



Rescheduled Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas
216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, December 21, 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/UC2zU02o8zT0dtzQ8IuiWL2Q>

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.

[Director Miner arrived at 4:45 PM.]

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin, City Clerk Heather Soyars and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

ABSENT: City Attorney George Matteson.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Brown announced a plaque would be given to Assistant Mayor Ward 1 Linda Teeters and Ward 6 Director Terri Peavy for their years of service January 2017 – December 2020 with the City of Texarkana, Arkansas Board of Directors.

Assistant Mayor Teeters said it had been a wonderful four years and it had been an honor to serve with the Board of Directors.

Director Peavy said she felt like what had been accomplished in the last four years would affect the City for future growth.

Chris Brown, ARK-TEX Council of Governments presented a plaque to Director Terri Peavy for her years of service on the Texarkana Urban Transit District (T-Line) Board.

CONSENT

Director Harris requested Item 2. Adopt a Resolution appointing Eric A. Marks to serve and fulfill the duties of City Prosecutor. (BOD), be removed from the Consent agenda for discussion.

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular rescheduled meeting December 7, 2020. (CCD)

REGULAR

2. Resolution No. 2020-45 appointed Eric A. Marks to serve and fulfill the duties of City Prosecutor. (BOD)

Director Harris said he hoped Mr. Marks had been able to sit in with our court systems and he hoped he would be fair and not righteous.

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

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

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

3. TABLED - Resolution approving the Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) FY 2020-2021 Budget. (TWU) Executive Director JD Phillips and TWU Finance Director Jim Cornelius

TWU Finance Director Jim Cornelius gave a brief summary of the FY 2020-2021 Budget.

Director Brewer asked when the last rate increase happened.

Executive Director JD Phillips said the last overall rate increase was in April 2009.

Director Peavy said she did not mind passing the budget but did not feel comfortable voting on an increase when there would be two new board members next month. She thought the new board members should be included in the vote.

Assistant Mayor Teeters said she agreed and would vote on the budget, but she did not want to pass on an extra fee to the citizens when she would not be in office to answer for it. She asked if TWU could wait for two weeks to pass a vote on the budget that way the new board members would be there.

Executive Director JD Phillips said he did not think waiting two weeks would hurt anything. He said the Texas-side was having a rate study done and the Arkansas-side could do the same thing.

Motion to table the resolution made by Director Harris, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

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

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

4. Ordinance No. 16-2020 for the purchase of Social Sentinel social media monitoring software for the School Violence Grant. (TAPD) Interim Chief Kristi Bennett and Lt. Scott Megason

[Director Miner arrived at 4:45 PM]

Assistant Mayor Teeters asked if this were in conjunction with the program already established with the schools.

Interim Chief Kristi Bennett said this grant was completely different. She said it would be used to monitor accounts on social media to help prevent school violence.

Director Brewer asked if this were another form of bullying prevention.

Lt. Scott Megason said yes, this grant was to stop school violence.

Assistant Mayor Teeters asked if a person were on the school's Wi-Fi, would it automatically let the police know of the threat.

Sgt. Rick Cockrell said Social Sentinel was its own entity and the school would set up their own account. He said the school would work with the Police Department if there were a threat detected.

Director Hollibush asked if the software worked with SnapChat.

Sgt. Rick Cockrell said not at this time.

Director Peavy asked how this tool could help with school.

Interim Chief Kristi Bennett said it was another tool to help stop the school violence especially with the help and support of the school district.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form 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 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 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 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 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 Brewer, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Teeters.

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.

Director Hollibush questioned the reason for the emergency clause.

Lt. Megason said the emergency clause was needed because the bid would expire December 31, 2020.

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.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Director Harris read the attached statement.

Assistant Mayor Teeters said she wanted to thank everyone who helped stuff the boxes for the Harvest Food Bank.

Director Brewer said it had been a pleasure working with both Assistant Mayor Teeters and Director Peavy.

Director Miner said Assistant Mayor Teeters and Director Peavy added an immense amount of knowledge to the Board and it was great to work with them both.

Mayor Brown said we were on target for in person meetings for January 2021. He wanted to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, January 4, 2021

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn 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. The meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM.

APPROVED this the 4th day of January, 2021.



Allen L. Brown, Mayor



Heather Soyars, City Clerk

December 21, 2020

My last statement of this term 2016-2020

I never knew that a person had to leave the U.S. and the Arkansas Constitution at the door of the City board room with selected enforce policy. No this not about self indulge or self pitied but with the deck stake against me from the last four years in every which way a person could not even imagine. My so called short coming of not attending a work shop were express publicly every chance the opportunity arose. I know there will not be any word spoken that this will be my 474 regular meeting out of 476 meeting not including the one cancel for COVID-19. One point that has not been made I have notice that no one has stated that is not a paid position. When you is single out for punishment base on a groundless policy that you did not have the authority to take, while I will try to explain it in the simple term.

A police stop and give you a traffic ticket, it base on his law due to he can not point out his grounds for writing a ticket because there was no law within his power other than to punish you but the governing body put the law on the book about nine months later understanding you were ticket (punish) nine month before the law was enacted. Bill of Attainder Ex Post Facto Laws

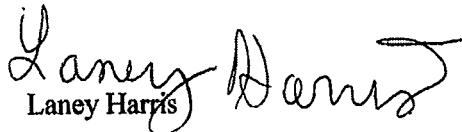
Spirit of Oppression has been greatly and widely use with your actions by using your unjust power to states that only your though & idea will only become before the governing body and you is always right and to punish another board member in order to put him in his place.

With the news media were highly engage with "slanted opinion" when is about Laney Harris than the complete facts and that is well expected on them.

My past four years as a member of the Texarkana Arkansas Board of City Director I wished that I could of start off by thanking our city manager. But the more I think about it I can say thank you in helping me go to social media such as Facebook & Tweeter due to you having city counselor meeting edit out citizen communication time part of the city meeting televise on KLF1-35. I don't have the time to state all the detrimental policies that has been enacted by under your administration in my last four year.

I can not give you the date when city enacted a dress code but I do find it strange when another member tried to tell you what you can or can't wear even though I had wore a suit at every regular meeting but I find it strange when I make a the local news for wearing a hat yes I said a hat.

As a member of this governing body my main objected has been to promotion and enhance the quality of life for all citizen and would like to thank the citizen of ward 2 for giving me the chance for the next four year if it God will, I will continue to show that I am attending the board meeting on behalf of the residents of Ward 2. To put them first in all my decision before the board and continue to fight for Ward 2 to get it fair share of city service. To continue to voice the issues and concerns of my ward and to promote the concept of fairness, accountability and equality on how the City deals with the needs of Ward 2 residents. Thank You & God Bless.


Laney Harris