



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, March 21, 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 3 Assistant Mayor 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 given by Reverend Warren Smith Jr. of Mt Zion Missionary Baptist Church, guest of Director Laney Harris.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Finance Controller Shena Washington.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

David Ford said he was concerned about the lack of animal control in the City. He said according to City Code the Police Department was responsible for animal control calls after regular business hours. He also said the Code stated all pets within the City limits must be licensed and wear a City tag.

PRESENTATION(S)

1. Presentation of the City's Comprehensive Plan given by City Manager E. Jay Ellington. (Admin) (Memo attached.)
2. Animal Care and Adoption Center update. (ACAC) Director Lenor Teague.

ACAC Director Lenor Teague gave a PowerPoint presentation about the progress of the new facility.

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 regular meeting March 7, 2022. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
4. Resolution No. 2022-21 authorized the purchase of 54 sets (coats and pants) of structural firefighting gear for the Texarkana, Arkansas Fire Department. (TAFD) Fire Chief David Fletcher

REGULAR

5. Consider the following action concerning substandard structures:

Conduct a Public Hearing regarding the condemnation of 13 substandard structures.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing.

Building Official Shawn Maxey gave a PowerPoint presentation of the substandard structures to be condemned.

Director Harris asked what funds would be used for demolition.

Building Official Shawn Maxey said Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds would be used.

Director Harris said the City needed more housing programs.

Mayor Brown said the City had increased the demolition budget. He asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this item.

No one came forward.

Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing

Resolution No. 2022-22 condemned 13 substandard structures. (PWD) Building Official Shawn Maxey

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

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. Resolution No. 2022-23 adopted a Joint Resolution of the Board of Directors of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas, and the City Council of the City of Texarkana, Texas, reaffirming the express approval of the Board of Directors under the 1985 Millwood Contract for cities and customers served by Texarkana, Texas, to also receive treated water from Millwood Reservoir; reaffirming that title to all supplied water purchased by Texarkana, Texas, from Texarkana, Arkansas, under the 1985 Millwood Contract, passed to Texarkana, Texas, at the point of delivery; resolving all matters under the

1985 Millwood Contract ordered to arbitration; and establishing an effective date.
(ADMIN) City Manager E. Jay Ellington

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

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.

7. Ordinance No. 8-2022 amended and updated Sec. 2-133 of the *City of Texarkana, Arkansas Code of Ordinances* as related to the Public Facilities Board. (Admin) City Manager E. Jay Ellington

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, 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 Brewer, 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 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, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

The motion carried 7-0 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Director Roberts, 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, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

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

8. Ordinance No. 9-2022 authorized the City Manager to purchase a three-year Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement for licenses used by all departments of Texarkana Water Utilities. (TWU) IT Manager Brandon Uselton

After a brief discussion the motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by Assistant Mayor Hollibush, 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 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 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 Assistant Mayor Hollibush, 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 third 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 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 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 enact the emergency clause made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Harris.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the 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 7-0 and the Mayor declared the emergency clause enacted.

9. Ordinance No. 10-2022 amended the Personnel Policy. (FIN) Finance Controller Shena Washington

Director Harris asked why the Police Department's specialized positions would receive additional pay.

Finance Controller Shena Washington said the specialized positions required additional training.

Director Roberts said he would like for City employees to have their birthday off and asked the best way to do it. He presented the following: "Each employee would be granted 8 hours of leave for their birthday to be taken during the month of their birthday. Prior approval of the department head/supervisor was required. Any hours not taken during the month would be lost and cannot be accrued or carried over."

Mayor Brown said he would not be comfortable approving an amended ordinance to include birthdays tonight. He said this would affect the budget and he would like more information before making a decision.

City Attorney George Matteson said to make the process cleaner, it would be best to adopt the ordinance as presented and bring forth a new ordinance to include employee birthdays at a future meeting.

Director Roberts asked the City Manager if an ordinance to grant 8 hours birthday leave for City employees could be on the next agenda.

City Manager E. Jay Ellington said yes.

Assistant Mayor Hollibush made the motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form, 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 Miner, 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 Hart, 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 time in abbreviated form.

