



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

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

**Minutes - Monday, March 18, 2019 - 6:00 PM**

Mayor Allen Brown called the meeting to order.

PRESENT: Mayor Allen Brown, Ward 1 Assistant Mayor Linda Teeters, Ward 2 Director Laney J. Harris, Ward 3 Director Steven Hollibush, Ward 4 Director Travis Odom, Ward 5 Director Barbara S. Miner, and Ward 6 Director Terri Peavy.

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance given by Director Terri Peavy.

### **CONSENT**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Director Odom, Seconded by Director Teeters.

The motion carried unanimously, and the Mayor declared the Consent Agenda approved. The items approved were:

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting March 4, 2019. (CCD)
2. Resolution No. 2019-12 authorizes the City Manager to purchase a Crew Cab  $\frac{3}{4}$  Ton Truck for the Public Works Department Streets Division. (PWD)

### **REGULAR**

3. Resolution No. 2019-13 authorizes the City Manager to submit a Section 108 Loan Application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the rehabilitation of the old Boys and Girls Club. (PWD) (Sponsored by Director Terri Peavy)

Assistant Public Works Director Tracie Lee said the Public Works Department would like to submit a Section 108 Loan application to the U.S. Department of HUD in the amount of \$884,871 for the rehabilitation of the old Boys and Girls Club. Restoration of the facility would provide youth, adult and senior recreational services to our citizens.

The existing building formerly known as the Boys and Girls Club had set dormant for several years. Due to City budget constraints the City had been unsuccessful in restoring the building to its former use. By applying for a Section 108 Loan the City would be able to utilize a portion of its annual entitlement to pay the loan.

If for some reason the federal government were to dissolve the CDBG program the payment of the loan would be budgeted in the Public Works budget in the Parks Division capital outlay line item.

The City was requesting a 20-Year loan term, with total annual debt service of approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000. The loan carries a 3% interest rate.

Assistant Public Works Director Tracie Lee said she had been asked by the City Manager if this would affect any City funds in terms of staffing. She said no, the plan was to staff with existing staff and nonprofit organizations have said they would help. Ms. Lee said there was \$65,000 in the grant proposal and the money was from the Advertising and Promotion Commission (A&P). She said she was also asked if the startup money in the loan proposal was inclusive in the \$884,871 loan, and yes, it was.

Mayor Brown asked if the City had to pay the loan back what services would be at a disadvantage.

Assistant Public Works Director Tracie Lee said no services would be at a disadvantage. She said Public Works budgeted \$50,000 in capital outlay for Parks and Public Works only used about \$10,000.

Mayor Brown asked once this proposal was posted on Facebook how many positive or negative comments were made.

Assistant Public Works Director Tracie Lee said there were only positive comments. She said they had several places wanting to plan fund raisers to help.

Mayor Brown said he wanted to make sure the \$65,000 it took to run the facility came from the A&P Commission. He asked if the current value of the building and property were \$514,000, and once the building was renovated the value would be \$1.5 million.

Assistant Public Works Director Tracie Lee said yes.

Assistant Mayor Teeters asked if there were going to be a walkway connecting the Ermer-Dansby Pondexter Park to the facility.

Assistant Public Works Director Tracie Lee said there was going to be a walking trail funded by grant money also.

Director Harris asked if the City looked into using one of the elementary schools as a building instead of the former Boys and Girls Club building. He said he asked for the environment report Friday by submitting a FOIA request. Director Harris said he recently came back from Washington and there was talk about cutting the CDBG fund money.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said in 2011 there was a phase one environmental study and there were no concerns. He said the phase two study went in to details and what to do with the findings. Public Works Director Tyler Richards said the only thing brought up was a small amount of asbestos on the exterior of the building.

Mayor Brown said the asbestos would be taken care of by the environmental company before the City could proceed with any renovation. He said the City did not have any ownership over any school building and the City had to go through the legal process, and there was a deadline for this loan application.

City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin said keep in mind City Hall had asbestos in it and it could be mitigated, the proposal was to move forward with the loan application and the asbestos would be mitigated.

Assistant Mayor Teeters said she works for the school district and she thought the plans for the empty schools were to be used for training facilities and storage.

Director Peavy said a year ago she attended a workshop and she learned there was money out there for incentives to grow a healthier community. She said she brought the idea to the City Manager and he said it was a good idea, but the City had no money to renovate the former Boys and Girls Club building. Director Peavy said now a door had been opened.

Assistant Public Works Director Tracie Lee said every President had put CDBG on the chopping block, but it had never happened. She said it was supposed to go away last year and the City received an increase.

Mayor Brown said even if the CDBG funds were removed there were Park funds available to use. He said the City would have advance notice before the CDBG funds were removed.

Director Hollibush thanked Director Peavy for getting the ball rolling on this project and Public Works Director Tyler Richards, Assistant Public Works Director Tracie Lee, and the City Manager for finding the grant money. He read a brief statement stating in the past decade the City had seen many community resources close its doors due to financial restraints. Director Hollibush said the restoration of the former Boys and Girls Club would be the first step in restoring much needed resources in our community. He said community centers provide a safe environment for children, teens and seniors to learn, play and grow. Director Hollibush asked the Board members to support this effort in restoring the former Boys and Girls Club.

