



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, March 04, 2024 - 6:00 PM

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

PRESENT: Mayor Allen Brown, Ward 1 Director Terry Roberts, Ward 2 Director Laney Harris, Ward 3 Director Steven Hollibush, Ward 4 Director Ulysses Brewer, Ward 5 Director Danny Jewell, and Assistant Mayor Ward 6 Jeff Hart.

ALSO, PRESENT: City Manager Robert Thompson, City Attorney Joshua Potter, and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

ABSENT: City Clerk Heather Soyars.

Invocation given by Director Hollibush.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief David Fletcher.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Pete Cheatham spoke about the Ozan Inghram Iron Mountain Center. (Please see attached documents.)

PRESENTATION(S)

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

Daniel Thiels	TAFD	10 Years
Nathan Reeves	TAFD	20 Years
William Smith, Jr.	TAFD	25 Years
Kenneth Wilson	TAFD	25 Years
Mikosky Jones	TWU	5 Years
Rodney Ellis	TWU	5 Years
Amy Payne	TWU	20 Years
Roderick Howard	TWU	20 Years

CONSENT

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

2. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting February 20, 2024. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
3. Resolution No. 2024-16 amended the FY2024 Budget (Resolution No. 2023-103) and the Public Works Budget to include funding from the ARPA Fund for Old Boyd Road, Manor Way, Hastings Crossing and Draughn Street Improvements. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards
4. Resolution No. 2024-17 authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with A. L. Franks Engineering for the design of Old Boyd Road, Manor Way, Hastings Crossing and Draughn Street Improvements. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards
5. Resolution No. 2024-18 amended the FY2024 Budget (Resolution No. 2023-103) and the Public Works Budget to include funding from the Storm Water Reserve Fund for the Nix Creek Maintenance and Restoration Project. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards
6. Resolution No. 2024-19 authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with A. L. Franks Engineering for the design of Nix Creek Maintenance and Restoration Project. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

REGULAR

None

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY

Director Jewell asked what the balance was from the COVID money.

Mayor Brown said there was nothing left.

Director Harris read a statement regarding the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and read an email referencing Community Development Block Grant Public Comments Period. (See attached documents.)

Assistant Mayor Hart said on Friday, he went to Smith Blair and celebrated their 50th site location anniversary. He said this company was a true asset to our community and a great employer.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 18, 2024

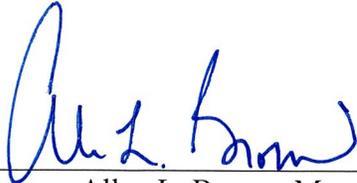
ADJOURN

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

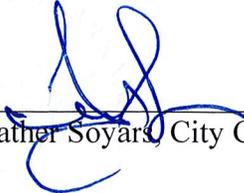
Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Jewell, and Assistant Mayor Hart.

The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

APPROVED this the 18th day of March 2024.

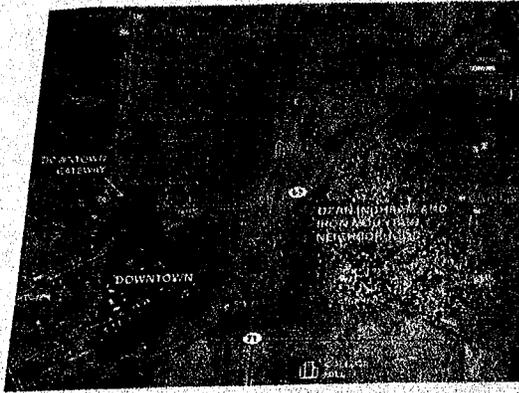


Allen L. Brown, Mayor



Heather Soyars, City Clerk

Ozan Inghram Iron Mountain Talking Points



The Ozan Inghram/Iron Mountain Neighborhoods are bordered by major goods movement corridors. This community is one of several African American communities in the area.

