

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE CITY OF TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS  
AUGUST 7, 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, August 7, 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, 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 to be noted there was a quorum present for tonight's meeting.

[Director Harris arrived at the meeting at 6:09]

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was given by Mayor Ruth Penney Bell.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Ruth Penney Bell 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.

**Council of Development Finance Agencies:**

Mayor Bell said she and several Board members met with Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) a non-profit group, to help the City locate money for downtown projects.

**QUESTIONS FROM DIRECTORS AND OTHER BUSINESS:**

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

No one came forward.

**PRESENTATION(S):**

**City Employee Service Awards:**

Mayor Bell presented awards to Stephanie Black and Patrick Reed. They each received a City of Texarkana, Arkansas, Employee Service Award and Texarkana, Arkansas, City pin. The award recognized Ms. Black for 5 years of service and Mr. Reed for 10 years of service with Texarkana Water Utilities. They accepted the honor and thanked Mayor Bell, the Board of Directors, and the City Manager.

Mayor Bell said Kristopher Dickens was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but she would make sure he received his award and pin. Mr. Dickens would have been recognized for 10 years of service with Texarkana Water Utilities. Mayor Bell thanked all the City employees for their service to the City and its citizens.

**2016 Audit:**

Mayor Bell introduced Cynthia Burns of BKD, LLP.

Ms. Burns gave a PowerPoint presentation and said the objectives for the Audit were to provide opinion on whether the financial statements were fairly stated; reported on compliance with certain laws and regulations; issued report on internal controls over financial report and compliance requirements; and issued a report on compliance with certain laws. Ms. Burns said the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association. The

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report must be easily readable and efficiently organized. The City received the 2015 award and applied for 2016.

Ms. Burns said the internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters based on an audit of the financial statements performed in accordance with government auditing standards, found no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. The examination of the City's compliance with certain Arkansas State Acts reported an unmodified opinion on City's compliance. An unmodified opinion was the best opinion. She asked the Board if they had any questions.

Director Peavy asked if it were hard to achieve an unmodified opinion.

Ms. Burns said most cities in Arkansas did not receive an unmodified opinion on their financial statements.

Mayor Bell thanked Ms. Burns for coming to the workshop and the meeting all the way from Rogers, Arkansas.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

### **MINUTES:**

The minutes approved were of the regular meeting July 17, 2017.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2017-30:**

Resolution No. 2017-30 accepted the 2016 Audit report.

### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

## **ORDINANCE TO CREATE A CITIZENS PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD – FIRST READING:**

An ordinance was introduced to be entitled, "An Ordinance to Establish a Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Board; and For Other Purposes." Said ordinance was to establish a Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Board to advise the Texarkana, Arkansas, Board of Directors and staff on how to best provide safe and comprehensive parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services on behalf of all current and future residents of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas. This item was revised at the request of

Director Laney Harris as a new ordinance to replace the existing ordinance from the July 17, 2017 Board meeting.

Director Harris presented this ordinance as a new ordinance. He said the changes made to this ordinance reflected the concerns Public Works Director Jeff Whitten voiced at the July 17, 2017, Board meeting. Director Harris stated this Advisory Board would have no authority to expend funds, or bind the City or involve itself in City employment matters.

Mayor Bell asked if this revised ordinance replaced the ordinance from the last meeting that had its first reading on July 17, 2017.

City Attorney George Matteson said this ordinance replaced the original ordinance.

Director Teeters asked what happened to the original ordinance and why was it not on the agenda.

Mr. Matteson explained that Director Harris revised the original ordinance and placed it on the agenda.

Director Teeters said she did not want the original ordinance to come up at some time in the future and be placed on its second reading.

Director Teeters made the motion to permanently remove the former ordinance regarding the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, with its first reading on July 17, 2017. The motion was seconded by Director Odom. 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 asked if any Board or audience member had any questions or comments concerning this item. No one came forward.

Director Harris moved the ordinance be read in abbreviated form and the ordinance be placed on its first reading. The motion was seconded by Director Peavy. 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.

The ordinance was read the first time in abbreviated form.

Mayor Bell stated the ordinance would be on its second reading at the next board meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING – COOPER TIRE & RUBBER  
COMPANY REVENUE BONDS:**

Mayor Bell opened the public hearing.

City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin introduced Tom Leggett of Friday, Eldredge and Clark law firm, representing Cooper Tire & Rubber Company.

