



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

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

**Minutes - Monday, December 20, 2021 - 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, City Clerk Heather Soyars and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance given by Assistant Mayor Hollibush.

### **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Bernice Dinkins, 244 Eastside Drive, thanked the City Manager, Public Works Director, and the Board for returning her calls about Nix Creek and the overgrown property owned by the railroad.

### **PRESENTATION(S)**

1. Presentation of the FY2022 Budget. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson  
Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson gave a brief presentation of the FY2022 Budget.

### **CONSENT**

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

2. The minutes of the rescheduled regular meeting December 7, 2021. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
3. Resolution No. 2021-63 authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract for the Arkansas Boulevard and Pinson Drive Twelve-Inch Sewer Main Relocation. (TWU) Interim Executive Director Gary Smith

### **REGULAR**

4. Resolution No. 2021-64 authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Garver, LLC., for a Comprehensive Plan for the City of Texarkana, Arkansas. (ADMIN) City Manager E. Jay Ellington

City Manager E. Jay Ellington said the City's last Comprehensive Plan was in 1988, and a current plan was needed.

Juliet Richey, Garver, LLC., said the process would take 12 to 18 months to complete and she would need the Board of Directors' and the general public's input for the best use for the community.

Mayor Brown said this plan would be pro-development.

Director Harris made the motion to adopt the resolution, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

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.

5. Resolution No. 2021-65 approved the FY2022 Budget. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson gave a brief statement of the FY2020 Budget.

Mayor Brown said this was a very proactive budget.

Director Harris said he did not see too much money from the upcoming budget being spent on Ward 2, other than the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

[Assistant Mayor Hollibush left the Boardroom at 6:37 PM and returned to the Boardroom at 6:40 PM.]

Director Miner said she did not like that Director Harris felt his ward was not represented in the Budget. She said she thought her ward and Director Harris' ward received the most money from the City and asked for a list of how much money was spent in each ward.

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

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

No one came forward.

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

Voting Nay: Director Harris.

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

6. Ordinance No. 37-2021 amended and provided for certain new and amended fee for certain services and public facility use. (FIN) Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson explained the new and amended fees for certain services and public facility use.

Director Harris said he felt like the fees were sky high and the average person would not be able to use the facility.

Mayor Brown said the programs and the events the City would host would be at no charge, the fees were for the individuals that wanted to use the facility.

Assistant Mayor Hollibush made the motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form, Seconded by Director Brewer.

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

Director Harris voted 'Present'.

The motion carried 6-1 and the ordinance was read the first time in its entirety.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its second reading made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

Director Harris voted 'Present'.

The motion carried 6-1 and Assistant Mayor Hollibush made the motion to have the ordinance read in abbreviated form, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

Director Harris voted 'Present'.

The motion to read the ordinance in abbreviated form failed and the ordinance was read the second time in its entirety.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third and final reading made by Director Brewer, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

Director Harris voted 'Present'.

The motion carried 6-1 and the ordinance was read the third and final time in its entirety.

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

Director Harris voted 'Present'.

The motion carried 6-1 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 Hart.

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

Director Harris voted 'Present'.

The motion carried 6-1 and the Mayor declared the emergency clause enacted.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager E. Jay Ellington gave the following report:

- He wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas.
- He thanked everyone for a good 2021.
- He thanked the Board and staff for their work and support with the FY2022 Budget.
- He said there would be a workshop on January 4, 2022, to discuss the fees for Miller County jail services.
- He said there was roadwork being done on Jefferson Avenue, 50% of the Nix Creek cleanup and stabilization was completed, and the lights on I-30 would be installed in January.
- He looked forward to beginning the Comprehensive Plan process.
- He said grand openings would be scheduled in the Spring for the Rec Center and the Animal Care and Adoption Center.
- He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

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

Director Harris asked what prisoners were being held at Miller County and if there were any in BiState.

Police Chief Kristi Bennett said Miller County held the adult misdemeanor and felony prisoners. She said once the felony prisoner had been filed, they became Miller County's responsibility.

Director Hart said he was thankful E. Jay Ellington became the City Manager. He thanked the City staff and Texarkana Water Utilities staff for an outstanding job.

Directors Brewer and Roberts agreed.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 4, 2022**

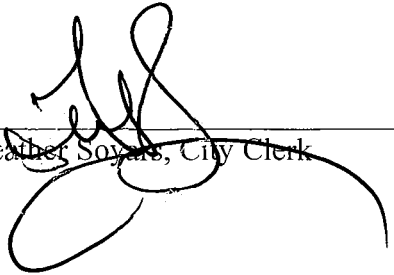
### **ADJOURN**

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.

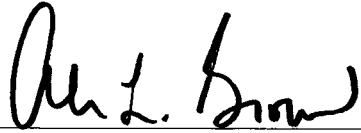
The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

**APPROVED** this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.



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Heather Soyars, City Clerk



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Allen L. Brown, Mayor