



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS CITY OF TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018 – 6:00 PM

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## Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors City of Texarkana, Arkansas City Hall – East Third and Walnut Streets

1. Mayor Ruth Penney Bell called the meeting to order.
2. Present: Mayor Ruth Penney Bell                      Ward 1 Director Linda Teeters  
            Ward 2 Director Laney J. Harris              Ward 3 Director Tim Johnson  
            Ward 4 Director Travis Odom              Ward 5 Assistant Mayor Barbara S. Miner  
            Ward 6 Terri Peavy                              Assistant City Manager Heather Soyars  
            City Attorney George Matteson              Deputy City Clerk Jenny Narens
3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance given by Mayor Ruth Penney Bell  
    \*Director Harris arrived at the meeting at 6:03 PM.
4. Comments from the Mayor:
  - **Good Citizen Award** – Mayor Bell said she had the unique honor of receiving the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen Award, which recognized individuals who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism.
  - **Small Business Month** – Mayor Bell said she visited with Southern Arkansas University's Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center during Small Business Month. She said the Center's mission was to assist Arkansas businesses.
  - **College Hill Elementary** – Mayor Bell said she and several members of the Fire Department and Police Department had the privilege of reading to College Hill Elementary students.
5. Presentation(s):
  - **City of Texarkana, Arkansas Employee/Retirement Service Awards (CCD):**

Name:	Department:	Years of Service:
Cheryl Griffin	TWU	20

### REMOVED FROM CONSENT:

- Director Harris requested Item 8 Adopt a Resolution approving the Board of Directors Code of Conduct, to be removed from the Consent Agenda for

discussion.

**CONSENT:**

- 6. The minutes of the regular rescheduled meeting February 20, 2018. (CCD)
- 7. **Resolution No. 2018-8** – accepting the 2017 Audit Engagement Letter prepared by the accounting firm of BKD, LLP. (FIN)

- Motion to adopt Consent Agenda made by: Director Teeters  
Motion seconded by: Director Johnson

Motion carried unanimously

**REGULAR:**

- 8. **Resolution No. 2018-9** - approving the Board of Directors Code of Conduct. (BOD)

Director Harris asked a few questions concerning the Code of Conduct and claimed this was directed at him as an attempt to silence him.

Mayor Bell addressed Director Harris' concerns.

Director Harris read a statement and said this resolution was directed at him. He also gave a description of Lady Justice standing over City Hall with 6 persons on one side of the scale and his likeness on another.

Mayor Bell said she had a feeling she was the lady that had the 6 and the 1 and she said she resented that. She said she tried not to dictate what anyone on this Board did. She said the Board was here to do the business of the City, not to have visual pictures drawn in our minds demeaning the members of this Board.

- Motion to adopt the resolution made by: Director Peavy  
Motion seconded by: Director Odom

Directors Johnson, Miner, Odom, Peavy, Teeters and Mayor Bell voted aye.  
Director Harris voted nay.

Motion carried with 6 ayes and 1 nay.

- 9. **Ordinance No. 4-2018** - amending Ordinance No. M-116 and approving Personnel Policy Amendments. (FIN)

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

- Motion to adopt the ordinance made by: Assistant Mayor Miner  
Motion seconded by: Director Odom

Directors Johnson, Miner, Odom, Peavy, Teeters and Mayor Bell voted aye.  
Director Harris voted nay.

Motion carried with 6 ayes and 1 nay.

10. **Ordinance No. 5-2018** - accepting dedication of street right-of-way and public facilities improvements within Meadowridge Fourth Subdivision Street Name Jay Lane. **(PWD)**

The ordinance was read the second time in abbreviated form.

- Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third reading in abbreviated form  
made by: Director Teeters  
Motion seconded by: Director Odom

Motion carried unanimously, and the ordinance was read the third time in abbreviated form.

- Motion to adopt the ordinance made by: Director Johnson  
Motion seconded by: Director Odom

Motion carried unanimously.

11. **FIRST READING** of an ordinance amending the *City Code of Ordinances* Zoning Chapter 28 and Chapter 23, regarding use of sidewalks. **(PWD-Planning)**

City Planner Mary Beck said the business owners in the downtown area had been making great efforts to promote downtown and had project plans that require use of sidewalks. This would amend the zoning chapter to allow use commercial and cultural use of the sidewalks on Broad Street in the 100-400 block ranges where sidewalks on both sides of the street were 11' wide. Sales displays of the same products sold inside the businesses would require review by the Historic District Commission and require a review fee of fifty dollars (\$50). Provisions were included to keep pedestrian sidewalk use open to the standards of built sidewalks as regulated by the ADA.

- Motion to place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by: Director Odom  
Motion seconded by: Director Johnson

Motion carried unanimously, and the ordinance was read the first time in abbreviated form.

12. **FIRST READING** of an ordinance rezoning the property in the 900 Block of South Rondo Road from R-1 Rural Residential to R-1 Rural Residential Overlay. **(PWD-Planning)**

City Planner Mary Beck said Mr. Landrith's extended family had owned this land for over 100 years. He would like to place a double-wide manufactured home on this property for his daughter. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the R-1 Rural residential to the R-1 Rural residential overlay district that allowed manufactured homes. The manufactured home district was located across Rondo Road from this property on the west and was bordered by railroad tracks on the northeast.

- Motion to place the ordinance on its first reading in abbreviated form made by: Director Odom

Motion seconded by:

Director Teeters

Motion carried unanimously, and the ordinance was read the first time in abbreviated form.

**10.** Citizen Communication – No one came forward

**11.** Executive Session – Board entered into Executive Session at 6:55 PM

Director Harris left the Board Room at 6:55 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 7:28 PM.

Director Harris returned to the Board Room at 7:28 PM.

No action was taken.

**12.** Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn made by:  
Motion seconded by:

Director Johnson  
Director Teeters

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Ruth Penney Bell, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

Heather Soyars, City Clerk