FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

October 7, 2021

The Foreman City Council met in special session at 1:00 pm on Thursday, October 7, 2021, in a Zoom Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harp. Prayer was offered by Mike McKee and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Theresa Woods was asked to call the roll. Present were Alana Cody, Jacqueline Wiseman, Joyce Green, Tommy McDonald, and Mike McKee. Perry Young was not present. Roger Quilty was also present.

Recorder/Treasurer Position

Mayor Harp said that the Recorder/Treasurer position had been vacated by Angelina Carver. Mayor Harp stated Roger Quilty had contacted him stating his desire to apply for the position. Mr. Quilty was given a moment to give his background and the Mayor asked for a motion. Tommy McDonald made the motion to appoint Mr. Quilty to the position of Recorder/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Mike McKee. All of the members approved and the motion was passed.

Walnut Hill Presentation

The Mayor introduced Buster Brady and Cody Custer with Walnut Hill Telephone Company.

Mr. Brady stated Walnut Hill was proposing a grant opportunity with the State of Arkansas to provide fiber optics to the City of Foreman. There would be no cost to the city. It would all be funded by the State with funds from a Federal Grant Program.

Mr. Brady said Walnut Hill will offer four different packages to City of Foreman residents:

50 megabytes up/50 megabytes down	\$ 50.00
100 megabytes up/100 megabytes down	\$ 74.95
250 megabytes up/250 megabytes down	\$ 99.95
1 gigabyte up/1 gigabyte down	\$124.95

Mr. Brady said a one year contract would be required for those who sign up. The current proposal will only cover those in the Foreman City limits. Mr. Brady stated they have other projects in the works to cover other areas outside Foreman city limits.

After a good discussion, Mr. Brady said all they needed to move forward was the approval of the Council to go forward with applying for the grant. Mike McKee made the motion to partner with the City of Foreman to apply for the State Broadband grant. The motion was seconded by Tommy McDonald. All were in favor and the motion passed. The grant application package will be presented to the State Legislative Session on November 19, 2021. Mike McKee said since Walnut Hill already has fiber optic cable in Foreman, the cost would be close to half the cost of most other fiber optic carriers to bring fiber optic to the city. Mr. Brady agreed.

Allocation of American Rescue Plan Funds

The Mayor reported the emergency sewer line repair on S. Bell St. has been completed. The sewer line broke in two and was sending raw sewage into the creek. The Mayor asked for a motion to allocate the cost of repairs to be paid from the American Rescue Plan Fund. He stated the invoice from RBIS, LLC, who did the repairs, totaled \$39,118.78 and Spears Engineering invoice for the engineering work and overseeing/inspection of the project for a total of \$4,618.00. Mike McKee made a motion and Alana Cody seconded the motion to allocate funds from the American Rescue Fund to pay RBIS, LLC \$39,118.78 and Spears Engineering \$4,618.00. Mike McKee stated that it was an emergency and was thankful that the State was not on us to fix the issue. All were in favor and none opposed.

With no further business, at 1:17 pm Jacqueline Wiseman moved that the meeting be adjourned until our next regular meeting on October 18, 2021. Mike McKee seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

William B. Harp, Mayor

William & Etyp

Attest: Theresa Woods

Theresa Woods, Deputy Recorder/Treasurer