

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 21, 2021**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 21, 2021, in the Foreman Community Center 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.

Bailee Houser acting Recorder/Treasurer called the roll. Present were Alana Cody, Tommy McDonald, Mike McKee, Jacqueline Wiseman, Perry Young, and Joyce Green including Bailee Houser, Mayor William Harp, city attorney Thad Bishop, and Water Superintendent Eddie Smith. Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Theresa Woods joined via ZOOM. A quorum was declared.

Regular Session:

The minutes were presented for review, revision, and approval. Mike McKee made a motion to approve the minutes and Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented for review and approval. After some discussion, Tommy McDonald made a motion to approve the financial report with Alana Cody seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the Council:

Chris Rebar from Homeserve USA presented a program he stated was endorsed by the National League of Cities and Arkansas Municipal League. He stated they wanted to provide education for water, sewer, and in home plumbing to the citizens of Foreman. The education program would provide information to the residents/homeowners when they have problems with their water, sewer, and in home plumbing lines and they do not know who to contact. Mr. Rebar stated they basically want to make the public aware of the homeowner's responsibility and what is the city's responsibilities. They offer a warranty program for homeowners. Homeserve USA would take care of the billing, mailing out information, etc. They have (2) two types of programs: informational program and the warranty program. Mr. Rebar said they would like to reach out to the homeowners and use the cities logo so the homeowners would know it is approved by the city. He also stated all materials would be approved by the city before they are sent out. Mr. Rebar fielded questions from the city council. Mr. Rebar said there is no deductible, and it covers up to \$8,500 per incident for water and sewer and \$3,000 per incident for in home plumbing. The yearly cost is approximately \$300.00 per household. Customers are not required to do all three options (water, sewer, and in home plumbing). Mr. Rebar said the customer must have had coverage for (30) thirty days to be eligible to file a claim and the warranty can be cancelled at any time. They council asked Mr. Rebar for references from other cities that are in the program. Joyce Green stated she would like to hear testimonies from individuals, not a written testimony.

Department Reports

Administration:

Mayor Harp stated the clinic remodel is almost complete. He said they were putting down the flooring last week. Mayor Harp reported the building remodel is looking good. Perry Young stated the clinic is shooting for a July 1, 2021, open date.

Mayor Harp reported the Lansdell Family Clinic opened on June 11, 2021.

Mayor Harp reported all the paperwork required to receive the funds from the American Rescue Plan has been submitted. He said it's just a matter of time before we receive the first one-half of the money. Mayor Harp stated he emailed the Municipal League lawyers about using the city's IDC funds to pay for the remaining cost of sewer line repair project and repay IDC next year when we receive the final one-half of the American Rescue Plan funds. He has not got a response as of this time. Mayor Harp said the concern is if we split up the project, it will cost more money.

Mayor Harp reported he received a call from a Family Dollar representative stating they are interested in the possibility of bringing a Family Dollar store to Foreman. Mayor Harp said he needs to check the clauses in the Dollar General contract for any restrictions. He said we do have a piece of property next to the Memorial Foreman Clinic available for development. Mayor Harp said he has not heard back from the representative.

Law Enforcement: The Law Enforcement report was presented for review. The deputies drove approximately 4,000 miles for the month. Deputies responded to (107) calls for service including (15) disturbance calls, (4) suspicious person calls, (12) medical calls, (1) theft call, (2) animal complaints, and (1) accident. Deputies made (2) misdemeanor arrests, served (2) warrants, served (2) civil process papers, and issued (36) warnings and (28) citations. Deputies also located (5) open doors while conducting security checks and collected \$2,130.00 in fines for the city for the month of May.

Tommy McDonald stated it seemed the deputies have been busier by the increased numbers reported in the Law Enforcement report. Mayor Harp reported that Sheriff Bobby Walraven has instructed his deputies to write tickets for the ATV's riding on the streets and the motorcycles driving unsafe and over the speed limit. Mayor Harp said they have not had court in over a year due to COVID, so the deputies have not been motivated to write citations. Mike McKee, Alana Cody, and Tommy McDonald said it does seem that the ATV and motorcycle traffic has slowed down. Tommy discussed the need to get our own law enforcement back. He stated he would like Mayor Harp to get the cost of getting the City of Foreman Marshal department operational again. Mayor Harp said he did have some dollar figures and it will be very costly for the city to form a marshal's department. Mayor Harp stated the challenge is getting an officer that is certified and who can fill out the paperwork properly, which is extremely important. Mayor Harp stated we need to research and look at the pros and cons before we make a commitment to start up the Marshal's department again.

Fire Department: Alana Cody asked when the fire department building is going to be fixed. A piece of metal trim has come loose and is hanging off the building. Mayor Harp said the backhoe is still down and waiting on a part. Alana said they have mowed around the fire department building but asked if they could spray or weed-eat also.

