

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 21, 2020**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 21, 2020, via ZOOM virtual meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harp. Prayer was offered by Mike McKee and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Recorder/Treasurer Janet Hefner called the roll. Present were Mike McKee, Jacqueline Wiseman, Alana Cody, Judy Adams, and Tommy McDonald, including Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Theresa Woods, Glen Spears, Recorder/Treasurer Janet Hefner, and Mayor William Harp. Council member Perry Young was absent. A quorum was declared.

Regular Session:

The minutes were presented for review, revise, and approval. Judy Adams made a motion to approve the minutes with Mike McKee seconding the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented for review and approval. There were some discussion. With no further questions, Judy Adams made a motion to approve the financial statement with Tommy McDonald seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the Council

None

Department Reports

Administration:

Mayor Harp reported the city had received the approximately \$38,321.02 from the Cares Act. There was discussion regarding what was, had or will be purchased with the funds. The monies have been deposited.

The Mayor stated with the citizen's approval of the City Sales and Use Tax of ½% passage, a new account should be set up with Horatio State Bank in Foreman for these funds as they have been approved for infrastructure, etc. This approval will allow the city with a much broader usage of the sales tax. Judy Adams made a motion to approve the Mayor establishing the new Infrastructure account for the tax funds requiring two signatures for signing and William B. Harp, Theresa Woods, and Coleen Fowler signers on the account. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement: The Law Enforcement report was presented for review. The deputies drove approximately 5,000 miles for the month of November. Deputies responded to (136) calls for service including (8) disturbance calls, (1) suspicious person call, (2) accidents, and (3) medical calls. Deputies made (5) misdemeanor arrests, served (3) warrants, issued (28) warnings and (8) citations. Deputies located (1) open door while conducting security checks. Fines for the month of November totaled \$520.01. It was discussed that perhaps other arrangements might be made for the city. No action taken.

Fire Department: No report.

Parks Department: Tommy McDonald stated ground work had begun for the new concession stand and restrooms. He stated work is progressing.

Street Department: Supervisor Eddie Smith stated a new culvert will be put in on N. Schuman St. A new culvert has been needed for some time. He also stated there was a washout on S. Schuman St. across from the Foreman Flea Market, but he and his employees could repair this problem.

Water Department: Superintendent Eddie Smith stated nothing new in regard to the Water department, and then added he was thinking about retiring in 2022. He stated he wasn't sure yet, but he would let us know.

Sanitation Department: Mayor Harp reported with the help of a community service worker, they have made some repairs on dumpsters.

Animal Control: Mayor Harp reported they are setting the traps to catch the dogs but someone is turning the animals loose.

Unfinished Business:

- A) The Mayor stated he had checked into the price of gravel as discussed last month with the street work to be done by the county. The Mayor stated he did find the gravel cheaper as was stated. He said he would be discussing this issue with the county judge.
- B) Sewer main reseal is still outstanding.
- C) Mayor Harp stated he was still waiting on information from the Little River Hospital administration regarding the new clinic and the amount required for the work per plans. Council members stated this project was moving **too** slow.
- D) The next item presented for discussion was the new water rates that RDA was implementing effective January 1, 2021 to the city. Theresa Woods stated she had asked Glen Spears to assist with options for the city since he worked with other cities regarding water and sewer rates. Mr. Spears presented information based on previous year's usage and rates as provided by the city staff. He presented three (3) options for consideration. He explained each one. Discussion followed questions on the options. There was also questions regarding the upcoming sewer upgrade and the necessity of increasing sewer rates pretty severely after this is done. Mr. Spears explained that the city was supplementing the sewer department expenses now due to previous reductions to the sewer rates by previous administrations. He reported that this department was not standing on its own rates now. Much discussion followed on how increasing rates for water and sewer to the citizens of Foreman was going to hit them very hard. However, RDA is raising the cost of water to the city beginning January 1, 2021 and the city has no other option but to increase its rates to the citizens also. After discussion, Mrs. Adams stated after discussing the options for a water increase we can implement at this time was the most appropriate, therefore she made a motion to approve an increase of 92 cents to the base minimum of 1,000 gallons and increase the rate over 1,000 by 21 cents per thousand effective February billing cycle (reflective on bills due March 10) for all City of Foreman water customers. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

- A) Mayor Harp announced that with the minimum wage increase that will begin on January 1, 2021, there were several adjustments of salary necessary. There are three employees that must have their salary adjusted to \$11.00 per hour. These are Ronnie R. Shoals, Clayvern Sams, and Coleen Fowler. Perry Stevenson's salary is presently at \$11.05; Mrs. Adams made a motion to increase his wage to \$12.05 effective January 1, 2021 since he holds required licenses for the city and is basically second in command under Eddie Smith. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mike McKee made a motion to raise the three employees under \$11 per hour to the required minimum wage of \$11 per hour effective January 1, 2021. Jacqueline Wiseman

seconded the motion. Motion carried. Some of the other staff may have adjustments later on in the year as deemed necessary.

- B) The annual employee incentive pay of \$100 was also presented for review. After brief discussion Alana Cody made a motion to approve, Mike McKee seconded. Motion carried.

The Mayor stated that due to Theresa Woods' upcoming treatments she might have to work from home some and he proposed that the city purchase a printer for home use for her. She has a computer. This will assist her during necessary times that she doesn't feel like reporting in to work. All council members agreed.

The Mayor read a Proclamation, National Day of Racial Healing, which is scheduled for January 19, 2021 and asked the council to support this proclamation. A motion was made by Jacqueline Wiseman and seconded by Alana to proclaim January 19, 2021 as National Day of Racial Healing in the City of Foreman. Motion carried.

Council member, Jacqueline Wiseman also announced that 'CAP' had received a grant of \$8,540 to assist Seniors in Foreman and the surrounding area with food supplies during this pandemic time where so many are in need of assistance. The council members applauded this effort and initiative to assist our Senior Citizens.

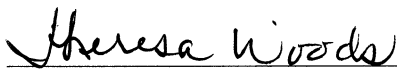
Executive Session: None

Regular Session:

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 4pm.

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


William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest: 
Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer