



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

City of Texarkana, Arkansas

216 Walnut Street

Minutes - Monday, May 20, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Mayor Allen Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Allen Brown, Ward 1 Director Terry Roberts, Ward 2 Director Laney Harris, Ward 3 Director Steven Hollibush, Ward 4 Director Ulysses Brewer, Ward 5 Director Danny Jewell, and Assistant Mayor Ward 6 Director Jeff Hart.

ALSO, PRESENT: City Manager Robert Thompson, City Attorney Joshua Potter, City Clerk Heather Soyars, and Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens.

Invocation given by Director Terry Roberts.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Animal Care and Adoption Center Director Lenor Teague.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Rob Sitterley with AR-TX-REDI, spoke in support of the Texarkana Regional Airport 20-year master plan.

Sherry and Gary Watson, 6418 Timbercreek Drive; Jamie Gravier, 1914 Woodway Drive; Whitney White, 606 Timberwood Lane; Cori Mobbs, 6118 Timbercreek Drive; Chadra Giddens, 5707 Deerwood Drive; Mike Brown, 6101 Timbercreek Drive; Robbin Dickson, 5606 Winwood Drive; each citizen addressed their concerns and asked the Board to vote against the rezoning of 6103 Mount Olive Drive for the purpose of constructing 12 town homes.

Judi Yelverton, 6017 Forest Bend Lane; and Collin Kuhn, 6211 Tennessee Road, explained to the Board how they were in favor of rezoning the property located at 6103 Mount Olive Drive.

Donnell King, 202 Fairview Street; Mono Barry, 4414 Magee Drive; and Donald Reid, 6624 Lakeridge Drive; and Earl Adams, 2105 Washington Street; spoke in favor of renaming the Texarkana Recreation Center the "Terry Lee Roger's Recreation Center".

PROCLAMATION(S)

Proclamation declaring May 19-24, 2024, as Public Works Appreciation Week.

CONSENT

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting May 6, 2024. (CCD) City Clerk Heather Soyars
2. Resolution No. 2024-41 authorized the City Manager to enter into a construction contract with Contech Contractors, Inc., for the Pinehurst Street Sidewalk Project. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

REGULAR

3. Consider the following action concerning renaming the Texarkana Recreation Center:

Conduct a Public Hearing for public comments concerning the renaming of the Texarkana Recreation Center.

Mayor Brown opened the Public Hearing.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards gave a brief presentation regarding the renaming of the Texarkana Recreation Center.

Director Roberts said he would vote for renaming the gym after Mr. Rogers, but he could not rename the entire building after him.

Assistant Mayor Hart asked Public Works Director Tyler Richards if he heard from anyone in the Crank family, who donated the property to the City.

Public Works Director Tyler Richards said no.

Mayor Brown said the City needed a policy and procedure for naming or renaming items. He also said the City needed to find out from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) if the name could be changed since the City was still paying for the loan on the Recreation Center. Mayor Brown said there needed to be something done to honor the Crank family since they donated the building.

Director Brewer said the City had renamed something before so a renaming policy could be done after the vote was taken.

Director Hollibush asked how long it would take to put a naming policy in place.

Assistant Mayor Hart said he would rather table the resolution and make sure the funds for paying the loan back would not be in jeopardy.

Motion to table the resolution for additional information and a naming policy made by Assistant Mayor Hart. Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

Voting Nay: Director Harris and Director Brewer.

The motion carried 5-2 and the Mayor declared the resolution tabled.

Adopt a Resolution renaming the Texarkana Recreation Center the “*Terry Lee Rogers Recreation Center*”. (PWD) Public Works Director Tyler Richards

[This item was TABLED at the May 6, 2024, Board of Directors’ meeting for additional public awareness and comments.]

4. Joint Resolution No. 2024-42 and Memorandum of Understanding of the Board of Directors of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas, and the City Council of the City of Texarkana, Texas support the fiscal year 2024 consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements (CRSI) grant application for Union Station improvements. (ADMIN)

[This item FAILED at the May 6, 2024, Board of Directors’ meeting due to lack of a second.]

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

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

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

5. Ordinance No. 12-2024 amended Ordinance No. 10-2024 to correct the rezoning of Lot 1 of the proposed JK Acres subdivision located at 4804 East 9th Street, from C-1 General Commercial District to C-3 Open Display Commercial for the purpose of building and operating a landscaping business. (Ward 3) (PWD-Planning) City Planner Jamie Finley

After a brief discussion, the motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by Director Roberts, Seconded by Assistant Mayor Hart.

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

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

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 Assistant Mayor Hart, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

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

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

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Assistant Mayor Hart, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this ordinance.

No one came forward.

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

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

6. Adopt an Ordinance to rezone the property located at 6103 Mount Olive Drive from C-4 Crossroads Business Park to a Planned Unit Development for the purpose of constructing 12 townhomes. (Ward 6) (PWD-PLANNING) City Planner Jamie Finley

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 Hart, Seconded by Director Roberts.

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

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

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 Assistant Mayor Hart, Seconded by Director Hollibush.

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

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

Motion to adopt the ordinance made by Assistant Mayor Hart, Seconded by Director Roberts.

Mayor Brown asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this ordinance.

Four people spoke in opposition to this ordinance.

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

The motion failed 0-7 and the Mayor declared the ordinance did not pass.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTARY

Director Harris said Crossties would have their grand opening this Thursday. He asked City Manager Thompson if the City would ever employ a housing person again.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Thompson commended the Police Department; they had received over 10,000 calls year to date. He said the Fire Department passed the required state annual pump tests for the trucks

and they added some new hydraulic tools to help service the community. Mr. Thompson thanked the middle school for touring City Hall and the auditorium.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, June 3, 2024

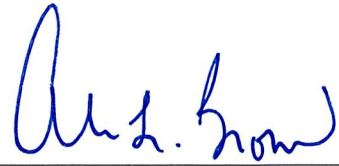
ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Assistant Mayor Hart, Seconded by Director Roberts.

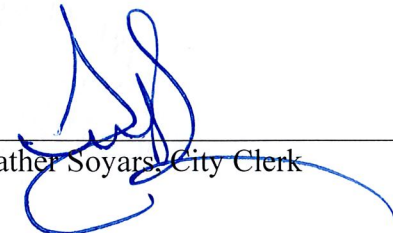
Voting Yea: Mayor Brown, Director Roberts, Director Harris, Director Hollibush, Director Brewer, Director Jewell, and Assistant Mayor Hart.

The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

APPROVED this the 4th day of June 2024.



Allen L. Brown, Mayor



Heather Soyars, City Clerk