



CITY OF TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Monday, November 05, 2018 - 6:00 PM

Mayor Ruth Penney Bell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Ruth Penney Bell, Director Linda Teeters, Director Laney J. Harris, Director Tim Johnson, Director Travis Odom, Assistant Mayor Barbara S. Miner, and Director Terri Peavy.

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance given by Assistant Mayor Barbara Miner.

Comments from the Mayor:

Mayor Bell said she and Texas-side Mayor Bob Bruggeman attended the Komen Race for the Cure which was held downtown this year along Front Street and a Stop the Bleed event hosted by Dr. Matt Young of Texarkana Emergency Center. The Center donated over 650 Stop the Bleed kits to schools, law enforcement, fire departments and first responders. She said they also attended the 38th Annual Rotary Law Enforcement Luncheon. Attorney General Leslie Rutledge gave a speech and Senator Jimmy Hickey and Representative Carol Dalby were also in attendance. Mayor Bell said they both judged very elaborate pumpkins at Morris Elementary School and attended the Scholars meeting at Texas A&M which encourages young students and exposes them to opportunities they otherwise would not have.

Mayor Bell said she attended the Main Street Directors of Texas meeting.

PRESENTATION(S)

1. City of Texarkana, Arkansas Employee/Retirement Service Awards. (CCD)

Mayor Bell presented an award and City pin to Pamela White who has been with Texarkana Water Utilities for 15 years. Mayor Bell thanked Ms. White and all the City employees for their service to the City and its Citizens.

2. City Beautiful Commission Landscape Awards presented by Chairman Jeff Brown (CBC)

Mr. Brown presented the residential landscape award to Wendell and Mary Warren.

CBC member Nedra Turney presented a plaque for the donation of the land for the Welcome Texarkana sign which read: *In memory of Oscar and Kathryn McJunkins Harris dedicated July 9, 2015, property donated by Jerry and Nedra Harris Turney and family Sign funded by*

Texarkana, Arkansas A&P Commission directed by the City Beautiful Commission under the direction of chair and vice chair Mary and Wendell Warren and our proud brick mason Ron Otwell.

CONSENT

3. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting October 15, 2018. (CCD)

Mayor Bell asked that the following correction be made to the minutes: the restaurant that provided the dinner for Dine the Line was Verona's, and she again stated the food was fabulous.

Motion to approve the minutes made by Director Odom, Seconded by Director Teeters. The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR

4. **TABLED**: An Ordinance amending the *Code of Ordinances of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas*, regarding the lot of record definition. (PWD-Planning) (THIRD READING) City Planner Mary Beck

Motion made by Director Teeters, Seconded by Director Peavy to place the ordinance on its third and final reading in abbreviated form. Voting Yea: Mayor Bell, Director Teeters, Director Harris, Director Johnson, Director Odom, Assistant Mayor Miner, Director Peavy.

The ordinance was read the third and final time in abbreviated form.

Mayor Bell asked if any citizen or Director had any questions or comments before the vote.

LaVaughn Cook, 5604 Ramblewood Road, said he was against putting small houses on the lots. He said there would not be enough room for parking and the cars would park in the street or on the grass. Mr. Cook said it would devalue the other property around the small houses. He said the only people who would benefit would be the contractors and the seller of the land.

Mayor Bell thanked Mr. Cook for coming forward and said she had not thought about some of the issues he brought forth.

City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin said this was just the first step in a series of steps the City would take to ensure it was handled properly.

City Planner Mary Beck said there were two types of tiny homes, one was like a mobile home and those would need to be in a mobile home park or restricted area. She said the other type was a site built tiny homes and those would need to conform to the same requirements as existing houses. Ms. Beck said this ordinance was trying to solve the land problem only, not the tiny houses. She said the tiny house issues would not be addressed until the city had the regulation from the state.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said the regulations would not be available until the spring 2019.

Director Teeters said acting on the ordinance tonight did not mean the City would start building tiny houses next week.

Mayor Bell asked was this ordinance just addressing the size of lots.

City Planner Mary Beck said yes, there were ninety-nine subdivisions with smaller lots and the City was trying to remove obstacles to help in development.

Director Teeters said these lots were weed baring lots not new subdivisions and the City would like for the land to go to good use instead of just weed lots.

Director Peavy said she would feel more comfortable waiting to hear what the state regulations were before proceeding.

Director Johnson asked could the Board not pass the ordinance and then wait to see what the state regulations would be.

Mayor Bell said anything written an attorney could interrupt differently and asked if the Board could table the ordinance.

Director Harris asked could the ordinance be tabled since it had been read three times.

City Attorney George Matteson said yes, the ordinance could be tabled since it had not yet been voted on.

Motion made by Director Peavy, Seconded by Director Odom to table the ordinance. Voting Yea: Mayor Bell, Director Teeters, Director Harris, Director Johnson, Director Odom, Assistant Mayor Miner, Director Peavy.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Director Harris read a proclamation from Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson declaring the month of November as Business and Industry month in Arkansas.

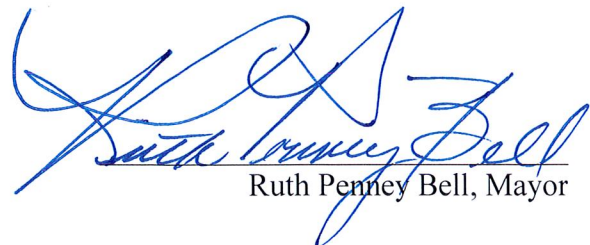
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board did not enter Executive Session.

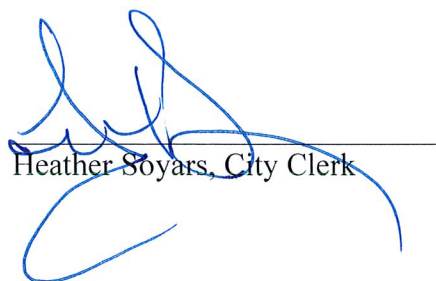
ADJOURN

Motion made by Director Odom, Seconded by Director Johnson, to adjourn. Voting Yea: Mayor Bell, Director Teeters, Director Harris, Director Johnson, Director Odom, Assistant Mayor Miner, Director Peavy.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.



Ruth Penney Bell, Mayor



Heather Soyars, City Clerk