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

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 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 enact the emergency clause made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Director Brewer.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the 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 7-0 and the Mayor declared the emergency clause enacted.

Mayor Brown said he would like to have the Board of Directors' Commentary and the City Manager Report before clearing the Boardroom for the Executive Session.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY

Director Harris said he received noise complaints about Tri State Metal working up to 11:00 PM. He also asked how the City would be able to identify houses with lead pipes.

Texarkana Water Utilities Interim Executive Director Gary Smith said TWU was working on identifying all the lead pipes in the City. The deadline had been extended but it would be an extensive and expensive process.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager E. Jay Ellington gave the following report:

- The Solid Waste Committee would meet March 24, 2022 at 4:00PM at City Hall.
- The Animal Care and Adoption Center would host a public forum on March 31, 2022.
- Waiting for an update concerning redistricting.
- The Comprehensive Plan Visual Meeting would be at the Rec Center on April 28, 2022.
- The draft for the Juvenile Detention Center Interlocal Agreement was sent to Miller County Judge Harrison.

- He would be attending the Arkansas Municipal League Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, this weekend.
- Leadership Texarkana's What's to Love featured the Rec Center.
- He would follow-up with Tri-State Metal about the noise complaint.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors entered Executive Session at 7:13 PM.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7:28 PM and the following action was taken:

10. Resolution No. 2022-24 appointed James Mike Jones to the Planning Commission.
(CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

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

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.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 4, 2022

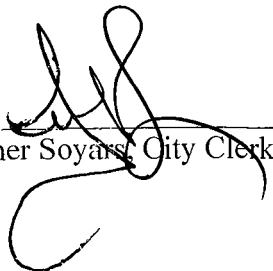
ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Seconded by Director Harris.

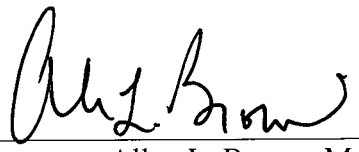
Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Assistant Mayor Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Miner, and Director Hart.

The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

APPROVED this the 4th day of April 2022.



Heather Soyars, City Clerk



Allen L. Brown, Mayor



MEMO

Date: March 21, 2022

To: Mr. Jay Ellington, City Manager
Ms. Mary Beck, City Planner

From: Juliet Richey, Urban Planning Leader - Garver

Re: Texarkana, AR Comprehensive Plan Update

The Comprehensive Plan is on schedule according to project timeline. The Garver Team is very excited about the upcoming Visioning and Public Input Meeting on April 28, 2022. Below is a summary of completed and in-progress tasks:

- **Project Kick-Off Meetings and Workshops** – Completed
- **2040 Comprehensive Plan Logo** – Completed
- **Digital Communications Plan:**
 - **Plan Website** – In Progress and live by the beginning of April
 - **Public Survey** – In Progress and live by mid-April
 - **Assist City Manager as needed with Arkansas High Student Involvement** – In Progress (provision of assistance to City Manager with any draft survey questions, written materials, maps or other needed items)
- **Existing Conditions Analysis**
 - Review of Previous Plans and Reports – In Progress
 - Existing Conditions Data and Analysis – In Progress
 - Demographic Assessment, Demographic Comparisons (with other cities and Metro Areas), and Population Change -In Progress to be completed by early April
 - Onsite Visits
 - February 1 & 2, 2022 – Completed
 - March 24 & 25 – Upcoming
- **Pre-Visioning Meeting Survey – In Progress**
 - Survey is Live
 - City Staff will provide the survey link to Steering/Advisory Committee Members, Planning Commissioners, and Board of Director. Survey to completed by April 15, 2022.
- **Preparation for Upcoming Visioning Meeting: April 28th, 2022 (Rec Center)** – In Progress
 - Visioning Meeting
 - Visioning Process: Public and Steering Committee Meeting
 - Interactive Displays and Interactive Public Input Opportunities
 - Presentation of Demographics
- **Key Person Interviews and Stakeholder Group Meetings** – Upcoming, April 2022
- **Monthly Meetings with City Staff** – Ongoing
- **Bi-Weekly Meeting with City Planner** – Ongoing

It is a pleasure to work with you on this project, and I look forward to seeing you later this week. Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