Mr. Leggett said this ordinance would approve industrial development revenue bonds at the request of Cooper Tire & Rubber Company. He said there would be no tax money involved from the City of Texarkana, Arkansas. Mr. Leggett said all the payments would be made from Cooper Tire & Rubber Company.

Curtis Schneekloth, Distribution Center Manager of Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, said the plant opened in 1964, the company employed close to 2,000 people, and it made close to 10 million tires. Mr. Schneekloth said last year Cooper Tire & Rubber Company won the Governor's large exporter award and was the leading contributor to the United Way. He said they constantly must convince corporate to invest in the plant and there was a lot of money invested in the plant every year. Mr. Schneekloth said the reason behind the emergency clause was that decisions were currently being made for 2018, and there were still opportunities to receive extra money for 2017, and he would rather get it done now instead of having to wait. He said the City held zero liability for the bonds. Mr. Schneekloth introduced the United Steel Workers, Cooper Tire plant manager Scott Cole, and Jim Smith the plant controller.

Director Teeters asked when did the cycle come around for the plant to be evaluated by corporate to see if it needed to close.

Mr. Schneekloth said he did not know when the cycle was, but this expansion made the plant more competitive.

Assistant Mayor Miner said she was married to a former Cooper Tire employee and she appreciated Cooper Tire very much for giving her family the means to survive and wished the plant the best. She asked if the City would receive some tax money from the bonds.

Dr. Haskin said yes, 35% of tax money.

Mayor Bell said this was something that was not used very often but if we had a big industry come into the City it could be an option.

Director Peavy asked if there were a time frame the money had to be used.

Mr. Schneekloth said he thought it would be around 5 years, but it could be expanded.

Mayor Bell closed the public hearing.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 24-2017:**

An ordinance was introduced to be entitled, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of Industrial Development Revenue Bonds to Finance Certain Industrial Facilities; Authorizing the leasing of such Facilities to Cooper Tire & Rubber Company; Authorizing a Trust Indenture Securing the Bonds; Authorizing the Sale of the Bonds; Authorizing and Prescribing Other Matters Pertaining Thereto; and Declaring an Emergency”.

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

Director Harris moved the ordinance be read in abbreviated form and the ordinance be placed on its first reading. The motion was seconded by Director Odom. 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.

The ordinance was read the first time in abbreviated form.

Director Harris moved the ordinance be read in abbreviated form and the ordinance be placed on its second reading. The motion was seconded by Director Odom. 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.

The ordinance was read the second time in abbreviated form.

Director Harris moved the ordinance be read in abbreviated form and the ordinance be placed on its third and final reading. The motion was seconded by Director Odom. 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.

The ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

Director Harris made the motion to adopt the ordinance. 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 ordinance adopted, as there were seven ayes and no nays.

### **EMERGENCY CLAUSE:**

Director Teeters, seconded by Director Odom, moved to approve the emergency clause. 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 emergency clause adopted, as there were seven ayes and no nays.

### **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 6:42 PM.

[Director Harris left the Board Room at 6:44 PM.]

[Director Odom left the meeting at 6:45 PM.]

### **MEETING RECONVENED:**

The meeting was reconvened by the Mayor following the Executive Session at 6:58 PM.

[Director Harris returned to the Board Room at 6:58 PM.]

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2017-31:**


Resolution No. 2017-31 was read in its entirety. Said resolution appointed Sandy Varner to the Advertising and Promotion Commission for Deborah Wright's unexpired term of March 21, 2015-2019.

Director Teeters seconded by Assistant Mayor Miner, moved to adopt the resolution. The Clerk called the roll and the following vote resulted: Directors Johnson, Miner, Peavy, Teeters, and Bell voted aye. Director Harris abstained from voting. The Mayor declared the resolution passed, as there were five ayes and one abstention.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

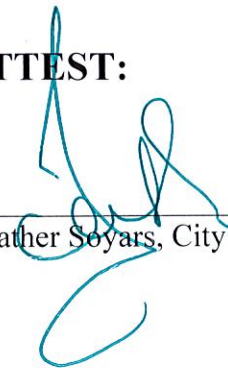
Director Johnson, seconded by Director Peavy, moved to adjourn the meeting. The Clerk called the roll and the following vote resulted: Directors Harris, Johnson, Miner, Peavy, Teeters, and Bell voted aye. The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned, as there were six ayes and no nays.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.



Ruth Penney Bell, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Heather Soyars, City Clerk