Parks Department: Tommy McDonald reported the contractor is submitting a draw for \$166,000 and this will leave a balance of \$80,000 once this invoice is paid. He said it will cost \$4,500 to \$6,500 to pour concrete and \$1,300 for the two additional windows. Tommy told the council they really needed to get the third ball field built now so it would be ready for the spring season. He said the ballfield will cost around \$13,000 to build and would like the city to provide the funding for the field if the park runs out of money building the concession stand/restrooms. Tommy stated \$13,000 is not a lot of money considering Foreman participants would not have to drive to Ashdown for ballgames. Tommy said Michael Adcock has volunteered to build the field with help from other volunteers. Mike McKee asked if the proceeds from the concession stand would make the park self-sufficient. Tommy said they have discussed going into contract with the Foreman Youth Sports Association (FYSA) to maintain the ballfields. FYSA would keep the proceeds from the concession stand and tournaments to offset the costs of maintaining the ballfields and supplies for the restrooms during ball season. He went on to say, he felt the city should be liable for expenses since it is a city owned entity and the city has put very little money towards the park besides putting a little oil in the cracks on the walking trail since he has been involved. Tommy stated he felt like it was time the city budgeted money for the park and started throwing a little money into the park. He said the citizens of Foreman voted in November to reallocate the IDC funds for infrastructure, and while he realizes the streets are in bad need of repair, we also need a park. He went on to say if we do not have good facilities, such as nice streets, nice parks, clinics, law enforcement; no one will want to move here. Tommy stated we needed to clean up the town to entice people to live here.

Street Department: Eddie Smith stated the backhoe is down and waiting for parts. He said the ground needs to dry up so they can start filling the potholes. He reported that we do have a load of gravel. Joyce Green reported a big pothole on Ginn Street when you turn off S. Madden St. by the carwash. Alana Cody asked if we ever decided which streets were to be paved. Mayor Harp stated that the plan submitted to the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) was First Avenue, Bell Street, and Fifth Avenue. Perry Young stated we do not need to pave First Avenue. He said, "Only one person lives on that street". Discussion continued what streets should be the highest priority. Perry stated that Stephens housing edition is one of the worst streets and you must get

over in the ditch to miss the holes. More discussion followed on the large trucks driving on streets not designated as truck routes which has caused the street problems on Fourth St. and Stephens St. Tommy suggested a Deputy, or the mayor talk to the person violating the truck route ordinance. Attorney Bishop said they should be written a ticket. Perry said Murphy St. is horrible on the west end of the street. He said there are (2) two semi-trucks on Murphy St. also. Tommy stated there is still an ordinance about trucks, we just need to enforce it. Attorney Bishop stated if citations are written we will prosecute. Tommy asked if a letter could be sent to the resident at the corner of Fourth St. and Murphy St. and letters to property owners asking to clean up their property.

Jacqueline asked about the culvert repairs on Schuman St., Dollarhide St., and 6th Avenue. She also recapped the discussion from the May meeting about pothole on Rocky Comfort, and repairs needed immediately at Stephens St. and Fourth St.

Mayor Harp stated that chip and seal can be done on the streets for \$20,000 per mile. He said the potholes must be fixed before chip and seal can be done. Mayor Harp said most of the city streets have base failure. He stated for the streets to stand up to any amount of traffic, the streets need a good base. The base will need to be fixed before chip and seal or asphalt. Mayor Harp said the county judge had agreed to provide the labor to chip and seal the city streets if the city pays for the materials. More discussion followed. The council told Mayor Harp to move forward with the project.

Tommy asked for a recap of the discussion on street repairs. Mayor Harp will contact the county judge on the chip and seal project. Mayor Harp said they have put asphalt over the culvert on Schuman St. and it is already falling in. Eddie Smith said the ditches need cleaned out to keep the water off the roads. He said the city doesn't have the equipment nor the expertise to do some of the work that needs done.

Water Department: Superintendent Eddie Smith said the water department is doing good. Eddie said there was an incident at the ground storage tank and RDA did not contact us. Eddie stated it caused our ground storage tank to get low.

Jacqueline asked if the water meters are in yet. Eddie replied that they have not come in. Eddie stated he believes something is wrong with some of the meters and he is trying to get them replaced before the warranty runs out.

Mayor Harp reported the voided check has been sent to the bank so the grant funds for the Wastewater Rehab project can be deposited.

Sanitation Department: Mayor Harp reported the Sanitation Department is running well.

Animal Control: Mayor Harp reported (1) dog was picked up.

Unfinished Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Tommy reported there is a terrible smell coming from Livestock Nutrition. Mayor Harp said he visited with Livestock Nutrition and told them about the issue.

Tommy reported he called Kiamichi Railroad about the Fourth St. railroad crossing being so rough. Kiamichi said they would work on the problem. Tommy also said his wife called SWEPCO about the limbs left in the ditch on Third St. SWEPCO has already come and picked up the debris.

Mayor Harp said Jeff Daniels with ArDOT asked to store chips from the highway overlay south of town at the Recreation Park.

Mayor Harp stated there are (3) three pieces of equipment to be disposed of; John Deere Backhoe; Ford Tractor; and the old jetter machine. Also, property at 203 and 205 Schuman St. to be sold. Mayor Harp asked for a Resolution to advertise for closed bids on the equipment and property listed above. Joyce made a motion to do a resolution to advertise for closed bids on the John Deere backhoe, Ford Tractor, old jetter machine, and real property address 203 and 205 Schuman St. Perry Young seconded the motion. Mike McKee abstained. Motion carried.


Executive Session: None

Regular Session:

The next council meeting will be held on **Monday, July 19, 2021**, at 4pm in the Foreman Community Center.

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


William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest: 
Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer