

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 18, 2020**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 18, 2020, in the Foreman Community Center at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Bill Harp opened the meeting with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Mayor called the meeting to order and the roll was called. Council members Judy Adams, Alana Cody, Jacqueline Wiseman, Mike McKee, Tommy McDonald and Perry Young were present. A quorum was declared. Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer, Tawnya and Michael Lansdell and contractor James Wilhite, Attorney Thad Bishop, and Chief Deputy Keven Sanders were also present.

Mike McKee made a motion to suspend the order of the meeting with Jacqueline Wiseman seconding the motion. Motion carried. A motion was made by Mike McKee to adjourn the regular session and go into Executive session, motion seconded by Jacqueline Wiseman. Motion carried.

Executive Session: No action was taken. The regular meeting was reopened.

Regular Session: Mayor Harp read proposed Ordinance 339 authorizing the city to hire and appoint a city attorney under the emergency clause. Perry Young made a motion and Judy Adams seconded the motion to appoint and enter into contract with Attorney Thad Bishop as the City attorney at a cost of \$750 per month for his services. Motion carried.

The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. There was no meeting in April due to the pandemic COVID-19. Alana Cody made the motion to accept the March minutes and Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Financial reports for the month of March and April were reviewed. A motion was made by Mike McKee to approve the March and April Financial Report and was seconded by Tommy McDonald, after a brief discussion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the Council

Citizen, Bryan Roden, spoke to the council regarding an issue concerning a water leak he had at his home that began at the end of November 2019 and continued to the present month. He was very upset that the city staff had not informed him of the leak until May 1, 2020. Due to the staff not notifying him of the leak, he stated, he felt the city should absorb some of the cost of waster usage on his bills. It was explained to Mr. Roden after numerous questions, that if he had the “Eye on Water” app from the city water department on his cell phone or home computer, it would have alerted him of the water usage and leak. His monthly water bills also reports the amount of water usage each month and would or could have given him a clue of a problem with his water usage if he had check them. He was also told that the staff for the city was not obligated, nor required to report or contact customers of a leak. After a lengthy discussion of the issues, Mrs. Adams made a motion to waive the late charges, but make no adjustments on the water usage on Mr. Roden’s bill. Motion was seconded by Jacqueline Wiseman. Those in favor of the motion included Judy Adams, Jacqueline Wiseman, Alana Cody, and Mike McKee. Those voting against were Tommy McDonald and Perry Young. The Motion carried. Mr. Roden was also offered an arrangement for making payments if needed. He declined.

Department Reports

Administration:

Mayor Harp reported that the State Legislative Audit is ongoing.

The Mayor reported the Community Center flooded again Saturday, May 16 during the fast and heavy rainfall that evening. Mayor Harp, Eddie Smith, Perry Stevenson, Ray Shoals, Alana Cody, and Bea Tramble worked on getting the water out of the building. Michael and Mindy Gewecke brought a diesel powered blower which helped dry the floor. The council asked Mayor Harp if he had contacted Glenn Spears to have him look at the building and determine how to stop it from flooding. Mayor Harp said he has spoken with Mr. Spears but Mr. Spears has not looked at the building. The Mayor stated he would reach out again to Mr. Spears.

Law Enforcement: The monthly patrol report from the Sheriff's Dept. for April was reviewed. The deputies drove approximately 4,700 miles and responded to (83) calls for service including (3) disturbance calls, (1) suspicious person call, (1) medical call, and (1) accident. Deputies made (1) misdemeanor arrest, served (1) warrant, and issued (15) warnings and (5) citations. Deputies also located (1) open door while conducting security checks, and collected \$1,190.00 in fines for the city for the month of April.

Perry Young asked what was being done about the 18-wheeler trucks driving on the residential streets. Mayor Harp said with Thad Bishop as the city's attorney, he will amend the ordinance so the violators can be charged. The Mayor told the council that Attorney Bishop will be looking over existing ordinances and fines and make recommendations on amending the outdated ordinances and increasing the fine amounts for certain violations.

Fire Department: Fire department report for April 2020 through May 15, 2020, was received from Fire Chief, Justin Roden. The Fire Department assisted with the removal of trees and debris off the roadways from the storms on April 12th, responded to a false alarm fire call on May 3, May 8 assisted SWEPCO Electric with lights and traffic control and blocked roads with downed power lines after the storm, and held (2) regular meetings.

The pumps for all the fire engines will be tested this month. The hose testing will be conducted next month. We will be servicing and testing the (SCBA) air compressors this week.

Chief Roden reported the annual boot drive for Arkansas Children's Hospital has been postponed until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Parks Department: Tommy McDonald reported to the council that the park commission ran an ad for (2) two weeks in the local newspaper for sealed bids on construction of the concession stand at the park. Bid opening was May 15 and (2) two unsealed bids were received. The bids have to be sealed. He said they are advertising again and bids will be opened on May 29th.

Street Department: Eddie Smith reported that they have asphalt available now to patch potholes. Perry Young commented the town of Winthrop is paving a lot of their streets and it really looks good.

Water Department: Eddie Smith told the council RDA has been doing a burn-out on their lines and our customers may see some discoloration in their water. An ADEQ inspector was here and inspected the sewer pond, pump stations, and records. We should get a full report from them. Mr. Smith reported that the levy at the sewer pond is deteriorating and reminded the council of new plans for a new system was still being worked on.

