

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 2019**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 16, 2019, in the Foreman Community Center at 4:00 p.m.

Mike McKee opened the meeting with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Mayor, Bill Harp, called the meeting to order and the roll was called. Council members Judy Adams, Alana Cody, Helen Dixon, Tommy McDonald, Mike McKee, and Perry Young were present. A quorum was declared. Janet Hefner, Recorder/Treasurer, Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer and County Chief Deputy Kevin Sanders were also present. Kyle Carter was present representing Foreman Parks and Recreation.

The minutes of the July meeting were reviewed. No meeting was held in August due to the Mayor being sick. Mike McKee made the motion to accept the minutes and Judy Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Financial report for the months of July and August were presented. After a brief review and discussion, Judy Adams made a motion to approve and accept the report. Perry Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the Council

None

Department Reports

Administration: Mayor Harp discussed the State Audit. We had (1) one finding concerning the use of IDC funds to pay the IRS \$30,194 for the 2015 and 2016 payroll taxes and penalties. In the response letter, it was explained we are repaying IDC Fund \$1,000 per month; split between General Fund, Street Fund, and Water Fund. He said a copy of Ordinance 241 pertaining to the use of the IDC funds was also included in the response. We have not heard back from the Legislative Audit at this time.

Mayor Harp said RDA is planning another rate increase February 1, 2020. At this time we have not received official documentation on the amount of increase for 2020.

The Mayor said we had a water break on 2nd Ave. and 9th Street this morning and RDA assisted with the repair since Eddie was out of town at the Arkansas Rural Water Association conference in Hot Springs. Their help and use of their equipment was appreciated.

Mayor Harp reported that Tyler Joyce with Boy Scouts of America had approached him about the City sponsoring a Cub Scout troop. Mayor Harp said he contacted the Foreman Kiwanis Club since they had sponsored the Scouts in the past.

Mayor Harp said he was going to Ola, AR with Eddie Smith and Glen Spears of Spears Engineering on September 18 to tour their renovated wastewater facility. They have implemented the same wastewater system as we are planning on installing.

Mayor Harp said he has received correspondence from the Arkansas Department of Transportation of potential funding for street overlay through the grants offered through the Arkansas Dept. of

Transportation for the City of Foreman. Streets to receive the overlay will be determined through this process as it progresses.

The Mayor said he received a letter from Arkansas Affiliate Susan G. Komen along with a proclamation from Governor Asa Hutchinson proclaiming October 4, 2019 as 'Go Pink Day' for breast cancer awareness. Mayor Harp will present a proclamation designating October 4, 2019 as 'Go Pink for the Cure Day' to bring awareness of the importance of mammography and removing obstacles that prevent women from seeking mammograms in our area. Wearing pink on this day is encouraged.

Law Enforcement: The monthly patrol reports from the Sheriff's Dept. for July and August were presented.

July report: The deputies drove approximately 4,273 miles and responded to (130) calls for service including (12) disturbance calls, (2) suspicious person calls, (8) medical calls, (7) animal complaint, (7) accidents, and (3) theft calls. Deputies made (6) misdemeanor arrests, (10) felony arrest, served (6) warrants, and issued (35) warnings and (11) citations. Deputies also located (3) open doors while conducting security checks. Fines collected in the amount of \$1,393.96 for the month of July.

August report: The deputies drove approximately 4,139 miles and responded to (133) calls for service including (19) disturbance calls, (3) suspicious person calls, (6) medical calls, (10) animal complaint, (1) accident, and (2) theft calls. Deputies made (7) misdemeanor arrests, (1) felony arrest, served (5) warrants, and issued (23) warnings and (17) citations. Deputies also located (2) open doors while conducting security checks. Fines collected in the amount of \$1,527.00 for the month of August.

Chief Deputy Sanders reported they had extra security in the schools during the time of the state wide school shooting threat. Tommy McDonald asked Chief Deputy Sanders if they could patrol the parks more frequently. Homeless people sleeping on benches, storage buildings, and churches around town was discussed as a problem at the present time in Foreman.

Fire Department: Mike McKee asked if the Mayor had followed up on the Fire Department gear exposed at the chemical spill at Ash Grove. Mayor Harp reported that he had been told that the gear was not contaminated but Ash Grove was supposed to be replacing some of the hose. He was asked to contact the plant manager and discuss this issue.

