neal to be used for the Front Street Stage cover.
- Small Business Development Group – He would speak about doing business with the City.
- He asked the Board to complete and return his performance evaluation form.
- He was working with local nonprofits on the infill housing project.
- He met with Catherine Cook, City Manager of Hope, Arkansas. He would meet with the City Manager of Arkadelphia, Arkansas next week.
- He and staff were working on the internal budget.
- He invited everyone to participate in the Citywide Cleanup Day on Saturday, October 23, 2021.
- He reminded the Board of the upcoming Economic Development Committee meeting and the Solid Waste Committee meeting on November 4, 2021.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 1, 2021**

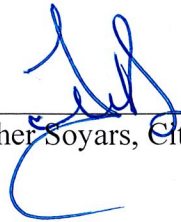
**ADJOURN**

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

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

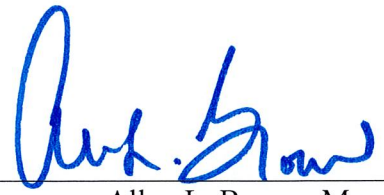
The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

**APPROVED** this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2021.



---

Heather Soyars, City Clerk



---

Allen L. Brown, Mayor