



## Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

**Minutes - Monday, July 18, 2022 - 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, and City Clerk Heather Soyars.

ABSENT: Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

Invocation given by Assistant Mayor Hollibush.

Pledge of Allegiance led by District Court Clerk Karen Reed.

### **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

- Director Harris read a letter to the editor he wrote on August 28, 2020, regarding the Police Chief selection process for Texarkana, Arkansas. (see attached)
- Director Miner said a citizen had contacted her multiple times regarding 8 or 9 cars parked at a residence and asked for the City's help to resolve this issue.

### **CONSENT**

Director Harris requested agenda item 4. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for engineering services with Spears Engineering Company (SPEARS), for Rolling Ridge Drive, Dudley Avenue, and Woodland Road street rehabilitation projects. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards, be removed from Consent for discussion.

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the rescheduled regular meeting July 5, 2022. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
2. Resolution No. 2022-40 approved the reimbursement of \$14,000 to the Texarkana Regional Airport from American Rescue Act Funds. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson
3. Resolution No. 2022-41 authorized the City Manager to purchase one (1) John Deere 644 P Wheel Loader. (TWU) Executive Director Gary Smith

5. Resolution No. 2022-42 authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Bank OZK for investment management services of the Texarkana, Arkansas, Public Employee Retirement Systems (TAPERS) Retirement Plan. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

## **REGULAR**

4. Resolution No. 2022-43 authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement for engineering services with Spears Engineering Company (SPEARS), for Rolling Ridge Drive, Dudley Avenue, and Woodland Road street rehabilitation projects. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

Director Harris asked if there would be a contingency on this project for sidewalks on Dudley.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said a contingency was in place, but due to inflation costs, the sidewalks may not be part of the project.

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

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

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.

6. Ordinance No. 21-2022 granted a Limited Franchise to Bird Rides, Inc., for the non-exclusive right and privilege to operate a Stand-up Electric Scooter Sharing Program. (ADMIN) City Manager E. Jay Ellington (**SECOND READING**)

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its second reading in abbreviated form made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

Voting Nay: Director Miner.

The motion carried 6-1 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, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Hart.

Voting Nay: Director Miner

The motion carried 6-1 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Brewer, and Director Hart.

Voting Nay: Director Miner.

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

7. **TABLED INDEFINITELY** - Adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 26, Article II, Sections 26-28 and 26-29, of the *City of Texarkana, Arkansas, Code of Ordinances* to provide for revisions to water and sewer rates. (TWU) Executive Director Gary Smith \*Introduced on July 5, 2022, motion for first reading failed due to lack of second\*.

Mayor Brown said this was not the same ordinance introduced on July 5, 2022. He suggested tabling this ordinance and bringing forward the amended ordinance as a new ordinance at the next scheduled Board of Directors' meeting.

After a brief discussion, Director Harris made the motion to table this ordinance indefinitely, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Hollibush.

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, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

The motion carried 7-0 and the Mayor declared the ordinance tabled indefinitely.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY**

- Director Harris said he received a memorandum of action from the City Manager regarding a complaint made against him by a Police Officer. He asked if the City Manager could do this because he was the City Manager's boss. He also said the City Manager's evaluation was coming up.  
Mayor Brown said actions of code of conduct lies with the Board of Directors.
- Director Hart commended TWU Executive Director Gary Smith and his staff for the work being done in his ward.
- Director Roberts echoed Director Harts statement.
- Director Roberts and Director Brewer also praised Public Works Director Tyler Richards and his street crew.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager E. Jay Ellington gave the following report:

- The Animal Care and Adoption Center (ACAC) advisory group drafted a spay/neuter ordinance that would be presented to the Board in August or September.
- He discussed options with the parties involved with 911 and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP).

- The City was in stand-by mode while the County made a tough decision regarding the Juvenile Detention Center.
- The Public Works Department had accomplished a great deal this summer with the streets.
- Applications for Police Chief would be accepted until the end of July.
- He would be out of the office July 22, 2022, through August 2, 2022.
- Director Roberts said the Miller County Quorum Court votes on millage in November. He suggested passing a resolution encouraging the Quorum court to raise the millage.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, August 1, 2022**


**ADJOURN**

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

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

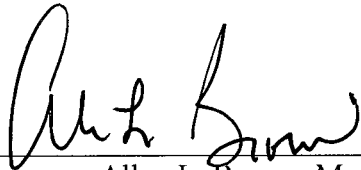
The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

**APPROVED** this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 2022.



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Heather Soyars, City Clerk



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Allen L. Brown, Mayor

L Harris <laneyharris.ward2@yahoo.com>  
To:Christy Busby  
Fri, Aug 28, 2020 at 11:16 AM

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

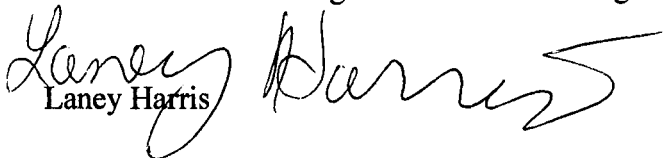
### POLICE CHIEF SELECTION PROCESS FOR TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS

At once time when there was an open for the position of Texarkana Texas Police Chief. There were conversation for one police chief for both cities and were going to be called a Police Commission. However this is not where this letter is headed. My thought are knowing that the City of Texarkana, Arkansas has a city manager form of government meaning that the city council selected the city manager then he select the department head such as the Public Work Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief. Then the city council members may as the Roman Coliseum spectators give a thumb up or thumb down. However not so quick at this moment in time.

The average time serviced for a Texarkana, Arkansas Police Chief has been about twenty years. The next police chief, with his/her social policy or psychology of management will by no means will have far reaching effects for decades to come. With the civil unrest from Floyd <sup>George Floyd</sup> Georges to the Kenosha, Wisconsin shooting no citizens or community leaders shall be just an arena spectator on this issue and only to take a thumb up or thumb down approach. There will be the needs of the strong community involvement from the beginning to the end even know the emperor city manager has been given the last word on this issues.

The committee of recommendation shall be no more than seven persons; either the ward represented themselves or his/her choice from the three wards with the highest police areas. In the more police/patrol areas and I did states more police areas, if you are saying you patrols an area more due to more crime per say but not always necessary true. One member from the civil service commission, mayor and two members at large. Each shall be given 187 pages SELECTING A POLICE CHIEF: A HANDBOOK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT or the link provided <https://icma.org/documents/selecting-police-chief-handbook-local-government> , prior to their first meeting. With there being no disguised by a masked helmet or any other means for the next police chief process.

With the stake holders having a vested interest in a selection process sitting at the table with the objective for next police chief leadership will be seeking to build trust and setting policy that will have a long lasting positive affect for all community members. And the final outcome of an exceptional police chief that will introduce changes that will enhance all the citizen quality of life and make their neighborhoods safer thought out Texarkana, Arkansas.

  
Laney Harris