

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
November 16, 2020**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 16, 2020, via ZOOM virtual meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order and Mike McKee opened with a prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Harp, called the meeting to order and asked for roll call. Council members Judy Adams, Alana Cody, Mike McKee, Jacqueline Wiseman, Tommy McDonald, Perry Young, and the Mayor were present. Janet Hefner, Recorder/Treasurer and Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer, and Thad Bishop were also present. A quorum was declared.

Regular Session:

Mayor Harp presented the minutes from the last meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes. Judy Adams made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, with Mike McKee seconding the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented for review and approval. There were no questions regarding the financial report. Mike McKee made a motion to approve the report with Tommy McDonald seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the Council

None

Department Reports

Administration:

Mayor Harp announced that the city would be receiving \$38,321.02 through the Cares Act Fund. The Mayor stated that Theresa Woods had worked diligently to obtain reimbursement on as many COVID related expenditures as possible for the city. Woods has been very creative with her efforts to insure the city receives all reimbursable expenses due to COVID and has spent many hours in completing the requests. Council members thanked Mrs. Woods for her efforts and hard work on behalf of the City's benefit.

The Mayor announced that the County has agreed to work on the foundation of 1st Avenue for a cost of \$7,695.00 to prepare the street for asphalt work. There was a great deal of questions regarding the cost of gravel and general discussion. The Mayor agreed to check into the matter before proceeding. After discussion, it was noted 1st Avenue was in dire need of repair.

Law Enforcement: The Law Enforcement report was presented for review. The deputies drove approximately 5,100 miles for the month. Deputies responded to (103) calls for service including (9) disturbance calls, (2) suspicious person calls, (1) theft call, (2) accidents, (2) medical calls, and (2) animal complaints. Deputies made (2) misdemeanor arrests, issued (23) warnings and (12) citations. Deputies also located (4) open doors while conducting security checks and collected \$565.00 in fines for the city for the month of October. Discussion followed regarding going back to the city operating its own department. No action was taken.

Fire Department: No report.

Parks Department: Tommy McDonald reported that Michael Adcock had donated a scoreboard for the park ballfield. This was greatly appreciated. The soil test has been performed at the site of the future concession stand/restrooms. The sewer lines have been laid and the lift pump is on site. Electricity has been run to the scoreboards on the ballfields also. Mr. McDonald stated he has discussed with the county about the county using their batwing blades to clean fence rows at the recreation park. He suggested we have a clean-up day at the parks and throughout the city.

Street Department: Supervisor Eddie Smith reported that repairs had been done on the streets, but much more work is needed. Cold weather may slow repairs down.

Water Department: Eddie Smith reported that contractors are in town laying fiber optic cable on the right of ways. The pumps have been down at the wastewater pond but Mr. Smith reported they are now operating properly.

Mayor Harp said he received a notice of approval letter from USDA stating the city was approved for \$1,224,000 loan for the wastewater rehab project. Mr. Smith said the last couple of months we have been out of compliance at the wastewater pond. He said Glenn Spears suggested changing laboratories that pull and process the samples.

Sanitation Department: No report.

Animal Control: Mayor Harp reported that some animal traps have been set out and that the city is following the guidelines as set up by the City of Ashdown. A couple of dogs have been picked up and taken to Ashdown, and both have been adopted out.

Unfinished Business:

A) Street repairs remain plentiful, repairing is continuing.

B) Sewer manhole reseal has not begun and remains to be an issue. Reseal needs to be scheduled.

C) Mayor Harp stated that the floor plans for the new clinic in the city's building have been completed and awaiting cost estimates. The information will be presented to the council in the December meeting for approval. After approval work can begin.

D) Christmas plans were discussed. Mrs. Adams and Leigh Gage will be working on the plans for a drive-by parade for the city. All interested parties that wish to be a part of the parade are asked to be at the Recreation Park off Highway 41 at 3:45pm on Saturday, December 5th. Mrs. Adams and Theresa Woods have developed a driving route throughout the city for the parade. The route will be distributed. The schools will be notified and Mrs. Adams encouraged everyone to be a part of the parade. Sargent Kenneth Dixon will lead the parade. Santa will join the parade and ride in the fire truck. Mrs. Adams reported the change in the Christmas activities is due to COVID. Congregating of any individuals is discouraged. No other Christmas activities will be held by the city due to COVID. The parade should begin at 4:15pm and will travel throughout the city. Citizens are encouraged to view the parade from their front lawns.

New Business:

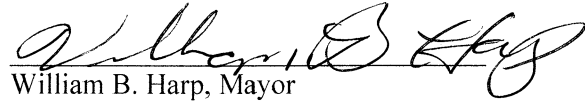
A) The RDA water rate increase was discussed. Theresa Woods stated she has requested Glen Spears Engineering to work on recommendations for the rate increase to Foreman residents. Discussion followed. It was stated that some of the council members were very concerned about increasing the water rates at this time, but it was unavoidable since RDA had initiated a rate increase to the city. Mrs. Woods stated that the increase may not be implemented by the January water billing. The increase does require some careful consideration before implementing.

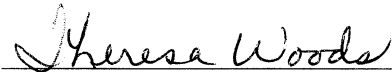
Executive Session: None

Regular Session:

The next council meeting will be held on Monday, December 21, 2020 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