Sanitation Department: Mayor Harp reported the Sanitation department is running good. The Mayor said a letter has been mailed out to our customers informing them to dispose/remove all trash containers and bins and use only the Toter can and dumpsters supplied by the city and to place all garbage in plastic bags. A copy of the letter was included for the council's review.

Unfinished Business:

Tabled discussion on the sealing of the sewer manholes.

Mayor Harp reported he received (4) four bids for a new water truck. He received three bids from De Queen Auto Group (2) bids on Dodge trucks \$21,612. and \$24,048 and (1) Ford for \$24,115. The mayor received a bid from Greg Orr Extreme Chevrolet in Ashdown on a Chevrolet truck priced at \$27,710. The Chevrolet has a larger engine and would have more towing power. After the council discussed the various options a motion was made by Tommy McDonald and seconded by Jacqueline Wiseman for Mayor Harp to purchase the 2020 Chevrolet from Gregg Orr Extreme Chevrolet in Ashdown for a cost of \$27,710; pay cash for ½ of the cost of the truck from the Regions Bank Water Operating account and finance the remaining balance with Horatio State Bank on a (3) three year note with Mayor William Harp and Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Theresa Woods as the signers. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp spoke to the council about the animal control agreement in place between the City of Foreman and the City of Ashdown. There is a difference in the time-lines for the destruction of the impounded animals in the current ordinance and will need to be amended. Judy Adams asked the mayor who was going to pick up the dogs and transport them to Ashdown. Mayor Harp said he is planning on using some of the current employees. Mayor Harp then presented and read Ordinance 338 under the emergency clause to amend Ordinance 239 to reduce the minimum number of days that an impounded animal must be retained by the City from 10 to 5 days to be in line with the City of Ashdown. A motion was made by Jacqueline Wiseman and seconded by Tommy McDonald to adopt Ordinance 338 under the emergency clause. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp told the council he has had several meetings with Tawnya Lansdell and her husband and various contractors on the possibility of the Lansdell's opening a health clinic in Foreman. Mayor Harp said the Lansdell's and their contractors have inspected the old Regions Bank building and believe with some renovations it would make a great clinic. Mrs. Lansdell was introduced to the council and Mayor Harp introduced her husband, Michael, and her contractor James Wilhite to the council. Mr. Wilhite presented an estimate of \$158,408 and a drawing of the plans to renovate the building as recommended. Mike McKee asked if that price included the renovations for the pharmacy and how long the renovations would take. Mr. Wilhite said the bid did include the renovations for the pharmacy and he expected the renovations to take approximately (3) three months. Mrs. Lansdell said they are working with Pruitt's Pharmacy on the possibility of Pruitt's opening a pharmacy in the building with them. She said if that doesn't work out she has other options available. Mayor Harp told the council he has (3) three different grant resources and he would like to try to get funding through these grants for the renovation before using IDC funds. Tommy McDonald asked if they would buy or lease the building. The council discussed having a lease with a grace period and the monthly lease fee to be determined. The city will provide the funds for the building renovation cost. Perry Young made a motion and Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion to approve bringing a clinic to Foreman and the city renovating the building at 502 E 3rd Avenue for the clinic and hopefully a pharmacy. Motion carried.

The Mayor discussed the need to move forward with getting the reallocation of the IDC funds on the ballot in November. It has not been possible to meet due to the COVID-19 guidelines. After some discussion, the Mayor appointed a committee to work out the reallocation of the sales tax and present to the council. Members of the committee are Jacqueline Wiseman, Perry Young, Theresa Woods, and Frank McDonald. City Attorney Thad Bishop told the council that he must have a vote from the council 120 days before the election in order to get it on the ballot. Mr. Bishop said he believes the existing funds in the IDC account must be used according to the current ordinance until those funds are exhausted. If the new reallocation is voted on favorably, the new ordinance would be in effect for all monies collected from that date forward. He suggested the mayor contact the Municipal League to get their opinion on the existing fund usage after the passage of the new sales tax allocation.

New Business:

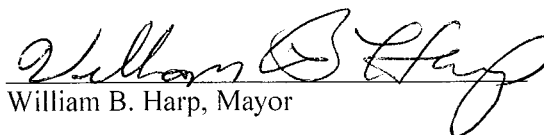
Mayor Harp told the council the new computers are installed but there are some things that are not working as they should. He presented to the council a proposal from Network Services Group to maintain the City Hall computer network. The cost would be a one-time charge of a \$1,200 set-up fee which includes some equipment that would need to be installed. The monthly charge is \$350 per month. The proposal includes 24/7 remote support, local and offsite backup, disaster recovery, etc. A motion was made by Judy Adams and seconded by Perry Young to contract with Network Services Group for \$1,200 one-time set up and \$350 per month. Motion carried. The contract can be canceled at any time. Mayor Harp reported to the council that the city has had to purchase masks, gloves and make some upgrades to the drop box, etc. due to the COVID-19 and keeping the employees safe. The mayor discussed with the council a couple of options to eliminate the public from needing access inside City Hall. He said he has a price of \$1,500 on replacing the window on the east side of the water clerk office with a window and speaker and a pass-through drawer where customers may pay if they have cash or need copies or papers faxed. Mike McKee suggested having a glass wall/door inside the building making a foyer type entrance and the doors could be unlocked coming into the building but with the installation of the glass doors customers would be restricted to that area. Mayor Harp will get costs on each option.

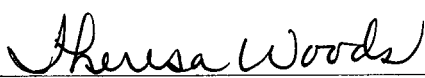
Regular Session:

Announcements

The Mayor announced the next council meeting for June, will be held on Monday, June 15, 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