

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
September 21, 2020**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 21, 2020, via ZOOM virtual meeting at 4:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Harp said this was the first virtual meeting conducted via ZOOM. He said the meetings will be in this format through the COVID crisis.

Regular Session:

The minutes of the July 20 regular meeting, July 29 special meeting, and August 10 special meeting were reviewed. There was no regular meeting on August 24 due to the pandemic COVID-19. Alana Cody made the motion to accept the minutes of the above-mentioned meetings and Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Financial reports for the months of July and August were reviewed. A motion was made by Alana Cody to approve the July and August Financial Reports and was seconded by Judy Adams. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the Council

None

Department Reports

Administration:

Mayor Harp discussed the need to educate the public on the ½ cent sales tax reallocation of the Industrial Development money that will be on the November ballot. Some of the councilman were interested in going door to door and talk to the citizens about the sales tax reallocation. Theresa will have a flyer explaining the reallocation.

The Mayor told the council that the city received a letter from RDA stating they will have a rate increase effective January 2021. Currently the city is paying \$3.62 per 1000 gallons. The RDA increase is \$1.08 per thousand for a total of \$4.70 per thousand. Mrs. Adams said she would like to see a financial statement from RDA. Mayor Harp said he will check into getting one for her.

Mayor Harp reported that he received the final State Legislative audit report for 2019. The city had no findings. Congratulations to Theresa Woods on an outstanding job. A motion was made by Jacqueline to accept the 2019 State Legislative Audit; motion seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion carried.

The Mayor asked the council to look at the spreadsheet included in their packets concerning the repayment to the IDC account for the payment of \$30,193.65 to the IRS for the 2015, 2016, and 2017 delinquent payroll taxes. He said the council had voted in January 2019 to pay \$333.33 each month from each fund, General, Street, and Water funds to repay the money to IDC. The Legislative Audit asked for

a breakdown of the payroll for the three funds and the percentage each fund should owe IDC. Theresa prepared a spreadsheet showing the amount of the payroll for each fund for those periods and the percentage of taxes and penalties each fund should repay IDC. She sent the spreadsheet to Legislative Audit and they accepted the computations. As noted on the spreadsheet, the Street Fund has paid in full the amount owed in repayment to IDC. The General Fund owes \$2,846.36 and the Water Department owes \$10,458.33. The Mayor asked if they would like to change the amounts paid by the General and Water funds or continue paying \$333.33 per month per fund. A motion was made by Mrs. Adams and seconded by Mrs. Wiseman to pay the total amount owed from the General Fund of \$2,846.36 to the IDC fund. Motion carried with a Nah from Mr. McDonald. A motion was made by Mrs. Adams and seconded by Mrs. Cody to increase the monthly payment from the Water Department to IDC fund to \$400. per month. Motion carried.

The Mayor said he had a special presentation. He presented a plaque honoring the late Mrs. Helen Dixon for her (41) forty-one years of service to the City of Foreman as a dedicated city council person. The plaque with Mrs. Dixon's picture will be hung in the Foreman Community Center.

Law Enforcement: The monthly patrol report from the Sheriff's Dept. for July and August was reviewed.

July

The deputies drove approximately 5,200 miles and responded to (103) calls for service including (8) disturbance calls, (3) suspicious person calls, and (2) animal complaints. Deputies made (2) misdemeanor arrests, issued (11) warnings and (6) citations. Deputies also located (2) open doors while conducting security checks and collected \$786.54.00 in fines for the city for the month of July.

August

The deputies drove approximately 5,100 miles and responded to (93) calls for service including (5) disturbance calls, (3) suspicious person calls, and (1) animal complaint. Deputies made (1) felony arrest, (3) misdemeanor arrests, served (2) warrants, and issued (15) warnings and (6) citations. Deputies also located (1) open door while conducting security checks and collected \$1,412.45 in fines for the city for the month of August.

Fire Department: No report.

Parks Department: Tommy McDonald reported to the council that the sewer pipe has been delivered and the lift station is on order. He has received (4) sealed bids.

Tommy told the council that Michael Adcock had put up a batting cage at the City Park pavilion a few months ago and someone has stolen the batting cage.

Street Department: Mayor Harp reported the street crew has installed/replaced several old culverts around the city. Mrs. Cody said the culvert at the intersection of Dollarhide and 1st Street needs raised up. Mr. Young stated when Kiamichi Railroad was doing repairs to the track, they left 4th Street, at the tracks, in bad condition. The tracks are so rough it will tear your vehicle up. Mr. Young asked if Kiamichi was responsible for repairing the street and do we have any legal rights. Attorney Bishop responded that was the railroad's property. Mr. Bishop said he would look into see if there is any recourse.

