

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 20, 2020**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 20, 2020, in the Foreman Community Center at 4:00 p.m.

Judy Adams 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, Jacqueline Wiseman, Tommy McDonald and Perry Young were present. Mike McKee was absent. A quorum was declared. Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer, James Dowell, Little River Health System CEO, Dr. Jimmy Oglesby, Little River Health Systems, and Attorney Thad Bishop, were also present.

**Regular Session:**

The minutes of the May meeting was reviewed. There was no meeting in June due to the pandemic COVID-19. Judy Adams made the motion to accept the May minutes and Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Financial reports for the month of May and June were reviewed. A motion was made by Judy Adams to approve the May and June Financial Reports and was seconded by Perry Young. Motion carried.

**Citizens wishing to address the Council**

James Dowell, Little River Health System CEO, spoke to the council on the proposal submitted by Little River Health Systems to open a clinic in Foreman in the old Regions Bank building. Mr. Dowell gave an overview of their proposal and fielded questions from the council. He said they would provide a nurse practitioner (5) five days a week and a doctor (2) two days a week and open (1) one Saturday a month and adjust the Saturday schedule as needed. The Little River Health System (LRHS) accepts the majority of insurances and comply with any new insurances as needed and also accepts Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma Medicaid. He said they will have the capability to do some in house labs and will courier labs to hospital if same day results are needed. CT scans and X-rays will be available at the hospital 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Mr. Dowell stated their computer system allows doctors in other states to access medical records. Mr. Dowell said if the nurse practitioner was unavailable to work, another nurse practitioner or doctor would cover the clinic in Foreman. Additional information was presented in his proposal.

Mr. Dowell spoke to the council's concern having a pharmacy with the clinic. Mr. Dowell stated he has spoken with an individual that might be interested in putting a pharmacy in Foreman with the clinic. Mr. Dowell said if the individual did decide to put a pharmacy in Foreman; the agreement would be between the City of Foreman and the individual. There was discussion on the renovations needed to the building to satisfy their needs for a clinic. Mr. Dowell said he believed (3) three exam rooms, a procedure room, and room for reviewing records, etc. would be sufficient. He said he did not believe the renovations would be extremely costly. Tommy McDonald asked Mr. Dowell if the LRHS planned on leasing or purchasing the building. Mr. Dowell stated they had discussed leasing the building but could explore other options if necessary.

Another convenience for the residents and businesses in Foreman is LRHS has a contract with Ash Grove and Cadence Chemicals to provide yearly exams and testing for their employees and new hires. He stated having a clinic in Foreman would make it more convenient for the employees. The hospital would provide stability to a clinic in Foreman.

Jacqueline Wiseman asked why Little River was just now wanting to have a clinic in Foreman since we have been without a doctor for years. Mr. Dowell responded they have not had a physician willing to come to Foreman in the past and the hospital was not in a position financially to provide the service until recently. Also, there had been no facility available in Foreman to set up a clinic. He said with Dr. Oglesby being a Foreman native, Dr. Oglesby was very interested and willing to bring much needed health care services to Foreman. Dr. Oglesby said LRHS already has patients that travel from Foreman to Ashdown for their health care needs. Tommy McDonald asked Mr. Dowell how long of a lease would LRHS plan on having. Mr. Dowell stated he anticipated serving Foreman as long as the city allowed them to and had the workload to justify the clinic.

Tawnya Lansdell with Lansdell Family Clinic was on the agenda to address the council about the proposal to bring a clinic to Foreman. Michael Lansdell and James Wilhite, contractor arrived late. Mr. Lansdell told the council that the Lansdell Clinics are one of the few clinics that have maintained their workforce during the COVID-19 and their business is very stable. Mrs. Adams asked Mr. Lansdell what their policy is if the nurse practitioner is unable to come to work. Mr. Lansdell responded that due to them having several clinics, they can pull personnel from another clinic and fill the void in the Foreman clinic. Perry Young asked Mr. Lansdell if they would have a pharmacy with a licensed pharmacist. Mr. Lansdell said they have approached Pruitt's in De Queen, AR. but no definite answer. Mr. Lansdell said if they could not get a pharmacy to come to Foreman, he would put in the pharmacy himself. He said the pharmacy will meet all the state requirements. Tommy McDonald told Mr. Lansdell in their proposal it stated they would like to lease the building for three (3) years and consider purchasing the property at fair market value after three (3) years. Mr. McDonald asked if that would be the fair market value after all renovations and improvements or as the building is today. Mr. Lansdell said it would be after the renovations and improvements. He said they like to own their facilities instead of leasing. Mr. McDonald asked if it was legal to use the Industrial Development funds to renovate the building for a clinic if we don't get a grant. Mayor Harp said yes it is legal to use Industrial Development funds for the renovations to the bank building. Perry Young asked how long they anticipated the renovations would take. Mr. Wilhite said it would take about two (2) months. Mr. Lansdell said their busy season is when school starts so they would move quickly. Tommy McDonald asked since the city owns the building would it have to go out to bid on the renovations. Attorney Bishop responded 'Yes' it would have to go out to bid and would have to be awarded to a licensed commercial contractor. He said the city cannot farm out construction to someone else; it must go through the city and be bid out. The city must have a set of specs that are biddable. Mr. Lansdell said Mr. Wilhite had drawn up plans and gave the council an estimate at the meeting in May. He asked how that would work since they had already shown their hand. The response from the council was Mr. Wilhite would need to submit a formal bid. Tawnya Lansdell, N.P., was unavailable for questions.

