

MINUTES
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SPECIAL CALLED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 8, 2023

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Executive Committee met at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Office, EOC Room, 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, Texas as well as a videoconference.

Item 1. Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County, called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Judge Howell, gave the invocation.

Item 3. Public Comment.

No member of the public made a comment.

Executive Closed Session

Item 4. Judge Howell called for the Executive Committee to recess into Executive Closed Session to discuss personnel matters as allowed in the Texas Open Meetings Act, Section 551.074, Executive Director's resignation at 3:33 p.m.

Motion to recess into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.074 was made by Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County, and seconded by Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks. It was approved.

Open Session/Regular Business

Item 5. Judge Howell reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 4:43 p.m.

Judge Howell presented the following items of business that require action:

1) Accept the resignation of Chris Brown as the Executive Director.

Motion to accept Chris Brown's resignation as Executive Director was made by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, and seconded by Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County. It was approved.

2) Appoint an interim Executive Director and establish the start date.

Motion to appoint Mary Beth Rudel as Interim Executive Director with a start date of September 8, or earlier as required by Judge Howell, and adjust her salary accordingly to compensate her while serving as the Interim Executive Director at the base of \$125,000 was made by Judge Ransom, and seconded by Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County. It was approved.

3) Approve Executive Director's job description and salary.

Motion to approve the Executive Director's job description provided to the Executive Committee with a salary range of \$125,000 - \$150,000 was made by Mayor Reiter and seconded by Mr. Stan Wyatt, NETX Municipal Water District Board. It was approved.

4) Establish the Executive Director hiring process:

- Appoint the following Search Committee
 - Judge Bobby Howell
 - Judge Robert Newsom
 - Mr. Scott Norton
 - Judge Scott Lee
 - Chris Brown, Ad Hoc Member
- 8/8/23: Post position with various resources and agencies (NADO, TARC, Indeed, LinkedIn)
- 9/8/23: Close applications
- 9/11-15/23: Search Committee meeting to discuss applicants
Establish Interview questions and process
Select 3 to 5 candidates for Executive Committee Interview
- 9/28/23: Executive Committee Interviews and Recommend a candidate to Board

Motion to approve the Search Committee and hiring process was made by Mayor Rushing and seconded by Judge Ransom. It was approved.

Motion to convene an Executive Committee meeting the morning of September 28, 2023, to interview 3 to 5 candidates and establish a recommendation for hire to the ATCOG Board of Directors for consideration at the ATCOG Board of Directors meeting to be held the afternoon of September 28, 2023, was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Judge Cooper. It was approved.

Announcements

The next ATCOG Board of Directors meeting will be held Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Mt. Pleasant Civic Center, located at 1800 N Jefferson Ave, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via teleconference/webinar.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Reiter and seconded by Judge Ransom. It was approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville
Stan Wyatt, NETX Municipal Water District Board

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheryl Collum, Mayor, City of Wake Village
Jean Matlock, Councilwoman, City of Texarkana, TX

GUESTS PRESENT

Rea Donna Jones

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Brown, Executive Director

Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator

Melody Harmon, Economic Development Director

Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director

Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant

Leslie McBride, Human Resources Director

Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator

Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer

Lisa Reeve, Area Agency on Aging Director

Mary Beth Rudel, Deputy Director

Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator



Bobby Howell, President
Board of Directors
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