City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin said thank you to Ms. Lee and Mr. Richards for all the work and effort they and their department did, and the City feels confident in the efforts moving forward.

Motion to adopt the resolution made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Teeters.

Cassandra Gilbo the project director for the Texarkana Regional Center on Aging said this was a great project and it would allow her organization to come in and help with nutrition, physical activity for older adults and children as well. She said she was excited the project was on the table even if it took a year. Ms. Gilbo said her organization was also willing to help with writing grants as well.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner, Director Peavy.

Voting Present: Director Harris.

The motion carried 6-0.

4. Ordinance No. 8-2019 authorizes and directs the City Manager to purchase police mobile video and audio equipment. (TAPD)

Chief Bob Harrison said the Police Departments current body and dashboard cameras were out of warranty and obsolete. He said they had tested new cameras and chose WatchGuard camera systems. He said they met the departments criteria and were less expensive. Chief Harrison said this purchase would be for 12 in car camera and 10 body cameras for a total of

\$119,410.00. He said if they placed the order before March 22, 2019, WatchGuard would give them a free camera valued at \$5,195.00. Chief Harrison said the funding for the purchase did not include any City General funds: \$11,112.00 was given from Federal Justice Assistance Grant, \$20,827.58 was from Drug Seizure, \$40,000.00 from Drug Asset Forfeiture Account, \$23,735.21 from Insurance Turn Back, and \$23,735.21 from United States Marshal Service Prisoners.

Assistant Mayor Teeters asked if the money from those funds would zero out the funds for future use.

Chief Harrison said some of the funds would have no more money left. He said the Police Department was trying to pay their own way this time because next time they would need 10 more cameras at \$80,000 and would come to the Board for the money.

Mayor Brown asked if there was a time frame on when they would need the additional cameras.

Chief Harrison said summer, fall or the first of next year.

Mayor Brown asked if the WatchGuard company products were better than what the police had now.

Chief Harrison said yes, they were better.

Assistant Mayor Teeters asked if there would be a warranty.

Chief Harrison said yes.

Director Miner asked what the turnaround time was and if WatchGuard installed the cameras.

Chief Harrison said they could have the cameras in about a month and yes WatchGuard installed the cameras.

Motion to read the ordinance the first time in abbreviated form made by Assistant Mayor Teeters, Seconded by Director Odom.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner, Director Peavy.

The motion carried 7-0. 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 Odom, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner, Director Peavy.

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

Motion to further suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third and final reading in abbreviated form made by Director Miner, Seconded by Director Odom.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner, Director Peavy.

The motion carried 7-0. The ordinance was read the third and final time in abbreviated form. Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Assistant Mayor Teeters, Seconded by Director Miner.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner, Director Peavy.

The motion carried 7-0 and the ordinance was adopted.

The applicant requests an emergency clause due to time constraints to place the order to receive additional equipment at no charge. An emergency clause requires a separate and distinct vote of the board and was valid only if there were a two-thirds vote of approval by the board. (Hdbk. Const. Amend 7)

Motion to approve the emergency clause made by Assistant Mayor Teeters, Seconded by Director Peavy.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Odom, Director Miner, Director Peavy.

The emergency clause was adopted 7-0.

## **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Mitzi Stewart said she wanted the Board to know about a job fair for the homeless she had put together on April 9, 2019, located in the Texarkana Public Library. She also said there was a meeting being held this Wednesday at the Health Department and invited the Board to attend.

Director Odom said the Police Department needed the new cameras to help them.

Assistant Mayor Teeters said the A&P Commission was nominated from the Farmer's Market Association of Arkansas and they won. She said there was a letter and a plaque that she wanted to give to City Hall to display the award.

Director Miner said she had a citizen tell her while they were working with home owner insurance the City was listed as a F9. She said she called Fire Chief Fletcher and asked him, and he said the City was a F2.

Rose Warfield, Faith, Love, and Hope said all three of her children grew up in the former Boys and Girls Club and it had a big impact on her starting Faith, Love, and Hope. She said when she first went to Faith, Love, and Hope they were going to host a garage sale on a Monday and on the Friday before, the children broke into the building and stole most of the electronics. Ms. Warfield said she went to the kid's homes and told them they were not stealing from her they were stealing from themselves. She said the next morning she had 19 kids waiting out front to clean up the mess. Ms. Warfield said if there were anything she could help with, please call her.

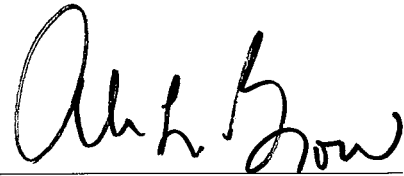
## **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Peavy.

Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush,  
Director Odom, Director Miner, Director Peavy.

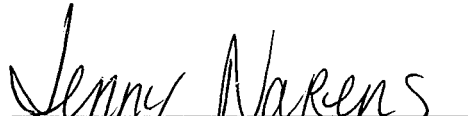
The meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.

**APPROVAL** of the minutes on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2019.



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Allen L. Brown, Mayor



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Jenny Narans, Deputy City Clerk