



Rescheduled Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas
216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, December 07, 2020 - 4:00 PM

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 4:00 PM.

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: City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin, City Attorney George Matteson, City Clerk Heather Soyars and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

Assistant Mayor Linda Teeters arrived at 4:22 PM.

Director Harris requested Item 2. Adopt a Resolution to amend the General Fund Budget for an additional contribution to the Texarkana Arkansas Public Employee Retirement System (TAPERS). (FIN) and Item 3. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Construction Contract with Contech Contractors, Inc., for the renovation of the Texarkana Rec Center. (PWD) be removed from the Consent agenda for discussion.

CONSENT

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular rescheduled meeting November 16, 2020. (CCD)

REGULAR

2. Resolution No. 2020-42 - to amend the General Fund Budget for an additional contribution to the Texarkana Arkansas Public Employee Retirement System (TAPERS). (FIN)

Director Harris asked how many employees were in TAPERS and were they civil service. He also asked how long it took to become fully vested and what was the percentage an average employee made in a month with the current system.

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said there were a total of 94 employees on the plan; 14 were active, 14 were transitioned, 33 were retirees and 33 were inactive participants. These were all non-civil service employees. She said some employees were fully vested and others were only partially vested in the plan. This was a closed plan and no new employees could enter this plan. The retirement benefit was calculated by GRS and was based upon salary and years of service.

Director Peavy said this fund would become insolvent in 2028 if the City did not put any more funds into TAPERS.

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

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

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

3. Resolution No. 2020-43 - authorized the City Manager to enter into a Construction Contract with Contech Contractors, Inc., for the renovation of the Texarkana Rec Center. (PWD)

Director Harris asked why the children were getting a renovated building and the animals were getting a new building. He said he would not vote for or against this resolution because of an alleged unauthorized meeting he held at the former Boys and Girls Club a few years ago.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said to build a similar building, it would cost \$7 million to \$8 million. He said this renovated building would look brand new and it would make the City proud.

Director Harris said he had concerns for the children's safety crossing the highway.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said a project was ongoing to have a trail go under the highway to the new Rec Center.

[Assistant Mayor Teeters arrived at the meeting at 4:22 PM.]

Motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Peavy, 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 resolution adopted.

4. Ordinance No. 15-2020 - authorized the issuance of Franchise Fee Secured Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2021; authorized a Trust Indenture; authorized the sale of the bonds and the execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement. (FIN)

Jim Fowler, Rose Law Firm said the two bonds being issued were a tax-exempt bond and a taxable series. The tax-exempt series would pay off the 2015 Bonds in April 2021 and the taxable series 2012 Bonds cannot be paid off until September 2022.

Jason Holslaw, Stephens, Inc., said he was happy to report the City would have an overall savings of \$1,237,00.00.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form 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 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 Hollibush.

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

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 Miner, 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 and the ordinance was read the third and final time in abbreviated form.

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Director Miner, 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 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 approve the emergency clause made by Assistant Mayor Teeters, Seconded by Director Peavy.

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

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

5. Resolution No. 2020-44 - to amend the FY 2020 General Fund and Public Works Department Budget and authorize hazard pay to all City of Texarkana, Arkansas employees and Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) employees due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (FIN)

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said in late September, the City was notified that it had been awarded CARES Act funding to be used on personnel expenditures incurred from March through December 2020 due to the pandemic. She recommended an across the board hazard pay of \$3,750 to all City employees and \$500 to all TWU employees.

The General Fund Budget needed to be amended to include \$713,807 for hazard pay for General Fund employees, \$129,180 to transfer to the Public Works fund, \$56,516 to agencies for hazard pay for BiState employees, to transfer \$86,120 to TWU, and to record \$985,623 in CARES Act

funds. The Public Works Budget also needed to be amended to include the \$129,180 transfer from the General Fund and corresponding expense for hazard pay.

Motion to adopt the resolution made by Assistant Mayor Teeters, 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 and the Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Mayor Brown read the attached letter submitted by Assistant Mayor Teeters regarding the Texarkana Regional Food Bank.

Director Harris said he had made several requests a few months ago to Public Works about potholes and grass cutting and nothing had been done. He also wanted to know when in-person Board meeting would be held.

City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin said City Hall was closed to the public due to the positive rates of Covid-19. The first Board meeting in January 2021 was scheduled to be held in-person.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, December 21, 2020.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Director Miner, 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 meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

APPROVED this the 21st day of December 2020.



Heather Soyars, City Clerk



Allen L. Brown, Mayor



Contact: Jennifer Teeters, Development Director
870-774-1398
903-278-9356 m
development@hrfb.org

PANTRY PACKING SHOWDOWN ON THE LINE

City v. City Competition to Help Food Bank Prep for Mobile Giveaway

Texarkana, USA, December 3, 2020 – Leaders from both sides of the state line will battle it out in an effort to help Harvest Regional Food Bank prepare for its last Mobile Pantry event of the year.

Texarkana, Texas Mayor Bob Bruggeman, Texarkana, Arkansas Mayor Allen Brown and members of each city council/board of directors will compete in a food box packing challenge **Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 4:30 at Harvest's Warehouse at 3120 E 19th Street in Texarkana, Arkansas**. Teams will have 30 minutes to pack as many pantry boxes as possible, with the winning city side earning the "Harvest Hunger Hero Packing Champions" title.

"We are grateful to both Texarkana mayors and city leadership for coming together for a little good-natured competition, all in the name of hunger relief," says Executive Director Camille Wrinkle. "It's important to remember, especially this time of year, that hunger doesn't take a holiday. The need in 2020 has been constant."

Harvest Regional Food Bank has had a record-setting year in response to the COVID-19 crisis, distributing five million pounds of food in 2020 – a 55% increase over this time last year. Harvest works to eliminate hunger in Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas through its Food Banking, Food Rescue, School Backpack and Mobile Pantry programs.

###



PO Box 707 Texarkana, TX 75504
3120 E 19th St Texarkana, AR 71854
(870)774-1398
f (870)774-1905
www.hrfb.org