



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, May 20, 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 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.

Ward 4 Director Travis Odom was absent

Director Steven Hollibush gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Director Hollibush, Seconded by Director Miner.

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting May 6, 2019, and the called meeting May 14, 2019. (CCD)

REGULAR

2. Resolution No. 2019-20 authorizes the City Manager to seek proposals for Amendment 78 financing of capital improvements for the Animal Care and Adoption Center improvements. (ACAC)

ACAC Director Charles Lokey said half of the building was built in the late 1960s and the other half was built in the 1990s. He said they had done all they could do to maintain the building, but it was still in bad shape. ACAC Director Charles Lokey said it was not just a health risk for the animals but also for the employees who work in the building. He thanked the Board for allowing him to bring his design plan to them.

Mayor Brown asked what the new building's capacity would be versus the old building.

ACAC Director Charles Lokey said it would not increase the capacity. He said they would be able to prioritize rooms for specific uses instead of housing the animals when the current building was substandard due to maintenance issues.

Mayor Brown asked if there were a proposed site for the new building.

ACAC Director Charles Lokey said the location would be out in front of the existing facility.

Director Miner asked if the City owned all the land where the new facility would be located.

ACAC Director Charles Lokey said yes.

Director Harris asked how much it cost to bring an animal to the shelter.

ACAC Director Charles Lokey said if you were a resident of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas, it costs nothing.

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

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

Mayor Brown declared the resolution adopted with a 6-0 vote.

3. Resolution No. 2019-21 amends the year end 2019 Budget to include the increase to the Municipal Health Benefit Fund Premium. (FIN)

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said on May 15, 2019, the City received notice from Municipal Health Benefit Program that based on our claims, the medical rate class for Texarkana would move from Class 3 to Class 4 effective July 1, 2019. Prior to January 1, 2018, the City's rate class was a Class 2 and the City had not received an increase in insurance premiums in several years. Beginning January 1, 2018, the City's medical rate class increased to a Class 3 and employee medical premiums increased from \$369 per month to \$405 per month. Due to the financial situation the City faced; the employee paid the \$36.00 per month increase in premium. On January 1, 2019, while the medical rate class did not change, the City received a \$2.08 per month increase in premium due to changes in the vision coverage. The City absorbed the cost of the increase at that time. The change in medical rate class went into effect July 1, 2019, would result in a monthly premium increase of \$40.50 per month per employee. This would result in additional expenditures of \$45,000 for the General Fund and \$7,800 for the Public Works Fund.

Mayor Brown said he supported the employees of the City, but he noticed in the March financials there was a deficit and in the April financials there was a rather large sales tax deposit that caught the City up. He said if the City did not gain this amount of money through our budgeting process it would be coming from the General Fund and it would reduce the Fund Balance.

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said she was extremely conservative on budgeting the City's revenues and tried not put the City in a position where there would be a short fall in the revenue standpoint. She said the City currently had \$3.8 Million in the Fund Balance and that was 71 days, the recommendation was to keep the Fund Balance within 60-90 days.

Mayor Brown said he noticed the sales tax generation had increased in the past few months and hoped it continued. He said he wanted to make sure the City would have enough reserve days in the Fund Balance if the City absorbed the extra money.

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said yes.

Director Miner wanted to make sure the employees were still paying the \$36.00 premium.

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said yes.

City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin asked Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson to explain why the City was reclassified.

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said from October 2018, to March 2019, the City paid

premiums close to \$800,000 and claims that had been paid was close to \$1 million.

Director Harris asked if the City based the premium on the employee's rate of pay.

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said they did look at a tiered plan, but some employees had dependent coverage and there would be two different increases that the employees would have.

Assistant Mayor Teeters said if you had a claim on insurance it was not based on your income because a kidney transplant would be the same cost no matter how much you made.

Director Miner asked Director Harris if he had any examples of cities that based premiums on their income.

Director Harris said he wanted to bring out the point about the income.

Director Peavy asked how much of the dependent premium did the City pay.

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said the City did not pay anything of the dependent cost.

Director Peavy asked if the City would be able to move back down to a lower class if the claim rates went down.

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said she did not know the answer, but she would find out.

City manager Dr. Kenny Haskin said if that were the case the City would certainly petition the Arkansas Municipal League.

Director Peavy said from the conferences she attended, the League pushed for a healthier community. She asked if the City were on board with the programs they offered, how would that benefit the City on their rating.

Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson said she would find out and let the Board know.

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

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

Mayor Brown declared the resolution adopted with a 6-0 vote.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- Dean Barry, 4100 Moores Lane, Texarkana, Texas, said three to four years ago he noticed the tax situation in Bowie County was flat along with the Arkansas side. He said he realized something needed to be done to bring businesses to Texarkana. Mr. Barry said seven citizens became board members and they were going to try for five years to bring businesses and jobs to Texarkana. He said he wanted the state line to disappear, if a business came into the City, it would be in Texarkana. Mr. Barry said the seven board members, both Mayors, county judges and a representative from the Chamber of Commerce met last Friday and they were moving as swiftly as they could to bring jobs to Texarkana. He said they did a national search to find the right person to lead the organization, and they found the right man from Orlando, Florida named Rob Sitterley.

- Rob Sitterley, 6204 Deerfield Drive, Texarkana, Texas, AR-TX REDI, said economic development was a passion of his. He said he was ready to bring new businesses and help the businesses that were already here expand and prosper. Mr. Sitterley said they were focusing on two things; a marketing plan to tell the story about our community, and we needed large mega sites to recruit new businesses to Texarkana. He thanked the Board for their support, and he looked forward to working with the City in the future.
- Mary Beth Rudel, Red River Leadership Institute, said there was a new Leadership program that did not look at state lines. She said it would be made up of the four surrounding states, with seven sessions, and teach leadership on a regional approach to work together to promote economic development. Ms. Rudel asked if we could help promote the program.

Director Peavy asked Ms. Rudel to explain how the state of Arkansas had helped bring this program to our area.

Mary Beth Rudel, Red River Leadership Institute said the Executive Director of Southwest Planning and Development District and Executive Director of ArTex Council of Governments were tossing around ideas and reached out to the Arkansas Economic Development Institute to find out how the program could come to life.

Director Peavy said she wanted to recognize this week as National Police Week.

Mayor Brown said it was also Emergency Responders Week.

Director Teeters wanted to recognize the Texarkana, Arkansas Police Department for a job well done after a mother reported her seventeen-year-old autistic son missing. She said the story on Facebook said the officers did a great job in locating him and keeping him calm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, June 3, 2019

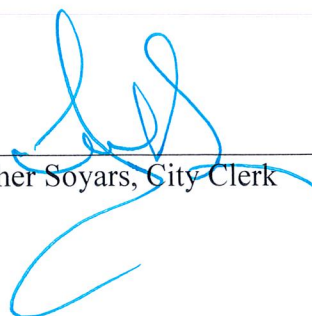
ADJOURN

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

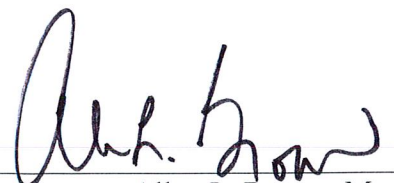
Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Assistant Mayor Teeters, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Miner and Director Peavy.

The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM.

APPROVAL of the minutes on this 3rd day of June, 2019.



Heather Soyars, City Clerk



Allen L. Brown, Mayor