

RESOLUTION NO _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRYAN, TEXAS, SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF TEXAS STATE HIGHWAY 47 AS “JOHN SHARP PARKWAY” IN APPRECIATION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP BY TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CHANCELLOR JOHN SHARP; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE;

WHEREAS, the son of an oil field worker and a school teacher, John Sharp grew up in the small farming community of Placedo in Victoria County, along the Texas Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, John Sharp earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Texas A&M University, where he was elected as Student Body President of the school’s 16,000 student body and was a member of Squadron 6 in the Corps of Cadets; and

WHEREAS, after graduation he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves and belonged to American Legion Post 76 in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the next five years would be spent working in Austin as an analyst for the Legislative Budget Board, a state agency that tracks spending; during this time, he earned his Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos; and

WHEREAS, he then returned home to Victoria, Texas, and began his new successful venture, opening his own real estate firm; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, John Sharp was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and served as a State Representative until being elected to the State of Texas Senate in 1982; and

WHEREAS, during his service as a Texas Senator, John Sharp provided invaluable insight, perspective, and guidance and was appointed to the Senate Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the Senate, John Sharp was appointed as the Texas Railroad Commissioner in 1986; it is in this position he worked to reform the state's trucking regulations, improve railroad safety, and develop new markets for Texas' abundant supply of clean-burning and efficient natural gas; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Sharp was elected Texas State Comptroller, the state’s top accountant and tax collector; he identified more than \$8.5 billion in taxpayer savings and changed the way government does business through such innovations as the Council on Competitive Government; he received national acclaim for his audits of the state budget, which turned up billions of dollars in unexpected savings; and

WHEREAS, as Comptroller he also created and implemented many innovative programs including the Texas School Performance Review, Texas Window on State Government, and the Texas Tomorrow Fund, a pre-paid college tuition plan that allows over 80,000 Texas families to lock in the future costs of their children’s college education; and

WHEREAS, John Sharp also commanded the most successful state lottery start-up in U.S. history, and once he turned the lottery over to the new Texas Lottery Commission, the state had earned \$1 billion and John Sharp returned \$81 million in unspent administrative funds; Sharp's blueprint for the Texas Lottery was later used by several American states as well as Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, John Sharp was appointed head of the Texas Tax Reform Commission and was asked to head an education task force charged with preparing a bi-partisan education plan for the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Sharp helped spearhead Texas Proposition 15 in 2007, a proposed amendment to the Texas Constitution that sought to establish grants for cancer research, cancer prevention, and control programs in Texas to mitigate the incidence of cancer, and the purchase of laboratory facilities. Sharp acted as treasurer for the supporting political action committee, Texans to Cure Cancer, securing \$3 billion to fund aggressive cancer research at facilities across Texas; and

WHEREAS, he spent a decade in the private sector as a Principal in the Austin office of tax-consulting firm Ryan L.L.C.; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, John Sharp was appointed Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System by the Board of Regents, and today leads one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation, a statewide network of eleven universities and eight state agencies with a university presence in 250 Texas counties, an annual budget of \$7.2 billion, with a student enrollment of over 152,000 students; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Chancellor Sharp recognized the historical ties between the City of Bryan and Texas A&M University, and has been mindful of the interests of the citizens of Bryan working tirelessly to expand the success of Texas A&M University to benefit the City of Bryan community; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Sharp and the Texas A&M University System have invested over a billion dollars in the development of three significant campuses in Bryan, making the City of Bryan an integral part of Aggieland and prospering the lives of Bryan citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, his investment includes the 2016 opening of the RELLIS campus, once called Bryan Field, and later Bryan Air Force Base; Chancellor Sharp saw the potential and benefit for the Bryan community; today, RELLIS is an innovative campus, a technology and testing research hub that facilitates collaboration between local private and public sector companies and while also providing unique educational opportunities for students; and

WHEREAS, Texas State Highway 47 links RELLIS to the Texas A&M University Health Science Center and the university's main campus; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Sharp's distinguished service to the people of Texas, as both an elected official, private citizen, and Chancellor has brought respect, honor, and integrity to the Cities of Bryan and College Station, and the Texas A&M University System; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bryan wishes to publicly recognize Chancellors Sharp's continuing commitment, dedication, and invaluable contributions to the great state of Texas and his local community; he defines the Aggies core values of: Respect, Excellence, Leadership, Loyalty, Integrity, and Selfless Service; and

WHEREAS, it is the sincere belief of the City of Bryan City Council that Chancellor Sharp has done more for the City of Bryan than any other; Chancellor Sharp has left a lasting legacy to always be remembered and celebrated by all individuals of Bryan; and

WHEREAS, the naming of Texas State Highway 47 as "John Sharp Parkway" will help serve to perpetuate the memory of the Chancellor John Sharp for his time-honored legacy of dedication, vision, and outstanding public service which will long benefit the citizens of the City of Bryan and acknowledge and

appreciation Chancellor Sharp for leading by example, acting as an agent of change, exhibiting the highest level of innovation and exhibiting an outstanding community spirit in his service, while maintaining a superior moral character.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRYAN, TEXAS:

1.

That the City of Bryan hereby supports the designation of Texas State Highway 47 as “John Sharp Parkway” and thereby requests that the Texas Department of Transportation take the appropriate action and make the necessary changes to designate Texas State Highway 47 as a memorial route for the Texas A&M University System Chancellor.

2.

It is hereby found and determined that the meeting at which this resolution was adopted was open to the public as required by law and notice of time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given required by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

3.

That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Bryan this 11th day of October, 2022.

ATTEST:

CITY OF BRYAN:

Mary Lynne Stratta, City Secretary

Andrew Nelson, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Thomas A. Leeper, City Attorney