Parks Department: Kyle Carter, a member of the Foreman Parks and Recreation board, spoke in reference to Ordinance 230, Section 5, giving the city council power to remove members from the Parks and Recreation board by 2/3 vote. He asked the council to remove (3) three members that do not regularly attend the meetings and Peggy Bloxham that recently resigned. Mike McKee asked if they had bylaws in place to cover this. At this time the Parks and Recreation commission does not have any bylaws, just the city ordinance. Judy Adams suggested he (Tommy McDonald) contact the members in question and ask if they wanted to continue on the board or not, rather than simply removing them.

Tommy McDonald, Park Director, reported to the council that the Sunderland Foundation has awarded the Foreman Parks and Recreation commission \$250,000 for the purpose of building a concession stand/restroom facility at the Recreation Park. The Park commission has also submitted a matching grant through Arkansas Parks and Tourism.

Tommy McDonald presented the council with a list of safety issues and problems at the City Park that need to be repaired, upgraded, or replaced. The concrete is broken in several places along the walking trail and there are electrical issues posing a big safety hazard. He also stated that the east side of the City Park is not being mowed and properly maintained. Mike McKee asked for the improvements and repairs be itemized. McDonald stated the list given to the council was a good list of projects to be considered to work on and other upgrades. The council discussed using IDC funds to make the repairs to the City Park. A motion was made by Perry Young with a second from Alana Cody to use IDC funds to make the repairs and upgrades to the City Park. A vote was taken with Alana Cody voting yea, Judy Adams yea, Helen Dixon yea, Perry Young yea; Tommy McDonald abstained, Mike McKee voting nay. Motion carried. The improvements to the City Park would enhance the quality of life and promote an active lifestyle to Foreman residents.

McDonald said there is a light out at the Recreation Park by the brush pile. McDonald said Michael Adcock, from Foreman Youth Sports Association, has been working on the ball fields.

Street Department: Nothing to report

Water Department: Nothing to report

Sanitation Department: Mayor Harp stated that the part-time person he had hired to drive the sanitation truck is no longer employed with the city.

Unfinished Business:

The council discussed the ongoing problem of semi-trucks traveling on Dollarhide Street and other city streets. Perry Young said he spoke with the Prosecuting Attorney and he says there is nothing that can be done if not observed driving on the city streets. Pictures are not adequate he states. Our city streets continue to be damaged by these trucks.

Mayor Harp said when the weather cools off they would resume repairing the pot holes around town.

The Mayor said ABC Roofing has sprayed foam under the eaves at City Hall and it is not leaking at this time but we have not had any significant rainfall either.

The Mayor will be attending RDA's monthly board meeting on September 19 at 4pm and should get more information on the upcoming rate increase. Mayor Harp said he has spoken with several business owners and citizens encouraging them to attend the RDA board meeting to voice their concerns over the water quality and other water issues.

Tommy McDonald said he has cut the trees back on the west side of Madden St. and 5th Ave. for better safety pulling out into traffic on Madden St.

New Business:

Judy Adams addressed the council on behalf of the Foreman Thursday Music Club. The Club is 100 years old and has records of those years. The council was asked to allow the Foreman Thursday Music Club to store records in the safe deposit boxes in the old Regions Bank building the city purchased. The council discussed the issue and Judy Adams made a motion to allow record storage at the old Regions Bank building safe deposit vault. The motion was seconded by Perry Young. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Adams thanked the council members for approving this request.

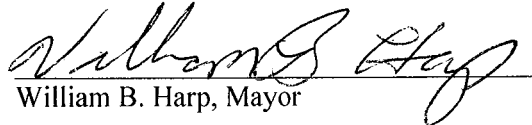
Executive Session: None

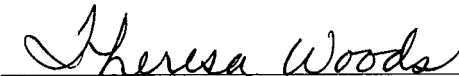
Regular Session

Announcements

The Mayor announced the next council meeting for October, will be held on Monday, October 21, 2019.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by a motion from Helen Dixon, seconded by Tommy McDonald. Meeting adjourned.


William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest: 
Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer