

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 20-2019; TO REVISE OPERATING PARAMETERS FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20-2019 established an entertainment district within the Texarkana, Arkansas city limits in downtown Texarkana, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the Texarkana, Arkansas Police Department has seen an increase in violations related to underage drinking, public intoxication, and disturbing the peace; and

WHEREAS, a joint public workshop of the Planning Commission and Board of Directors was held on November 12, 2025 and immediate changes were agreed upon, to include revisions to the hours of operation, prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages purchased from outside the district, requiring the City Planner to initiate the required reviews, and removing the Rock House Liquor Store from the entertainment district;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas that:

Section 1: Ordinance No. 20-2019 is amended to include the provisions that no alcohol may be consumed that was purchased outside the Entertainment District, the hours of operation shall be Sunday 11:00 a.m. to midnight; and Monday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., and the City Planner shall be responsible for initiating the required reviews of the Entertainment District.

Section 2: Section 50-176 of the *Texarkana, Arkansas Code of Ordinances* is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 50-176. Entertainment district.

An entertainment district may be established to allow open container consumption of alcohol subject to the following conditions:

The area of an entertainment district must have established entertainment venues and operating restaurants that serve alcohol. Set boundaries and hours are to be enumerated for any district established and signage posted with hours allowed for open consumption. Nothing in these regulations shall in any way conflict with or exceed the limits of state statutes governing alcohol regulations including but not limited to: no open containers may be carried out from liquor stores; no open containers are allowed in any motorized vehicles; no consumption of alcohol bought outside the Entertainment District and underage drinking shall not be permitted. No glass containers for any liquid shall be allowed in the entertainment district during entertainment hours. Hours of operation shall be Sunday 11:00 a.m. to midnight; and Monday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 12:00am. A licensee may allow alcoholic beverages to be removed from a licensed premises to persons twenty-one (21) years of age or older to carry within the entertainment district. No open containers containing alcohol may be carried into any business establishment. The city is to provide trash cans and daily pick-up from those trash cans, or as needed. A review of the entertainment district is to be provided to the board of directors from the planning commission during the month of June 2020, January 2021, and therewith annually, or as needed, based on input from the public works department, fire department and the police department with any recommendations for amendments. The City Planner shall be responsible for initiating the required reviews of the Entertainment District.

At the city manager's discretion, or his assignee, typically the public works director, part, or all of the entertainment district may be closed to through traffic for street dances, music acts, art exhibits or other cultural events or promotions.

Section 3: Section 50-314 of the *Texarkana, Arkansas Code of Ordinances* is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 50-314. – Definitions

Entertainment district: An area with specific boundaries where entertainment venues and restaurants serving alcohol are located. During hours of operation of the entertainment district as set by the city, alcohol may be consumed in open containers outdoors but subject to all state statutes as well as local ordinances that otherwise apply.

The boundaries of an entertainment district is shown on the map attached to the ordinance from which this definition derives and ranges from Stateline Avenue at 5th Street, west to Walnut Street, south on Walnut Street to 3rd Street, then east along 3rd Street to Laurel Street; and, from there south on Laurel Street to Broad Street, then west on Broad Street to Hazel Street and turning south at Hazel Street (Hazel Street curves and merges into Front Street), west on Front Street to the east side of Pine Street, then north along the east side of Pine Street where it merges into State Line Avenue and north from

there to the point of beginning at 5th Street, save and except the N 40' OF LOT 10 & ALL LOTS 11 & 12, BLOCK 49 of the ORIGINAL CITY.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 5th day of January 2025.

Allen L. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Soyars, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Joshua L. Potter, City Attorney