



## Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

**Minutes - Monday, August 07, 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 4 Director Ulysses Brewer, 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.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance given by Assistant Mayor Terry Roberts.

### **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Roberts Fellers, 6 Shady Pine Circle, spoke about the unattractive fiber optic boxes Windstream put in the front yards of their neighborhood.

Ruth Penny Bell, 2700 Forest Avenue, wanted the City to do something about properties overran with vehicles and junk.

### **PRESENTATION(S)**

1. Presentation of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas Employee Service Awards. (ADMIN)

James Shuman, Jr.	TWU	15 Years
Gary Smith	TWU	20 Years

2. Presentation of the FY2024 Airport Budget. (AIRPORT) Airport Director Paul Mehrlich

### **CONSENT**

Director Harris asked to remove Item 5. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Acting City Manager to enter into a Purchase Agreement with RiverCity Hydraulics, Inc., for a Grapple Truck. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

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

3. Approval of the minutes of the scheduled regular meeting July 17, 2023. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

4. Resolution No. 2023-62 approved the reimbursement of \$13,500.00 to the Texarkana Regional Airport from American Rescue Act Funds. (FIN) Acting City Manager/Finance Director
6. Resolution No. 2023-63 authorized the Acting City Manager to enter into a construction contract with Contech Contractors, Inc., for the Texarkana Recreation Center Parking Lot. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards
7. Resolution No. 2023-64 authorized the Acting City Manager to enter into a contract for the Millwood Water Treatment Plant Cleaning of Sludge Ponds Project (TWU) Executive Director Gary Smith

## **REGULAR**

5. Resolution No. 2023-65 authorized the Acting City Manager to enter into a Purchase Agreement with RiverCity Hydraulics, Inc., for a Grapple Truck. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

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

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

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

Mayor Brown requested Item 10. Adopt a Resolution amending the Board of Directors' Rules of Order and Procedure Manual regarding Readings. (BOD) to be presented before the Airport Budgets.

Motion to move Item 10 before Item 8 was made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Roberts.

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

The motion carried 7-0.

10. Resolution No. 2023-66 amended the Board of Directors' Rules of Order and Procedure Manual regarding Readings. (BOD)

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 Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Jewell, and Director Hart.

Voting Nay: Director Harris

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

8. Resolution No. 2023-67 to adopt the FY2024 Airport Budget. (AIRPORT) Airport Director Paul Mehrlich

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

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

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

9. Resolution No. 2023-68 to adopt the FY2024 Airport Capital Budget. (AIRPORT) Airport Director Paul Mehrlich

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 Brewer, Director Jewell, and Director Hart.

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

11. Consider the following:

Conduct a Public Hearing regarding the issuance of Waterworks and Sewer Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2023.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing.

Director Harris asked what the interest rate was.

Rose Law Firm said 4.23%, but then corrected the rate to 4.17%

No one else came forward.

Mayor Brown closed the Public Hearing.

Ordinance No. 27-2023 authorized the City of Texarkana, Arkansas Public Facilities Board to proceed with the issuance of Waterworks and Sewer Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2023. (PFB-TWU) Acting City Manager/Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson and TWU Executive Director Gary Smith

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 Roberts, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

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 Brewer, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Roberts.

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

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

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

The motion carried 6-1 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 Assistant Mayor Roberts, Seconded by Director Harts.

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 Brewer, and Director Hart.

Voting Nay: Director Jewell

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

12. Ordinance No. 28-2023 levied the 2023 tax rate. (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 Assistant Mayor Roberts, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

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 Hollibush, Seconded by Director Hart.

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

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

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

Voting Nay: Director Jewell.

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

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY**

Director Hart wanted to thank TWU Executive Director Gary Smith for an outstanding job he was doing for the City. He said he was very thankful for the Acting City Manager/Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board of Directors entered Executive Session at 7:20 PM.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7:33 PM, and the following action was taken:

13. Resolution No. 2023-69 appointed Lisa VandeGraff to the Advertising and Promotion Commission. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

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 Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Jewell, and Director Hart.

Director Harris abstained.

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



14. FAILED - Adopt a Resolution reappointing Brandon Cogburn to the Advertising and Promotion Commission. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown and Director Brewer.

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

Director Harris abstained.

The motion miscarried 2-5 and the Mayor declared the resolution failed.

15. FAILED - Adopt a Resolution reappointing Sandy Varner to the Advertising and Promotion Commission. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown and Director Brewer.

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

Director Harris abstained.

The motion miscarried 2-5 and the Mayor declared the resolution failed.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, August 21, 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 Brewer, Director Jewell, and Director Hart.

The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

**APPROVED** this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 2023.

  
Heather Soyars, City Clerk

  
Allen L. Brown, Mayor

## ARK-Narens, Jenny

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**From:** L Harris <[laneyharris.ward2@yahoo.com](mailto:laneyharris.ward2@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 11:16 AM  
**To:** ARK-Soyars, Heather <[heather.soyars@txkusa.org](mailto:heather.soyars@txkusa.org)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Rep. Bruce Westerman Weekly Wrap Up

- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "Congressman Bruce Westerman" <[AR04BW.Outreach@mail.house.gov](mailto:AR04BW.Outreach@mail.house.gov)>  
**To:** "[laneyharris.ward2@yahoo.com](mailto:laneyharris.ward2@yahoo.com)" <[laneyharris.ward2@yahoo.com](mailto:laneyharris.ward2@yahoo.com)>  
**Cc:**  
**Sent:** Sun, Aug 6, 2023 at 9:39 AM  
**Subject:** Rep. Bruce Westerman Weekly Wrap Up

Received email from Director Harris 8/29/2023 regarding the discussion on 8/7/2023 with the airport budget

### Bruce's Take

In the 4th District, we are fortunate to have numerous small and medium-sized airfields that serve Arkansans and visitors from across the country, and we are home to a robust agricultural aviation industry. As such, Congress must make timely and strategic investments that will bolster our aviation capabilities.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee and Aviation Subcommittee, I actively work to ensure this happens. A few weeks ago, the U.S. House passed historic, bipartisan legislation from the T&I Committee to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the next five fiscal years. The Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act improves efficiency at the FAA, enhances passenger experience, encourages aviation innovation, and more.

I submitted two amendments to the bill that will strengthen data privacy and improve the safety of agricultural aircraft like crop dusters. I also supported provisions that make significant advancements to support the El Dorado, Hot Springs, Camden, Texarkana, and Mena Airports. The Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act affects more than just passengers and pilots. This legislation will benefit farmers, business owners, healthcare providers, and everyday folks through provisions that bolster aviation safety, economic growth, and local investments.

The bill authorizes funds to support the Essential Air Service (EAS) program in the next five years. This program ensures commercial air service from smaller regional airfields like Hot Springs Memorial Field and South Arkansas Regional Airport in El Dorado. This program serves much of the rural West, especially in areas where folks are often several hours away from the closest major airport. This program is essential to maintain air service and the economic activity that comes with it in rural communities that otherwise wouldn't have the capabilities to engage in that industry.

Legislation like the Supporting Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act includes strategic and timely provisions to support General Aviation airports, like most airports in the 4th District. It also bolsters the safety of agricultural aviation aircraft, like crop dusters, which play an essential role in the success of our agriculture and aviation industries in the state and across the country. While the 4th District may not be home to what some may call a large or major airport hub, we can be a leader in the aviation industry, and legislation like this is a significant step in getting us there.

Until next week,



Bruce Westerman  
Arkansas' Fourth District