

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 19, 2021**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 19, 2021, via ZOOM virtual meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harp. Prayer was offered by Jacqueline Wiseman and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Recorder/Treasurer Angelina Carver called the roll. Present were Judy Adams, Alana Cody, Jacqueline Wiseman and Perry Young including Bailee Houser, Recorder/Treasurer Angelina Carver, Mayor William Harp and city attorney Thad Bishop. Mike McKee and Tommy McDonald was absent. A quorum was declared.

Regular Session:

The minutes were presented for review, revision, and approval. Ms. Wiseman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mrs. Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented for review and approval. Mrs. Cody asked if there has always been an Infrastructure account. Mayor Harp explained the account was opened after the election in November when voters passed reallocating the ½ cent city sales tax to be used for other purposes. Mrs. Cody made a motion to approve the financial report with Ms. Wiseman seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the Council

None

Department Reports

Administration:

Mayor Harp reported the construction on the clinic is moving along. He stated that the wiring for the computers is being installed, the framing is up, and the plumbing is roughed in. The electrical is in the process of being completed. The HVAC is almost complete. The shelves in the room behind the vault have been removed. Mayor Harp said the hospital needs to start advertising they are opening a clinic in Foreman.

Mayor Harp stated the Little River Clinic is supposed to give COVID vaccinations in Foreman. Mayor Harp told the council that Lansdell Family Clinic is opening a clinic in the old Dollar General store location at Tracy Lawrence Ave. and Schuman St. intersection.

Mayor Harp explained to the council the city will be receiving money from the American Rescue Plan the federal government has enacted to help cities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated the City of Foreman should receive around \$176,235.75 which they will distribute ½ the money this year and the remaining ½ a year later. He said there will be guidelines on how the money can be spent. Mayor Harp said these funds are unique in the fact that it can be used for water and wastewater infrastructure. Mayor Harp said we have some busted tiles by the creek at the city park that need new lining in them. He said there is a company that can run a sleeve inside the pipe to seal the leaks in the tiles. He said we have several sewer manholes along the railroad that are in need of repair along the railroad and other places throughout the city. Mayor Harp said we need to create a list of projects and prioritize.

Law Enforcement: The Law Enforcement report was presented for review. The deputies drove approximately 5,300 miles for the month. Deputies responded to (106) calls for service including (10) disturbance calls, (2) suspicious person calls, (3) accidents, and (4) animal complaints. Deputies made (1) misdemeanor arrests, made (2) felony arrests, served (1) warrant, served (2) civil processes, and issued (12) warnings and (5) citations. Deputies also located (3) open doors while conducting security checks and collected \$1,610.86 in fines for the city for the month of March.

Fire Department: No report.

Parks Department: Mayor Harp reported that the concession/restroom construction at the recreation park is ready to pour concrete. He said the electrical and plumbing have been roughed in. The weather has been a factor in getting it poured.

Street Department: Mayor Harp said he ordered two loads of gravel and it has been delivered. He stated a load of asphalt has been ordered but not delivered at this time. The guys have been patching pot holes periodically.

Water Department: Mayor Harp reported that Badger Meters and Henard Utilities is investigating a problem with approximately 16 water customers showing higher than normal usage in March. These meters are recording excessively high usage on these 16 meters. Both Badger Meters and Henard Utilities have met with Mayor Harp, Eddie Smith, Coleen Fowler, Theresa Woods, and Glen Spears with Spears Engineering. Mayor Harp stated he feels two of the meters have some type of problem. Mrs. Adams and Mr. Young asked why we couldn't average their last six months and bill them that amount. Mr. Young said he had asked for list of customers balances. He said he was told he could not have a list. Mayor Harp asked Mr. Bishop his opinion about giving customer information to him. Mr. Bishop said he did not think it a good idea to give out information that may have account numbers, social security numbers, etc. He said it probably would be okay to give out information without the personal information. Mr. Young made a motion and Mrs. Adams seconded the motion to average the last six months usage on the (16) customer's affected by the higher usage and that would be the amount they pay on the bill in question until the problem is resolved. Motion carried. Mrs. Adams asked if Ms. Wiseman's problem with her meter was the same as the others. Mayor Harp explained that she had busted pipes in February but the problem in March was her meter had been turned off since the pipes busted in February but Beacon showed a usage when the meter was supposed to be turned off. The Badger representative pulled the meter and was going to look into the incident.

