

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 15, 2021**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 15, 2021, via ZOOM virtual meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harp. Recorder/Treasurer Angelina Carver called the roll. Present were Judy Adams, Alana Cody, Mike McKee, and Jacqueline Wiseman including Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Theresa Woods, Recorder/Treasurer Angelina Carver, and Mayor William Harp. Council member Tommy McDonald joined the meeting a short time later. Perry Young was absent. A quorum was declared.

Prayer was offered by Mike McKee and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Regular Session:

The minutes were presented for review, revision, and approval. Mike McKee made a motion to approve but stated that the minutes needed to be corrected on the last page. He said Alana Cody had seconded the motion to adjourn the February 22 meeting. Mike McKee made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 22 meeting with the change mentioned above. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion as corrected. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented for review and approval. There was discussion concerning contract labor. It was explained the contract labor was for Thad Bishop, Bailee Houser, East Texas Windows, and Bea Tramble. Bailey Houser has been training for the Water Dept. and Recorder/Treasurer's office for about a month. Bailee is filling in for vacations, etc. Jacqueline Wiseman questioned if we have to advertise for the job in question. Mayor Harp stated that he was not aware of it. Judy Adams stated it is a temporary position. With no further questions, Mike McKee made a motion to approve the financial statement with Alana Cody seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the Council

Denise Riley with the Little River Housing Authority addressed the council concerning the alley between the Housing Authority office and the Wooden Spoon Restaurant. The alley is used by the Housing Authority employees and tenants, Wooden Spoon customers, employees, and delivery trucks, and the city Sanitation workers emptying dumpsters. She said the alley is in bad shape with deep ruts and it is embarrassing and could cause damage to vehicles. Mrs. Riley said the Housing Authority had repaired the ruts, etc. several times in the past, but it doesn't last long. Mrs. Riley stated she had Zid and Sons, an asphalt company, look at the alley and they gave her a bid of \$17,500. to asphalt the alley. The council members and Mayor Harp agreed to look at the alley before making a decision. It was also stated that it could be opening up a big problem if the city were to asphalt that alley. The concern was other businesses and citizens would be requesting to have other alleyways paved also. Mrs. Riley suggested maybe closing the alley for public use and only allow the city Sanitation truck to access the alley. Judy Adams made a motion to table a decision until everyone has an opportunity to look at the alley. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tommy McDonald stated that the alleys are made for city use and the council will be looking for a solution. Mrs. Riley thanked the council and Mayor for their time.

Department Reports

Administration:

Mayor Harp reported the construction on the clinic is scheduled to start on March 22, 2021. The county is bringing a roll off dumpster for the contractors to use. Mayor Harp said the lease agreement between Little River Health Systems and the City of Foreman has been signed. Mayor Harp told the council they should have the updated drawing of the remodel in their packet.

Mayor Harp asked the council if they had looked over the 2020 Amended Budget which was included in their packet. Alana Cody made a motion to accept the 2020 Amended Budget as presented and Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp told the council that the city was in need of a climate controlled storage building to put the city records and seasonal decorations in. We are running out of space in the old shop and it is not an ideal place to house records due to the fact it is not climate controlled and it is not secure. He told the council it had been approved to purchase a storage building in December 2015 during Mrs. Adams term as mayor but the city never purchased the building. Mayor Harp said the building could be put on the concrete behind city hall. He said we have cameras in the back now which will help with security. Mayor Harp said he has gotten prices from 2 or 3 places and the cheapest he found was at Viking in Texarkana. The building is a 16' x 30' metal building with an 8' rollup door with no windows and will be sprayed inside with insulation. Mrs. Adams asked why a rollup door and Mayor Harp said it would be easier to install shelves down the center and have access to the entire building. Mayor Harp said Viking quoted a price of a little over \$7,000 for the building. We will have to provide shelving and electricity to the building. There was a lengthy discussion on the various options for the building. Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve buying the building and Tommy McDonald seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Theresa said she has taken the water/sewer records to Little Rock to Berry and Associates a couple of weeks ago for the audit. Heather is working on the audit now and it should be complete very soon.

Law Enforcement: The Law Enforcement report was presented for review. The deputies drove approximately 5,100 miles for the month. Deputies responded to (115) calls for service including (5) disturbance calls, (2) theft calls, (3) suspicious person calls, (2) accidents, (1) medical call, and (2) animal complaints. Deputies made (3) misdemeanor arrests, served (1) warrant, served (2) civil processes, and issued (26) warnings and (8) citations. Deputies also located (5) open doors while conducting security checks and collected \$910.00 in fines for the city for the month of February.

Fire Department: Mayor Harp stated the fire department has bought a truck from the Forestry Department which will be equipped with foam spray to put out flames quickly. Mrs. Adams asked if we have room in the current fire department building to house the additional truck. Mayor Harp replied that it has to be inside and they will move the trucks to make room for the foam truck.

Parks Department: Tommy McDonald reported the contractor will begin on March 22 forming up to pour concrete for the concession stand/restrooms at the Recreation Park weather permitting. Jimmy Anderson is the contractor and he will have a subcontractor for the concrete work.

Street Department: Mayor Harp said he is waiting on Mr. Morgan with Arkansas DOT to get back with him on the street grant. He said we need to utilize the grant for the streets that are in the worse condition. No decision on which streets have been made yet.

Water Department: Eddie Smith reported they are having some issues with the grinder pumps. Pumps on Schuman Street, Dollarhide Street, and Second Street are having problems with people are putting clothes and rags in the toilets and it is jamming up the pumps. Mayor Harp said he spoke with Glen Spears and he is going to come look at the pumps. Mr. Spears said they should not be malfunctioning the way they are.

Sanitation Department: Eddie Smith reported the Sanitation Dept. is running good.

Animal Control: Mrs. Adams asked if we are still picking up animals. Mayor Harp said a few, but we have set traps and someone is letting the animals out because the food is gone and no animals are left in the cages.

Unfinished Business:

- A) Mayor Harp reported he is still working on the Street Grant with Arkansas Department of Transportation. He would like them to reevaluate the scope of work to be done on Bell Street, 1st Avenue, and 5th Avenue. The Mayor stated we won't be able to do all of the streets we wanted to do. Mrs. Adams asked if the county was going to help with chip and seal of some of the streets. Mayor Harp said Judge Cranford had agreed to provide the equipment and labor if the city bought the materials to chip and seal some of the least traveled streets.

New Business: Mayor Harp stated that Mike McKee and Tommy McDonald have looked into an 'all call' telephone system like the school has. Judge Cranford asked that we hold off because the county is looking into a 'Code Red' system and the costs of the system could be split between the County, Ashdown, Foreman, and Winthrop. The judge did not have a cost estimate at this time. Mrs. Adams said the system Mr. McKee and Mr. McDonald looked at was reasonable priced and it is the same system the school uses which works very well. She stated if the county option fails we have the option of purchasing this system. Ms. Wiseman asked if we could pay for the system in installments. Mr. McDonald said he was unsure but they are looking into both pay options. It was unanimous that we need a way to communicate to the residents in the city about water outages, boil orders, and weather related issues just to name a few.

Mayor Harp reported with the council's approval, we will open a Farmers Market in Foreman on Schuman Street where the old pharmacy and doctor's office was located. The county Farmers Market Board will meet with the Chamber of Commerce on March 22, 2021. Mayor Harp and Mr. McKee borrowed a large tent from the Masonic Lodge that will cover most of the area. Mayor Harp asked the council if there was a problem using that area for a Farmers Market. The council was very excited and felt like it was a win-win situation for our town and citizens. Mr. McKee asked the Mayor if the downtown businesses were willing to stay open later for this venture. Mayor Harp responded they had agreed to stay open. Mr. McKee said there are more things being planned for the city. A meeting will be held April 23, at 9 a.m. in the Community Center to discuss future projects.

Mrs. Adams said there is some lots next to the Flea Market for sale. Mrs. Adams remarked that maybe the city might want to buy for a business. The sale price they are asking is \$40,000. The council thought this was a little on the high side for purchasing.

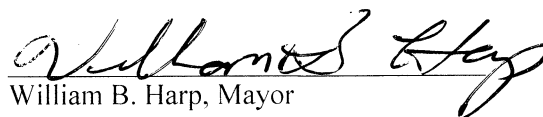
Mrs. Adams asked how many of the council members have had their COVID shots. She asked when can we begin holding our meetings in person instead of ZOOM? Most of the council members were in agreement they would like to start meeting in person again. Mayor Harp said he will need to get recommendations from the Arkansas Department of Health on how many to allow in the building. Mayor Harp said during the pandemic only ZOOM meetings were allowed. He will check with the Arkansas Department of Health to see what rules apply now.

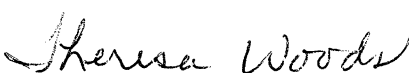
Executive Session: None

Regular Session:

The next council meeting will be held on **Monday, April 19, 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