The statistics for the community support the concern of current resident's fear of being displaced from a community in which they have deep family and generational relationships. Ozan Inghram/Iron Mountain neighborhoods are primarily 79% African American. Speaking with one resident about the challenges in the community, she stated they are pushing us out ... "where am I to go". One resident lamented about how our educational system in the area has failed this generation of young people who he

says are not prepared for the global marketplace and the technical jobs which demand an education beyond high school. These older residents worry for their children and grandchildren and wonder if opportunities to live a full life will be archivable for them.

Speaking with residents, they are extremely concerned about the future of their community because of the increased interest in the area to locate industrial facilities due to the neighborhood's proximity to goods movement infrastructure such as interstate, rail systems and facilities. Additionally, residents are concerned about the Environmental Justice¹ concerns which impact their quality of life. These concerns are Affordable Housing, Air Quality, Water Quality, Community Safety, Education, and Economics. To prioritize these concerns, the community identified four top concerns which this document will examine in detail. These Concerns are: 1) Air Quality (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), 2) Community Safety (Noise Pollution and Flooding), and 3) Legacy Pollution (Industry and Brownfields).

Air Quality

Our research² has shown that urban areas with poorer air quality generally experience higher asthma morbidity than areas with better air quality and experience other negative health outcomes such as heart attacks.

¹ Environmental Justice is the fair application of all laws, regulations, rules, acts, decisions and funding in an equitable way to ensure communities impacted are engaged in a meaningful and authentic manner which results in elimination and/or reduction of harm. Environmental Justice has 17 principles which support communities ability to lead and speak to their concerns.

² Svendsen et al. Assessment of Particulate Matter Levels in Vulnerable Communities in North Charleston, South Carolina prior to Port Expansion. Environmental Health Insights 2014;8:5-14 doi: 10.4137/EHI.S12814.

Use of Segregation Indices, Townsend Index, and Air Toxics Data to Assess Lifetime Cancer Risk Disparities in Metropolitan Charleston, South Carolina, USA <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>

Baseline Air Quality Assessment of Goods Movement Activities before the Port of Charleston Expansion <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312876460>

Community Safety³



Sea Level Rise and the resulting flood are a concern for many communities. For Environmental Justice communities such as Ozan Inghram/Iron Mountain neighborhoods also worry about the pollution in the water which flood their communities due to the contaminated sites in and around their communities.

The Ozan Inghram/Iron Mountain neighborhoods are concerned about the legacy pollution on these brownfields and industrial areas which when they flood carry petroleum and heavy metals into their communities which exposes them to potentially harmful chemicals which can impact their health.

The residents are designing a citizen science project to document noise pollution in their neighborhoods in collaboration with nationally recognized Environmental Justice organizations such as Thriving Earth Exchange.

Legacy Pollution

The Ozan Inghram/Iron Mountain neighborhoods are surrounded by industry, brownfields, and an Interstate all impacting the quality of life of the residents. Past and current residents talk about the leaks which have occurred at industrial sites decades ago but express concern about what they have been and are exposed to now.

³ Figure 2: ClimateCheck Risk Factor

Omar Muhammad

Omar has worked as a community advocate and activist since 2007 as a volunteer for the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC). He has served as LAMC's web-site content coordinator and community engagement liaison. Currently, he serves as LAMC's Executive Director. Omar sits on the Mitigation Workgroup which advises LAMC on implementation of the Mitigation Agreement between the South Carolina State Ports Authority, Palmetto Railways and LAMC; He serves on the Charleston County Affordable Housing Taskforce; He is an advisor to the executive boards for the Union Heights Community Council, Serve With Joy, Distinguish Gentlemen Mentoring Organization, Communities For Justice, local government agencies on community engagement strategies and the Amplify Fund South Carolina; He is a research consultant for the Charleston Community Research to Action Board (CCRAB); serves on the Clean Power Plan Environmental Justice Analysis Workgroup for the State of South Carolina and the Clean Power Plan Advisory Workgroup for the State of South Carolina; Environmental Justice Hub member for SC DHEC; A founding member for the South Carolina Environmental Justice Network and founding member for the Moving Forward Network's Southeast Regional Network. Omar completed a 9 month training with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) Region IV's Environmental Justice Academy and was selected Valedictorian for the inaugural class. He is also a past participant in a joint EPA Region IV and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Leaders in Environmental Action Pilot (LEAP) inaugural class. He has successfully lead efforts to engage the LAMC communities through various outreach strategies and is responsible for the EJRADAR's (an online mapping tool) success as an engagement and empowerment tool for Environmental Justice communities. Omar has successfully funded community research initiatives to train residents on the use of the EJRADAR online mapping tool, conduct a community-based health survey to assess health service gaps at the community level, conduct a zoning analysis for Environmental Justice communities and several other Citizen Science projects. Omar has been instrumental in leveraging relationships with academics and governmental agencies to assist in the development of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA), other projects to address legacy pollution in low-wealth communities and redevelopment of underutilized properties into productive spaces such as parks and greenspace.

Omar has been instrumental in securing mitigation dollars totaling over 4 millions dollars to address quality of life concerns in low-wealth communities. Specifically, he has lead efforts to create the only Community Land Trust in the City of North Charleston, negotiated 4 million dollars in mitigation with Palmetto Railways, lead an effort to complete the very first Community Benefits Agreement for a local community and a warehouse developer. Omar has presented across the country about LAMC's mitigation and Citizen Science strategies and is highly sought after to speak at conferences, colleges and universities. Omar completed his Masters Degree in Community and Urban Planning with a policy focus at the College of Charleston in May 2021 to move the LAMC organization into becoming a community developer. Omar currently works as a planner with the City of Charleston overseeing the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission Boards. Omar's other duties includes community engagement for city planning activities, tracking and mapping city-wide commercial and residential developments and assisting the city's rural areas with planning and development priorities and concerns.

March 4, 2024

Greg Nation Section Head
Project Coordination Section
Program Management Division
Arkansas Department of Transportation
Office (501)- 569-2604

RE: The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) is seeking public input on the development of a State Rail Plan

In regards to The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) is seeking public input on the development of a State Rail Plan. The concerns I am aware of and the comments from many of the people to whom I represent and my first hand experience is that Union Pacific Rail Road block these crossing at: The DOT number of the crossings is Oats Street: 787635D, Pinehurst St: 787662A and Seibert St: 790220Y from three to five hours and sometime a weekend.

There need to be some type in indication that the crossing is being block at Pinehurst St: 787662A and Seibert St: 790220Y. This shall be at the corner of Seibert St. and Preston St. and Pinehurst St. and Preston Street.

Also as for Amtrak Rail Service my only comments about it would be Texarkana is glad to have this location as a service spot. Thank you.


Laney Harris, City Director Ward 2
Texarkana, Arkansas, 71854

(903) 244-2298

March 4, 2024
Tyler Richard, Public Work Director
Department Public Work
Texarkana, Arkansas 71854

Reference: Community Development Block Grant Public Comments Period?

In regards to my request today about when will the city will have CBDG hearing. It is also needed to be noted that it were done on March 20, 2023 at City Hall and the Rex center. Again my first response that there are two city community center that is currently open during the week, Sandflat Neighbor Center and Iron Mountain Neighbor Center and there is also Vera Bradfield Center.

Since there may be a thirty days comments period I am making the following comments.

1. Have the CDBG Public hearing in a place where you will at least guarantee some your attendees will be with someone the city is receiving the funds for. Low- to- Moderate Income (LMI) person.
2. Put 80% to 90% the money to use in the LMI neighbors.
3. The projects could be neighbors: repairing streets or roads, sidewalks, housing repaired, recreational needs, neighborhood city park, swimming pool, homebuyer down payment assistance.
4. Use more money in a area(neighbor) in order to show a impact.


Laney Harris City Director, Ward 2

CC: Robert Thompson, city manager