CITY OF TEXARKANA

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES ● FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Texarkana College | **Special Meeting** | **11:00 AM**

220 TEXAS BLVD.
TEXARKANA, TX 75501

I. CALL TO ORDER FOR A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE CITIES OF TEXARKANA, TEXAS & TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM(S)

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Bob Bruggeman	Mayor	Present	
Brad Casteel	Ward 1	Absent	
Willie Ray	Ward 2	Absent	
Tina Veal-Gooch	Ward 3	Present	
Brian Matthews	Ward 4	Present	
Christy P. Paddock	Ward 5	Present	
Josh Davis	Ward 6	Present	

Texarkana, Arkansas Mayor and Board of Directors present: Mayor Ruth Penney Bell, Allan Wren (Ward 1), Laney Harris (Ward 2), Tim Johnson (Ward 3), Travis Odom (Ward 4), Barbara Miner (Ward 5), and Sue Johnson (Ward 6).

III. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE GIVEN BY PHRED NORTON

IV. PUBLIC FORUM/COMMENTS

No citizen spoke at the public forum.

V. LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA/LIFT

The purpose of the meeting is to determine a structure and/or a process for the two City Governing Boards to address current and future opportunities for the mutual benefit and success of the two cities, their residents and businesses. Each state has advantages to bring to the table to benefit the citizens of Texarkana.

Ruth Ellen Whitt, Executive Director of Leadership Initiative for Texarkana (LIFT), made some welcome comments, thanked all in attendance for coming and introduced facilitators Pat Heiny and Mary Jo Clark to begin the program.

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VI. COMMENTS

a. Governing Boards - Each governing body member made an introduction and related one goal for Texarkana that he or she would like to see accomplished. A few of the comments expressed were: economic growth, marketing, building relationships for unity between the two local governments, cleaning up litter, becoming a destination stop for travelers and enhancing the regional airport.

b. Facilitators - Ms. Heiny and Ms. Clark listed several unique advantages held by Texarkana, discussed recommended plans to implement some of the ideas expressed by elected officials, helped each governing body think about what will help the elected officials to make things happen and what do they need from others, and encouraged each group to outline the next steps to be taken within 90 days.

c. Staff - City Manager John Whitson asked for each governing body to consider how the two cities will review things moving forward for the benefit of Texarkana citizens.

d. Texarkana Mayors - In closing comments, Mayor Bruggeman said there is a need for strong economic development which would necessitate having a regional meeting to include neighboring cities and counties to discuss pooling resources and having open communication. Mayor Bruggeman also stated the importance of maintaining two-way communication between the two cities.

Mayor Bell stressed the need for a total "buy-in" of the entire Texarkana, Arkansas board to present a united body and show strength in order to move goals forward. Mayor Bell also said that the board needs to appoint the appropriate people to assist the board so that "action" will result.

e. Leadership Texarkana/Lift - Phred Norton expressed appreciation to all of the sponsors who contributed to the arrangements of the meeting and thanked all for being in attendance.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.
(2:20 p.m.)

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Tina Veal-Gooch, Ward 3
SECONDER:	Brian Matthews, Ward 4
AYES:	Veal-Gooch, Matthews, Paddock, Davis
ABSENT:	Casteel, Ray
EXCUSED:	Bruggeman

Jennifer Evans
City Secretary

Bob Bruggeman
Mayor