### **Department Reports** **Administration:**

Mayor Harp reported that Theresa and he held the exit conference with the Legislative Audit staff. We had (2) two supplemental findings to respond to.

Theresa Woods explained to the council that the Legislative Audit said we cannot keep outstanding checks over a year old on the books. She presented the council with a printout showing the (2) two funds that had outstanding checks. She said there are (2) two outstanding checks in General Fund from 2017 totaling \$119.87 and (3) three checks in Payroll Fund from 2017 and (1) check from 2018 totaling \$155.91. Alana Cody made a motion and Tommy McDonald seconded the motion to void the outstanding checks totaling \$119.87 in General Fund for the year 2017 and void the outstanding checks in the Payroll Fund for the years 2017 and 2018 totaling \$155.91 as recommended by the Legislative Audit. Motion carried.

**Law Enforcement:** The monthly patrol report from the Sheriff's Dept. for June was reviewed. The deputies drove approximately 5,500 miles and responded to (111) calls for service including (6) disturbance calls, (1) medical call, (1) theft call, (2) animal complaints, and (3) accidents. Deputies made (1) misdemeanor arrest, served (1) warrant, and issued (16) warnings and (6) citations. Deputies also located (1) open door while conducting security checks, and collected \$885.00 in fines for the city for the month of June.

**Fire Department:** No report.

**Parks Department:** Tommy McDonald reported to the council that the Mayor and he met with the contractor about some changes to the concession stand/restroom building. The contractor will be coming to Foreman next week to meet again and look at the park.

Tommy told the council that Michael Adcock had put up a batting cage at the City Park pavilion a few months ago and someone has stolen the batting cage.

**Street Department:** Mayor Harp reported they have patched some holes on streets and he will be ordering some more asphalt in the near future.

**Water Department:** Mayor Harp informed the council that RDA is planning on implementing a 20% increase in water rates January 2021. RDA is meeting with Domtar, Ash Grove, and the Mayor's soon to discuss this increase. Mayor Harp said the RDA regular board meeting will be August 20, 2020 at 4pm at the Annex Building in Ashdown. He urged council persons to attend.

**Sanitation Department:** Mayor Harp reported the Sanitation department is running very well.

**Unfinished Business:**

A) The Mayor said some repairs have been made on the streets. He will need to order more asphalt.

B) Mayor Harp said they have not repaired/sealed any sewer manhole yet. The repairs need to start before winter and the rainy season he stated.

C) The Mayor said the new water truck has been purchased and delivered and is in operation.

D) Mayor Harp gave an update on the implementation of animal control person for the city. He has purchased the tranquilizer gun and the agreement is in place with the city of Ashdown. The animal control employee must be trained on the use of the tranquilizer gun and the drugs before we can get started. Mayor Harp said there is a class to be held in September.

E) Mayor Harp told the council Attorney Bishop got a ruling from the Attorney General on use the existing IDC Funds. To answer the question the council had from the previous council meeting; if the proposed reallocation of the ½ cent sales tax going to IDC each month is passed by the voters in November; can the existing funds in the IDC account be used under the new allocation as voted on in November. The Attorney General ruled that the existing IDC funds cannot be used under the new reallocation. The funds must be used as voted on in 1995. The reallocation committee has met and will meet again to finalize their recommendations on the reallocation of the ½ cent sales tax to the council. Attorney Bishop told the council that the current IDC funds can be used to pave streets to businesses.

Attorney Bishop asked about the committee's recommendation on the reallocation of the IDC funds approval by council. Mayor Harp said he is planning on having a special called meeting next week to vote on the reallocation of the ½ cents sales tax and the clinic at this meeting.

Attorney Bishop said he is working on the truck ordinance and will have it ready for the next meeting.

**New Business:** None

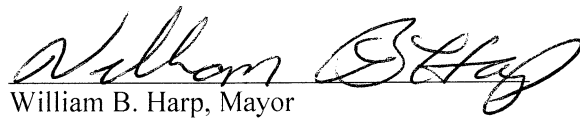
**Executive Session:** None

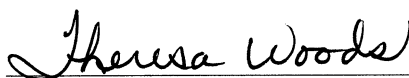
**Regular Session:**

**Announcements**

The Mayor announced the next council meeting for August, will be held on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 4pm.

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

  
William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest:   
Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer