

FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
October 18, 2021

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 18, 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.

Roger Quilty, Recorder/Treasurer was asked by Mayor Harp to call the roll. Present were Perry Young, Jacqueline Wiseman, Joyce Green, Mike McKee, and Alana Cody. Water Superintendent Eddie Smith, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Theresa Woods, and Mayor Harp were also present. Tommy McDonald was not present. The mayor stated that we had a quorum.

Regular Session:

The minutes for the regular meeting of September 20, 2021 and the Special Meeting of October 7, 2021 were presented for review, revision and approval. Mike McKee made a motion to accept them as read. Alana Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented for review and approval. Jacqueline Wiseman asked if this was the last payment on the clinic. Mayor Harp stated that it was. Alana Cody asked what CORRPRO was (Water and Sewer Dept Statement – 10/14/21). Theresa Woods explained that it was the company that inspects the ground storage and high tanks every year. Mike McKee made a motion to accept the financial statement. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the Council:

JoAnn Dickens, representing the Foreman Community Foundation, stated she understood they needed permission to do fundraisers for the Pecan Festival. She also stated they needed permission to do the Christmas trees at the library. The Christmas Parade will be on December 4, 2021. There would be a number of Christmas trees placed in 5 gallon buckets and sold to whomever wants to decorate them. The judging will be held on Friday evening and the winner announced at the parade Saturday evening. Perry Young made the motion to approve the use of the library property. The motion was seconded by Mike McKee. Motion carried.

Ms. Dickens asked if the Council would be able to approve funds for the first prize. Theresa Woods stated that the city cannot give prizes.

Ms. Dickens asked if the city could get rid of the weeds along the edge of the street in front of the Methodist Church that are overgrown. Mayor Harp stated they would get it taken care of.

Mike McKee stated he was asked to present a proposal letter from Mike McCombs to the council. He said Mr. McCombs would have been in attendance but he was out of town. Mr.

McKee read a document from Mr. McCombs that stated he was making a proposal to purchase (1/2) one-half acre of land on the north side of the current Dollar General on S. Madden St. from the City of Foreman for the purpose of putting in a Bar-B-Que Café for the purchase price of \$5,000. The property requested is from the Dollar General's north property line to the City of Foreman's north property line, then beginning at the west property line along Highway 41 and going east for approximately 125 feet.

After a very lengthy discussion about what would be best for the city, Mayor Harp recommended the item be tabled until the property could be appraised and the cost of putting in utilities could be calculated. Joyce Green made the motion to table the issue until the appraisal and the cost of getting the utilities to the area could be made. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Administration:

Mayor Harp spoke about the proposal from Walnut Hill to provide fiber optic service to the City of Foreman residents. He said they would be applying for a state grant, not the federal grant, to partner with the city to provide fiber optic internet to the residents of the City of Foreman. Premier, another company fiber optic provider, has already submitted grant requests for both federal and state grants to partner with the city to provide high speed internet for the city residents. Mayor Harp stated this will give us a better chance of securing one of the grants. Mayor said he has signed the necessary papers for Walnut Hill to proceed with the request for a grant.

Parks Department

City Attorney Thad Bishop joined the discussion regarding the construction of the concession/restroom building at the recreation park. Mayor Harp explained to the council the contractor, Jimmy Anderson, left the plumbing bid of \$47,495 out of the contract. Mayor Harp said the plumbing was stated in the Scope of Work but left out of the bid. After much discussion, a motion was made by Perry Young and seconded by Mike McKee to hire Attorney Charles Trammel to represent the City in the event it goes to litigation. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement:

Perry Young asked about the fines that the city had coming in from the county and last month they were quite a bit less. Theresa Woods stated that the county takes out some charges from the fines collected. Mr. Young also questioned the claim that the deputies logged 5,100 miles while patrolling in the city limits of Foreman. Mayor Harp stated that the county is going charge for the miles back and forth from the county and the mileage back and forth to the county in the case of an arrest. Mike McKee stated they do not stay in the city limits all the time. They also patrol the 'Foreman area' and they needed to revamp the language of the contract. Perry Young stated we needed to get back our police for what we are paying them.

