



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, March 07, 2022 - 6:00 PM

Mayor Allen Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Brown, Ward 1 Director Terry Roberts, Ward 2 Director Laney Harris, 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.

ABSENT: Assistant Mayor Ward 3 Steven Hollibush

Invocation given by Director Terry Roberts.

Pledge of Allegiance led by District Court Clerk Karen Reed.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- Phyllis Haynes, 1915 Dudley, asked if a mission statement were complete and posted yet. Ms. Haynes inquired about the million-dollar donation and what the leftover money was being spent on. She asked if the City asked dog food manufactures or a big company like Sam's, if they were willing to donate dog food. Ms. Haynes requested a special meeting just to discuss the Animal Care and Adoption Center.
- David Peavy, 105 Olive Street, said he was all for the redoing of the downtown plaza. He said the City should raise its standards and think big. It could be a great entertainment district if the City did it the right way.
- Dawn Smith, Passion for Pooches, said thank you for the ordinance that removed dogs from being chained, but now there were an abundance of roaming dogs. Ms. Smith said there needed to be more adoptions. She said the rescue groups could not absorb the number of dogs being turned away from the shelter every day. Ms. Smith said there needed to be a spay and neuter law and the City enforce it.
- Christina Tutt, Texarkana Animal Coalition Team, said she sent all the Board members an email with pictures regarding the filth, smell, and poor ventilation in the Animal Care and Adoption Center building. She said she would put together a citizen volunteer team to help correct as many of the problems they could. Ms. Tutt also said she would pay for a

consultant to come in and give suggestion not only for the animals, but for the employees that care for them.

- Susan Moore, Fix TXK, said she would like to see Texarkana, Texas, and Texarkana, Arkansas, work together to create a spay and neuter law. She said Texarkana was supposed to be “Twice as Nice” and the rescuers and fosters really needed help.
- Diane Hand, 6 Broadmoor Drive, read a statement and wanted to know why citizens who wanted to adopt could not walk through the entire shelter to look for an animal. She said the shelter would bring animals to the new building that they thought were a good fit, leaving all the other animals in the old building not seen by potential adopters.
- Elizabeth Crawford, said she was a volunteer at the Animal Care and Adoption Center and when the new director came, she was told to stay in a back room and not to speak with citizens coming in. She said her ex-husband donated a washer so they could wash the linens for the animals.
- Dannisha Willard, said the laundry room was covered in mold and rats. She said not only the humans working there but also the animals would end up having breathing issues due to the unhealthy environment.

PRESENTATION(S)

1. Proclamation declaring Tuesday, March 8, 2022, as “Les Minor Day” for recognition of his service to the community. (ADMIN)
2. Presentation of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas Employee Service Awards. (CCD)

Marian Holder	TAFD-Admin	10 Years
David Fletcher	TAFD	30 Years
Garrett Baker	TWU	5 Years
Robert Poelstra	TWU	5 Years
James Daffern	TWU	10 Years

CONSENT

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

3. Approval of the minutes of the rescheduled regular meeting February 22, 2022. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

4. Resolution No. 2022-17 authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with RBIS, LLC, for the Chelsea Street and Delaware Street 6” Water Main Project. (TWU) Interim Executive Director Gary Smith
5. Resolution No. 2022-18 reappointed City staff to the Personnel Policy Committee: TAPD Finance Officer Dara Cornett, Assistant Public Works Director Tracie Lee and Deputy Clerk Jenny Narens. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

REGULAR

6. Resolution No. 2022-19 accepted the 2021 Public Facilities Board Annual Report. (Admin) City Manager E. Jay Ellington

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

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

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

7. Resolution No. 2022-20 accepted a donation of land located at 121 Jackson Street. (Admin) City Manager E. Jay Ellington

Motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Brewer.

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

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

8. Ordinance No. 6-2022 amended Ordinance No. M-123 to amend the City’s Financial Policy. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

After a brief discussion the motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated for made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

The motion carried 6-0 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 Director Roberts.

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

The motion carried 6-0 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 Hart, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

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

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, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

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

9. Ordinance No. 7-2022 to amend Ordinance No. M-59 to update the purchasing policy for recent changes in State Statute. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

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

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

The motion carried 6-0 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 Director Hart.

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

The motion carried 6-0 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, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

The motion carried 6-0 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Director Hart, Seconded by Director Brewer.

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, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY

- Director Roberts said he spoke with several of the business owners downtown and they had great ideas for making it great downtown. He said we should set a time when the business owners could meet and tell the Board what their ideas were in making a better downtown Texarkana.

- Director Hart said it would be a great idea if the Board held a workshop to hear all the different ideas the business owners had.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager E. Jay Ellington gave the following report:

- He said Senate Bill 103 passed, and it would give each certified police officer \$5000.00.
- He said he would set up a meeting with the downtown businesses.
- He said he was working on plans to bring forward to the Board: street plan, drainage plan, and public facilities plan.
- He said an event called Pitch-It, would be held at Crossties March 31, 2022.
- Chamber was having their Annual Meeting and the State of the Union Breakfast.
- The Quorum Court was meeting tonight regarding the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). He said the City was not ready to discuss this matter yet, maybe in 2-3 weeks.
- He said he spoke with 6-8 Arkansas High School students to help plan for the future.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 21, 2022

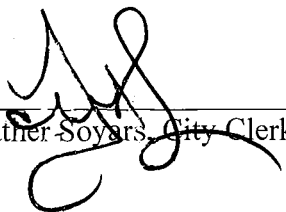
ADJOURN

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

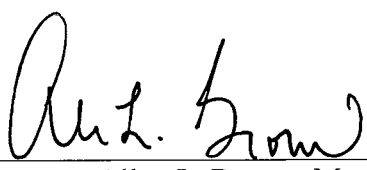
Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

APPROVED this the 21st day of March 2022.



Heather Soyars, City Clerk



Allen L. Brown, Mayor