Mr. Young said Highway 32 W and 108 coming into Foreman has debris the ditches. Mr. Young suggested we get community service people to pick up the trash. The Mayor will check into the possibility of getting people owing time for Community service and scheduling a clean-up day in the near future.

Water Department: Mayor Harp informed the council that Spears Engineering and Theresa have been working to finish up the application for the USDA loan for the rehab of the wastewater pond. Mayor Harp said the sewer rates will have to be increased if the city gets the loan to rehab the sewer pond. The council would like to poll sewer rates of some other cities comparable in size of Foreman.

Sanitation Department: Mayor Harp reported that Alfred Smith, whom has been working on the sanitation truck on Wednesday's, is going to work for the County Sanitation Department.

Animal Control: Mayor Harp said that Ronnie Shoals has attended a school to be certified to use the tranquilizer gun and chemicals. The Mayor has ordered a large dog trap also.

Unfinished Business:

A) Mayor Harp presented proposed Ordinance 342 amending Ordinance 146 to further clarify the definition of the type of truck prohibited on city streets. The mayor read the ordinance in its entirety. A motion was made by Mr. McDonald and seconded by Mrs. Wiseman to suspend the rules and read the 2nd and 3rd reading by title only. Motion carried. Mayor Harp read the second reading by title only. A motion was made by Mrs. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. Young to approve the ordinance. Motion carried. Mayor Harp read the title for the third and final time. A motion was made by Mr. Young and seconded by Mrs. Cody to approve the ordinance under the Emergency Clause. Motion carried.

B) Mayor Harp reported that he has ordered some asphalt which should be delivered in the next few days.

C) Tabled discussion of sealing the sewer manholes.

D) Mayor Harp reported that Mr. Shoals is certified to use the tranquilizer gun and chemicals and the dog trap is in. He said Mr. Shoals will begin picking up dogs next week.

E) Mr. Young discussed the importance of all citizens participating in the Census. He volunteered to go door to door to help people get their information reported to the Census. The city will lose State and Federal turnback monies and possible grant opportunities if people do not participate in the Census.

F) Mayor Harp gave an update on the Clinic. Mayor Harp said he has met with Walnut Hill on internet for the Clinic. James McDowell, Dr. Oglesby, and himself has met with the architect and they will be ready to start as soon as the prints are ready. The renovations will have to go out for bid for three weeks. Mayor Harp reported that the city paid Bill Patton for the prints drawn up for the Lansdell's and the Lansdell's has returned all the prints to the city.

New Business:

A) Mayor Harp presented proposed Resolution 2020-002 asking the city to support the amendment to the Arkansas constitution to continue a levy of a 1/2 percent sales and use tax for state highways, bridges, and county roads. Mayor Harp said the existing 1/2 percent sales and use tax is set to expire on June 30, 2023 unless a new constitutional amendment is passed by the voters. Mayor Harp read the proposed Resolution 2020-002. A motion was made by Mrs. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. McKee. Motion carried.

B) Mayor Harp told the council that the Arkansas Municipal League is asking the cities in Arkansas to approve and support a resolution "Cities are Essential" which calls on Congress to allocate fair and direct federal support to all of America's communities, regardless of their population size. Mayor Harp presented proposed Resolution 2020-003. Mayor Harp read proposed Resolution 2020-003. A motion was made by Mr. Young and seconded by Mrs. Cody. Motion carried.

C) Mayor Harp reported he has received a letter from the state stating the city qualifies for \$40,000 in CARES Act funding. This money can only be spent on COVID relief expenses such as PPE and items for employees to be able to telework. Mayor Harp presented proposed Resolution 2020-004 giving the mayor permission to purchase (3) three laptops and necessary components to be reimbursed by the CARES Act; one for the Deputy Recorder/Treasurer, one for the Water Clerk; and one for the Recorder/Treasurer. Mayor Harp read the proposed Ordinance 2020-004 in its entirety. A motion was made by Mrs. Cody and seconded by Mr. McKee to allow the Mayor to (3) laptops and all necessary components for employees to telework to be reimbursed by the CARES Act funding. Motion carried.

Executive Session: None

Regular Session:

Announcements

The Mayor announced the next council meeting for October, will be held on Monday, October 19, 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