Animal Control:

Mayor Harp asked if they had picked up any dogs this month. Eddie Smith said they had one dog taken to Ashdown. Mayor Harp stated that the citizens don't want to see their dogs taken to the pound, but in most cases, they don't want to take care of them either.

Theresa Woods stated that she received a call regarding a trailer down the street that had three pit bulls in the house and one outside. It was stated that the dogs must be permitted, confined and insured. If they are outside the confined area they must be on a leash of the owner, attached to the owner.

Fire Department: Perry Young started a discussion regarding the north side of the Fire Department building and a loose sheet metal awning trim. The mayor stated that it could be fixed by Eddie Smith.

Street Department:

Eddie Smith commented that the street department was doing well. Mayor Harp stated that the county was still going to put in the culvert over on Dollarhide St. and they are still supposed to be coming over to do the Stephens addition. Perry Young asked if the county had come over to survey the measurements of the repair. The mayor said he had given them the footage, which was 310 feet running footage, 20 feet across. He said it would be from the edge of the street at 4th St. and Rocky Comfort south as the street turns onto Stephens Street. Their plan was to come out and take out the gravel the city had put in, then put type 2 gravel back in, pack that down and then blade asphalt over it and roll it.

Perry Young stated there was a lot of problems on Murphy Street and asked if that was going to be taken care of as well. The mayor said that Murphy Street was not included.

The mayor also stated that the area at 306 Stephens Street where there was a water leak would also be repaired.

Water Department:

Eddie Smith stated that the Water Department was doing well. Then Mayor Harp and Eddie discussed some meters and getting a generator put in at the high tank.

Mike McKee asked about the matter with the Case backhoe. The mayor stated that Scott Tractor had come out on their own dime to work on the backhoe but what they did didn't fix the problem. He said he hasn't heard any more from them. Eddie Smith said when the repairman left he said what he repaired did not fix the problem and he was going to come back in the next day or two to put a pump on it but that was three weeks ago. Mike McKee said if they come back and fix the problems on the backhoe, then he felt that the city needs to reevaluate the situation on the backhoe.

Sanitation Department:

Mayor Harp stated that the Sanitation Department was running well.

New Business:

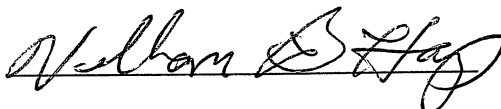
Jacqueline Wiseman spoke about the grant that CAPP had submitted to fix the gazebo. She stated CAPP did receive the grant and would be receiving about \$1,000 around the 7th of November. She said the grant would be for paint and other supplies to repair the gazebo. She said she would like the city guys to power wash the gazebo before they come out to do the painting before Christmas. The mayor told Ms. Wiseman she may need to check on getting the paint because it

was getting had to come by from even paint stores. She said they were going to check with the Habitat for Humanity for any extra paint that was turned in. Theresa Woods said this should be a priority to be finished before the Christmas Parade in order to put lights back on the gazebo.

Alana Cody asked if others had seen the houseboat, without pontoons, which had been put in on Tracy Lawrence Ave. She stated it was just sitting up on crossed cinder blocks on all four corners. Shortly after that it appears as the trailer was pulled out from under it, the trailer hit one of the stacks of blocks and crashed to the ground. Now, she stated, it is just sitting there causing a hazard. Is there anything that can be done force the owner to do something with this. The mayor stated that "back in the day" the city issued an ordinance for a Zoning Commission but they never went forward with it. Alana Cody asked if that was something they needed to look at. The mayor stated that we could start one now, it's already in the books. The problem is that when they start it everything at that time is grandfathered in. The mayor said they tried hire a Code Enforcement a couple of years ago and split the cost with Ashdown, but the Code Enforcement guy in Ashdown wouldn't do it.

Perry asked what the bus was over at the Fire Department. It was explained the bus was for training purposes by putting it on fire and then training to put it out.

Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn the meeting until next month on November 15, 2021. Perry Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.



William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest: Theresa Woods

Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer