



BOARD OF DIRECTORS CITY OF TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018 – 12:00 NOON

Called 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 6 Director Terry Peavy
City Manager Dr. Kenny Haskin City Clerk Heather Soyars

Absent: Assistant Mayor Barbara Miner, City Attorney George Matteson and Deputy
City Clerk Jenny Narens

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance given by Mayor Ruth Penney Bell
*Director Laney Harris arrived at 12:03 PM.
4. **Adopt a Resolution** renaming a City facility. **(BOD)** (This item was added to the agenda at the request of Director Tim Johnson.

Director Johnson said Ermer Pondexter was the epitome of a Community Leader and even though she was retired she continued to fight for the greater good of all Texarkana citizens. He said it was for this reason and for her decades of service to not only the citizens of Texarkana but Statewide that he recommended renaming Hobo Jungle Park the Ermer Dansby Pondexter Sports Complex.

Director Harris said the park was in his ward, but he was not aware of the renaming of the park until a few minutes before the meeting.

Mayor Bell said this was at the initiation of Director Johnson and she said Mrs. Pondexter's birthday was yesterday and a celebration would be held for her tonight.

LaRhonda Pondexter said she was a Texarkana native and the middle daughter of Ermer Pondexter. She gave a tribute to her mother and asked the Board to make a sound and reason decision.

Mayor Bell said this was an open meeting and we would hear whoever wished to speak.

Director Johnson asked to play a video which featured Mrs. Pondexter and comments

from her peers.

Mayor Bell said Ms. Pondexter was a champion for all who had a cause and who felt they had been discriminated against. She said she knew how that felt. She asked if anyone had another name to submit to the Board, now was the time to do it.

Ulysses Brewer, NAACP President of Miller County, commended Ermer Pondexter for her years of service in the community and said this was a monumental initiative. He thanked the Board for taking this into consideration and moving forward and giving Ermer Pondexter the great honor to have this park named after her.

Robert Jones, 813 Macedonia Road, Texarkana, Texas, President of the Greater Texarkana Branch of the NAACP, also gave accolades about Ermer Pondexter and said on behalf of the Greater Texarkana Branch of the NAACP, he wanted to give any type of encouragement for this Board because they would be doing something today that would be monumental.

Anderson Neal, 59 Meadowview Drive, spoke about Ermer Pondexter's role in his family said he was certainly privileged to stand here today to say that naming the park after Mrs. Pondexter would certainly be monumental and well deserved for a person that had done her part and made this community a better place."

Vicki Lacy, 1108 Ash Street, praised Ermer Pondexter and said she was a mentor to her and she was so well deserving.

Lisa McDermott, 1517 Linden Avenue, honored Ermer Pondexter and stated her many accomplishments. She also said the Ermer Dansby Pondexter Park spoke volumes of what one person can do to change not just our town, but our state and nation.

Carolyn Moore, 4902 Lindsey Lane, Texarkana, Texas, President of Texarkana Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, said on behalf of the Texarkana Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, the largest African American Sorority, we support you in this endeavor. She said it would behoove each one of you to vote in favor of naming the Hobo Jungle Park after Ermer Pondexter on this day, June 23, 2018.

Director Odom thanked Director Johnson for his comments at the start of the meeting and for the proposal to rename Hobo Jungle Park to the Ermer Dansby Pondexter Sports Complex.

Director Johnson said this lady has had so much impact throughout her life, we could all talk all day and not touch on every aspect of it. He said it was obvious Ermer Pondexter had touched everyone here.

Director Johnson read the resolution in its entirety

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

Motion carried unanimously

9. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn made by: Director Johnson
Motion seconded by: Director Teeters

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:44 PM.

Ruth Penney Bell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Soyars, City Clerk