



## **Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

**Minutes - Monday, August 21, 2023 - 6:00 PM**

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

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

ALSO, PRESENT: Acting City Manager/Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson, City Attorney Joshua Potter, City Clerk Heather Soyars, and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

ABSENT: Ward 4 Director Ulysses Brewer

Invocation given by Director Hollibush.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Bi-State Building Manager Kristine Barron.

### **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Amanda Moore, 4806 Markwood Drive, voiced her concerns regarding the Water Park.

Mary McQueen, 708 Pinehurst Street, spoke about the overgrowth of trees and the dogs roaming near her house.

Billy Willis, 1020 Orleans Street, wanted to know why there was no improvement to Nix Creek in Ward 2, and asked about getting sidewalks and the streets cleaned up in his ward.

### **CONSENT**

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the special called meeting August 7, 2023, and the regular meeting August 7, 2023. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
2. Resolution No. 2023-70 to reschedule Board of Directors meetings in 2024 that conflict with certain holidays. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

### **REGULAR**

3. Consider the following action concerning the clean-up of five (5) nuisance properties:

Conduct a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding certification of certain delinquent taxes.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards gave a brief description of the properties.

Director Harris asked when a citizen went to pay taxes, would they have to pay the lien before paying taxes.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said yes.

No one else came forward.

Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing.

Resolution No. 2023-71 certified the amount to be put on the tax books as delinquent and collect accordingly. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

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

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

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

4. Consider the following action concerning substandard structures:

Conduct a Public Hearing regarding the demolition of two (2) substandard structures.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards gave a brief description of the structures.

Director Harris said he was approached by a citizen who remodeled the house across the street from these house and wanted to know how much time he had to obtain the two houses.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said once the resolution was passed, he would send out another letter stating the property owner had thirty (30) days to purchase either a building or demolition permit. He said if no permit had been issued then he would start to take bids for a demolition crew to tear the houses down. Public Works Director Tyler Richards said he would work with any person who wanted to rebuild the houses instead of tearing them down. He said if someone received a permit for the house, they had thirty (30) days to start work, or he would move forward with the demolition.

No one else came forward.

Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing.

Resolution No. 2023-72 condemned two (2) substandard structures for demolition. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

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

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

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

5. Resolution No. 2023-73 authorized the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department to apply for an Outdoor Recreation Matching Grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism in the amount of \$250,000.00 to construct an all-inclusive playground at the Texarkana Arkansas Recreation Center. (PARKS) Parks and Recreation Director Adam Dalby.

Pete Cheatham asked what ward the grant funding would be used in and why no fundings were being used for parks in his ward.

Parks and Recreation Director Adam Dalby said the grant funds would be used for a playground at the Rec Center in Ward 2.

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

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

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

6. Resolution No. 2023-74 authorized the Acting City Manager to enter into a contract to purchase Union Elementary School as additional space for the Texarkana, Arkansas Police Department. (TAPD) Police Chief Michael Kramm

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

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

The motion carried 5-1 and the Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

7. Ordinance No. 29-2023 authorized Central Records & Communication (CRC) to provide record entry and limited record maintenance for small Texas Police Departments for a fee. (CRC) CRC Manager Wendy Herring

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Jewell, 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 Hart, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Roberts.

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

The motion carried 5-1 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 Hollibush, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Roberts.

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

The motion carried 5-1 and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

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

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

No one came forward.

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

The motion carried 5-1 and the Mayor declared the ordinance adopted.

*The applicant requests an emergency clause. 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. (Hdbk. Const. Amend 7)*

Motion to enact the emergency clause made by Director Hart, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Roberts.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the emergency clause.

No one came forward.

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

The motion carried 5-1 and the Mayor declared the emergency clause enacted.

8. Ordinance No. 30-2023 authorized the Acting City Manager to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for three (3) Toyota Tacoma trucks for the Texarkana, Arkansas Police Department. (TAPD) Assistant Police Chief Bobby Jordan



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

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Jewell, 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 Hollibush, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

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

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

No one came forward.

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

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

*The applicant requests an emergency clause. 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. (Hdbk. Const. Amend 7)*

Motion to enact the emergency clause made by Director Hart, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Roberts.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the emergency clause.

No one came forward.

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

The motion carried 6-0 and the Mayor declared the emergency clause enacted.

9. Ordinance No. 31-2023 authorized the Acting City Manager to enter into a Construction Contract with Hightech Signs the Front Street Stage Sign. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Jewell, 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 Assistant Mayor Roberts, Seconded by Director Hart.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Jewell, 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 Assistant Mayor Roberts, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

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

No one came forward.

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

Voting Nay: Director Harris

The motion carried 5-1 and the Mayor declared the ordinance adopted.

*The applicant requests an emergency clause. 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. (Hdbk. Const. Amend 7)*

Motion to enact the emergency clause made by Director Hart, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Roberts.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the emergency clause.

No one came forward.

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

Voting Nay: Director Harris

The motion carried 5-1 and the Mayor declared the emergency clause enacted.

10. **TABLED** - Ordinance to amend the *City of Texarkana, Arkansas, Code of Ordinances* to include an alcohol beverage permit for hotels/motels and restaurants. (FIN) Acting City Manager/Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

After a brief discussion, the motion to table the ordinance made by Director Hart, Seconded by Director Jewell.

Voting Yay: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Roberts, Director Jewell, and Director Hart.

Voting Nay: Director Harris and Director Hollibush.

The motion carried 4-2 and the Mayor declared the ordinance tabled.

11. Ordinance No. 32-2023 authorized the Acting City Manager to accept the amendment of the City's 401(a) retirement plans with Mission Square (formerly ICMA) for noncivil service employees. (FIN) Acting City Manager/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 Hart, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Jewell, 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 Assistant Mayor Roberts, Seconded by Director Hart.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Jewell, 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 Hollibush, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

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

No one came forward.

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

Voting Nay: Director Harris

The motion carried 5-1 and the Mayor declared the ordinance adopted.

12. Resolution No. 2023-75 authorized the Acting City Manager to enter into contracts with Crossties and Big Ass Touring, Inc., regarding the performance of Priscilla Block at the Front Street Festival Plaza. (ADMIN) Acting City Manager/Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

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

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

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

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY**

No one came forward.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board of Directors stated they did not need to go into executive session to discuss this item.

13. Resolution No. 2023-76 appointed Randy Henry to the Historic District (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

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

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

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

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 2023**

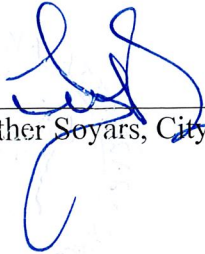
### **ADJOURN**

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

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

The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

**APPROVED** this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

  
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Heather Soyars, City Clerk  
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Allen L. Brown, Mayor