

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE CITY OF TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS  
APRIL 3, 2017**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

The Board of Directors of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas, convened in regular session at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 3, 2017.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Ruth Penney Bell asked the Clerk to call the roll and the following Board Members were present: Mayor Bell, Assistant Mayor Barbara S. Miner, and Directors Tim Johnson, Laney J. Harris, Travis Odom, Terri Peavy and Linda Teeters. Also present were City Manager Kenny Haskin, City Attorney George M. Matteson and City Clerk Heather Soyars.

Mayor Bell asked it be duly noted there was a quorum present for tonight's meeting.

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was given by Kaden Lloyd, a member of Boy Scout Troop 13 from Hardy Memorial United Methodist Church, and guest of Director Tim Johnson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Boy Scout Troop 13, guest of Director Tim Johnson, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR:**

**Welcome:**

Mayor Bell welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

**Board Meeting Procedure:**

Mayor Bell briefly reviewed the board meeting procedures and pointed out the Agenda Item Cards, Citizens' Communication Cards, and agendas along the rail for tonight's Board meeting. The Mayor asked any audience member interested in speaking

at tonight's Board meeting to complete one of the cards and turn the card in to the City Clerk. She said this would help run an organized meeting and allowed the Clerk to have the necessary information for the meeting minutes. She stated any citizen may comment on any item on the agenda and express their desires, but would be limited to five minutes.

**Boy Scout Troop 13:**

Director Tim Johnson introduced Boy Scout Troop 13. The leaders were Shane Richardson, Bill Smith, and Don Mende. Scouts present were Trent Chisholm, Cade Cunningham, Chris Goff, Andrew Green, Peyton Greene, Caleb Hackleman, Kenny Harris, Lincoln Jackson, Kaden Lloyd, Whitten Maness, Shiloh Mende, Denver Murray, Caleb Neal, Hunter Phillips, Owen Priestley, Mathieu Sexton, Colton Smith, and Peyton Stringer.

Mayor Bell said some of the scouts were working on their 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Rank Requirements and others were working on their Communication Badge.

**Scott Joplin Festival:**

Mayor Bell said there was a lot of coverage today in the Gazette regarding the music celebration this past weekend. She said Texarkana had a very rich musical history. Scott Joplin went to school in Texarkana right off 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Mayor Bell said we all needed to learn about and be aware of our heritage. She said she read a proclamation at the Scott Joplin mural on Saturday, and she hoped this was just the beginning of a celebration and it would continue through the years. She also said the Municipal Auditorium was the stage where Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, May West, and Johnny Cash had performed. She said we had a rich heritage and it needed to be preserved. The Walk of Fame Park was located beside the Fire Station and she hoped one day to reclaim the Municipal Auditorium for what it was originally intended.

**New Squad Cars:**

Mayor Bell said she noticed a new Texarkana, Arkansas Police Department (TAPD) squad car and she was very impressed and gave the Police Officer a thumbs up.

Police Chief Bob Harrison said it was the first new squad car out of 10 that were anonymously donated to TAPD.

**QUESTIONS FROM DIRECTORS AND OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mayor Bell asked if the Directors had any questions or comments.

Director Peavy said she would like to commend the Mayor and the City Manager. When the citizen first came and presented her concern about the ordinance regarding dogs on chains. It was encouraging to her to see the City Manager and Mayor did not take the issue lightly and acted on in a timely manner. She had a lot of positive comments and people saying they were glad the ordinance was passed and glad the issue was handled in a timely manner.

Mayor Bell said she had equally as many comments and texts.

No one else came forward.

## **PRESENTATION(S):**

### **City Employee Service Awards:**

Mayor Bell presented awards to Reginald White, Quincy Hubbard and Mundang Johnson. They each received a City of Texarkana, Arkansas Employee Service Award and Texarkana, Arkansas City pin. The awards recognized them all for 5 years of service with Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) Department. They accepted the honor and thanked Mayor Bell, the Board of Directors, and the City Manager.

Mayor Bell commented Stanley Kowzic, Larry Bradshaw, Adam Benton, Jr. and Mary Beck were unable to attend tonight's meeting and she would make sure they received their awards and pins. Mr. Kowzic, Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Benton would have been recognized for 10 years of service with TWU; and Ms. Beck would have been recognized for 10 years of service with the Public Works Planning Department. Mayor Bell thanked all the City employees for their service to the City and its citizens.

### **Proclamation – Safe Digging Month:**

Mayor Bell read a proclamation for CenterPoint Energy for "Safe Digging Month".

## **MINUTES TABLED:**

Director Harris tabled the minutes of the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Board of Directors' meeting. He said the minutes did not reflect what he had said about attending President Trump's 2018 Budget Plan meeting as part of the Arkansas Municipal League Delegation.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Assistant Mayor Miner moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Odom and carried unanimously. The items approved by consent were:

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2017-16:**

Resolution No. 2017-16 authorizing Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) to contribute a maximum \$15,000 per year for administrative expenses associated with the management of TWU.

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **ORDINANCE TO REVISE FEE – SECOND READING:**

An ordinance was introduced to be entitled, “An Ordinance Amending, Updating And Setting Fees For Certain Services Provided By The City Of Texarkana, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes”. Said ordinance revised fees of the Animal Care and Adoption Center and the Fire Department.

Mayor Bell asked if any Board or audience member had any questions or comments concerning this item. No one came forward.

Director Teeters moved the ordinance be read in abbreviated form and the ordinance be placed on its second reading. The motion was seconded by Assistant Mayor Miner. The Clerk called the roll and the following vote resulted: Directors Harris, Johnson, Miner, Odom, Peavy, Teeters, and Bell voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried, as there were seven ayes and no nays.

Mayor Bell said the third and final reading of the ordinance would be at the next meeting, April 17, 2017.

## **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**

Mayor Bell asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak, on any subject up to a total of five minutes.

No one came forward.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Bell announced the Board would recess into Executive Session at 6:19 PM.

[Director Odom left the meeting at 7:20 PM]

**MEETING RECONVENED:**

The meeting was reconvened at 7:25 PM by the Mayor following the Executive Session.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-17:**

Resolution No. 2017-17 was read in its entirety. Said resolution made appointments to various boards and commissions:


Board of Adjustment	Clyde Boots Thomas
Civil Service Commission	Glen Greenwell
Civil Service Commission	Matt Keil
Electric Board of Review	Thomas Thornsberry
Heating & Air Conditioning Board of Review	Thomas Bui
Library Board	Linda Cogbill
Library Board	Sarah Meredith
Library Board	Junie Young
Plumbing Board of Review	Robert Johnson
Plumbing Board of Review	Cliff Roberts

Assistant Mayor Miner, seconded by Director Teeters, moved to adopt the resolution. The Clerk called the roll and the following vote resulted: Directors Harris, Johnson, Miner, Peavy, Teeters, and Bell voted aye. The Mayor declared the resolution passed, as there were six ayes and no nays.

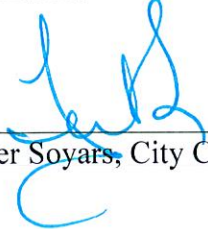
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Director Johnson, seconded by Mayor Bell, moved to adjourn the meeting. The Clerk called the roll and the following vote resulted: Directors Harris, Johnson, Miner, Peavy, Teeters, and Bell voted aye. The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned, as there were seven ayes and no nays.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

  
Ruth Penney Bell, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Heather Soyars, City Clerk