Sanitation Department: Mayor Harp stated that the department is going good. He stated the trash truck was taken to the shop in Texarkana to be serviced on Friday and picked it up on Monday. Mayor Harp said the air tanks were getting a lot of water going through them. The dryer and pop-off valve was replaced. The air bags in the back were inflated because the air tanks were not keeping enough air in them. The council asked about the warranty on the truck. Mayor Harp said there was a warranty on the truck. Bailee Houser reported that the invoice was received today and it was for fuel filter, nylon hose, oil, oil filter, brake cleaner, tubing, and several other items. Mrs. Adams suggested Mayor Harp look over the invoice and make sure none of the items should be warranty item.

Animal Control: Mayor Harp reported (2) dogs were picked up. One dog had a chain and ID and the owner was contacted. The owner was given a copy of the ordinances and warned if the dog was loose again it would be taken to the pound in Ashdown. The other dog was taken to the pound.

Unfinished Business:

- A) Mayor Harp reported he is still working on the Street Grant with Arkansas Department of Transportation. He stated he has sent Steve Morgan with the ARDOT a map with the revisions for the street repairs but has not heard from him. Mayor Harp said he is trying to get the cost down closer to \$300,000 which is the grant amount. Mayor Harp said he has talked with County Judge Cranford about chip and sealing some of the less traveled streets. Mrs. Adams said she drove around the city after the recent storm looking at the damage and she stated the street before Stephens Street is in awful condition. She went on to say every street in the city has terrible holes and they are awful. Mr. Young stated that 1st Avenue is on the list for the grant and it only has one house. He said Stephens Street has 10 or 15 houses. Mr. Young said we should fix the busy streets where people live. Mayor Harp stated that trucks use that street. Mr. Young stated the trucks should travel on Highway 41 or 32. Mrs. Cody said she understood we could use the IDC money to repair streets going to businesses. Mayor Harp said that is true but we have already committed \$190,665 to renovate the building for the Little River Memorial Clinic. There was more discussion about using the grant money for the most traveled roads and talking to County Judge Cranford about using chip and seal for the less traveled streets. Mayor Harp said we have a culvert on Schuman Street across the street from the Foreman Flea Market that is caving in. Mr. Young said the culvert by Olen Anderson is caving in and it is going to tear up a vehicle. Mr. Young suggested a committee be formed to make a list and prioritize the projects. Mr.

Young said he observed a city employee weed-eating but he did not finish; he left half not finished. Mrs. Adams said we have more employees than ever before and they don't have to read the meters anymore. Mayor Harp stated on Monday and Friday's two employees pick up the dumpsters at the businesses and on Wednesday three employees pick up residential garbage. Mayor Harp said Perry Stevenson is taking apprenticeship water classes through Arkansas Rural Water on Thursday mornings in preparation to get his water license. Mayor Harp said it would take him two years to get his Class 3 water distribution license.

Mayor Harp stated last year Tommy McDonald mowed the grass at the park. He said there is a lot to mow. Mrs. Cody asked if the city could contract out the mowing of the park until the roads are fixed. Mayor Harp said the street department did not have the funds to cover contracting out the mowing. Mayor Harp said he will put together a committee to look at the streets.

- B) Mayor Harp told the council the quote on the storage building he presented to the council last month has increased in price by \$2,000 due to the increase in the price of metal. Mrs. Adams stated we need to put off buying a building at this time and use the storage in the Fire Department. All council persons agreed.
- C) Mayor Harp asked for a motion to approve the 2020 Water Audit conducted by Barry & Associates. A motion was made by Mrs. Adams and Mr. Young to approve the 2020 Water Audit. Motion carried. Mrs. Adams said we can be very proud of our department for working hard and doing a good job.

Mayor Harp asked Mr. Bishop what the procedure is to write off the water bad debt customers. Mr. Bishop said he would need to ask for a motion to approve writing off the bad debt accounts. Mrs. Adams made a motion to write off the list of bad debt accounts and continue trying to collect the debt. Motion was seconded by Ms. Wiseman. Motion carried.

- D) Mayor Harp reported the Farmers Market grand opening May 4th in Foreman and May 4th in Ashdown. The hours will be 4pm to 7pm. Mrs. Adams addressed the concrete is not level and asked what was going to be done to make it safe. Mayor Harp stated a rail will be put up to make it noticeable. He said the school Ag department is building the tables for merchandise. Mike McKee is overseeing the project. Mayor Harp said donations for the tables are being accepted "in memory of", etc.
- E) Mrs. Adams asked when the Little River Memorial Clinic is going to be open. Mr. Bishop said per the contract and they have until July 1, 2021 or July 15, 2021. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Cody said they have gone by and looked inside the building and it looks good. Mayor Harp asked Mr. Bishop when the clinic is planning on giving the COVID shots. Mr. Bishop said he thought the clinic was trying to coordinate with Ash Grove. Mr. Bishop said the hospital board will meet tomorrow. Mrs. Adams asked if the city could help advertise the clinic also. The Little River Memorial Hospital is also advertising with a couple of radio stations (KDQN and KKYR) and an ad in the Little River News. Mr. Bishop suggested talking to Terry Snead to write articles for the newspaper and buy an ad for the Texarkana Gazette. Mayor Harp suggested getting a banner in front of the clinic. It was suggested to talk with Gator Graphics to see about building a banner for the clinic. Mr. Bishop said if the city wanted to advertise they should be able to use IDC funds. Mr. Bishop asked if there was an available billboard in town that the hospital could rent to advertise. Mr. Young said he would check out the availability of billboards and also check on the banner at Gator Graphics.

New Business:

Mayor Harp stated that he may have a buyer for 203 Schuman Street (Gregory building). Mayor Harp reported he had it appraised and the appraised value is \$1,000 as is. After removal of the debris and cleanup the appraised value would be \$2,500. Mrs. Adams asked what the potential buyer was wanting to put in the building. Mayor Harp said it was for retail purposes. Mayor Harp stated if we ask for sealed bids, we will not be able to control what we get for the property. The council discussed the options and a motion was made by Ms. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. Young to get sealed bids to sell the property. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp stated that during the recent power outage we had two different problems. The breaker at the main generator at the ground storage tank kept kicking out. Someone had to be there to reset the breaker which incurred a lot of overtime. At the high tank, the telemetry was not working because we had no power and had to be checked on. Mayor Harp checked on sizes and cost of getting a generator for the high tank. It was suggested to get a 12 kilowatt natural gas stand-by generator. It would have the same set up as the generator at the ground storage tank. Mayor Harp said the cost would be \$4,660. Mrs. Adams made a motion to purchase a stand-by generator for \$4,660 and install at the high tank. Mr. Young seconded the motion. Mr. Young asked if that was turn-key and Mayor Harp said that was what he understood. Motion carried.

Mrs. Adams stated an Asplundh truck came by after the electricity was back on after the storm and cut tree limbs and left the limbs in the ditch. Mayor Harp said he was told they were coming back to get the limbs. Mayor Harp stated he talked with Judge Cranford and he is waiting for a permit to be able to burn the debris from the storm.

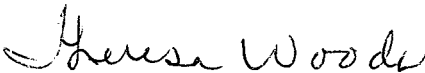
Executive Session: None

Regular Session:

The next council meeting will be held on **Monday, May 17, 2021** at 4pm.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by a motion from Jacqueline Wiseman, seconded by Alana Cody. Meeting adjourned.


William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest: 
Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer