

FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 18, 2022

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 18, 2022, at 4 p.m. in the Foreman Community Center.

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

Roger Quilty, Recorder/Treasurer, was asked by Mayor Harp to call the roll. Present were Mike McKee, Joyce Green, Tommy McDonald, Alana Cody, Perry Young and Jacqueline Wiseman. Assistant Recorder/Treasurer Theresa Woods, Water Superintendent Eddie Smith and Mayor Harp were also present. Roger Quilty stated we had a quorum. City Attorney Thad Bishop arrived shortly after the start of the meeting.

Regular Session:

The minutes for the regular meeting of March 21, 2022 were presented for review, revision and approval. McKee pointed out three spelling errors in the minutes which needed to be corrected. Mike McKee made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented for review and approval. McKee spoke about the payment to Miller Bowie on page 19 of the report. He said he had spoken with Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Woods regarding this item and she had to go back through the records to find out what the invoice was for. McKee asked if the city does purchase orders. Mayor Harp said they should be writing purchase orders. Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Woods said they are not done consistently but they are supposed to. McKee said we needed to be doing purchase orders and he didn't have a problem with last month's purchase orders being present at the council meeting in case somebody wants to question some of the finances they can see what it's for. He said with fuel costs and everything going up, we had to start tightening up a little bit. Mayor Harp asked if there were any other comments or questions. Mike McKee made the motion the financial reports be accepted. Perry Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administration

Mayor Harp introduced Dion Cooper, from REA/Four States Fiber Internet. Mr. Cooper explained REA and Four States Fiber Internet have formed a partnership to bring fiber optic internet above ground on the existing electric poles. He made a very informative presentation. After a brief question and answer session, McKee made a motion to allow Mayor Harp to enter into negotiations with REA/Four States Fiber Internet to pursue a grant for fiber optic internet for customers within the city limits of Foreman. Alana Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp said during former mayor Judy Adams term, the Recorder/Treasurer position was divided into two separate positions. He explained the Recorder position salary was set at \$100 per month and job duties were also defined. Mayor Harp stated the Recorder position is an

elected position. Mayor Harp said the Treasurer is an appointed position and the job duties were never defined in the minutes. The minutes from the meeting in August 21, 2017 were never sent to the County Clerk's office to be recorded. Mayor Harp explained a resolution needed to be done to clarify the Recorder and Treasurer's job duties and salaries and be recorded by the County Clerk. After some discussion and clarification, Attorney Thad Bishop stated a resolution was needed to split the position and set the salaries and job duties of the Recorder and Treasurer positions. McKee asked if the resolution needed to be written and brought back to the council. Attorney Bishop said if the council passed the resolution today, Mayor Harp could sign the resolution. Perry Young made the motion to split the position of the Recorder/Treasurer; the Recorder position will remain an elected position with salary set at \$100 per month and the Treasurer position will be an appointed position with the salary to remain as currently being paid. Mike McKee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp said the city needed to get an appraisal on three different parcels of land owned by the city. One was next to Walnut Hill Telephone office on Schuman Street, another one next to Memorial Medical Clinic on 3rd Avenue, and the other next to Dollar General on S. Madden Street. Mayor Harp said he needed approval to get an appraiser. Young asked where he was getting the appraiser from. Mayor Harp said he had a list of appraisers and three of them come highly recommended. McKee asked what it was going to cost for the appraisals. Mayor Harp said he had not contacted any of the appraisers until he got council approval. Tommy McDonald made a motion to allow Mayor Harp to negotiate with an appraiser to appraise the three properties. Alana Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cody asked whatever happened to the property next to Dollar General. Young said the man who wanted to buy it, still wants to buy it. Mayor Harp said the last he heard he had bought the property behind the Central Perk Coffee Shop and he was going to put a Bar-B-Que stand over there. Wiseman asked how the wrecking company was able to move in the building on Bell Street. Mayor Harp said he bought the property and we have no zoning laws saying he can't do that. McDonald asked if he has gotten a business license yet. Mayor Harp said he wasn't sure. Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Woods said she believes they have.

There was more discussion regarding a number of places that appeared to be scrap yards in the city. Mayor Harp said he was still waiting to hear from Municipal League lawyer Lanny Richmond on the zoning from that Planning Commission. Mayor Harp said he spoke with Jim von Tungeln, Staff Planning Consultant for the Municipal League, and asked him to come speak with him about zoning. Mayor Harp reported Mr. von Tungeln said you can set up your zoning and give the violators a specific amount of time to either conform or move out. Attorney Bishop said we would have to zone the town. Mayor Harp said, yes, that was the whole thing of the planning. Mayor Harp said Municipal League lawyer Lanny Richmond was going to come up with verbiage that was conducive to today's language versus 1957. Mayor Harp said there are a lot of things we don't have to do as a second-class city, as far as putting the zoning commission together. Mayor Harp said he was hoping to hear from Mr. Richmond before the meeting, but it didn't happen. He said the Municipal League lawyers were very busy right now, but he is a thorn in their side.

Law Enforcement

The Monthly Sheriff report was reviewed and discussed. Mayor Harp said he is coming up with a map of the areas of concern in the city. Mayor Harp told the council if they had any areas they consider “bad” areas to let him know and he would put them on this map. Mayor Harp was asked to explain “bad”. He said we have people dumping oil in the ditch, gasoline burning car parts, the parks in the city need to be watched a little bit more closely. Mayor Harp stated there have been complaints about people parking in the Madden Funeral Home lot. He said any area you can think of that needs to be patrolled a little bit more often. Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Woods asked about the trash can at the basketball court that was burned, had anybody been caught for that? Mayor Harp said no but McDonald has taken down the basketball hoops. McDonald said while they were down he was going to fix them up, paint them then put them back up. McDonald said they had burned the plastic trash can with a lid all the way to the ground. McDonald also spoke of the vandalism at the new park. It was discussed getting cameras at the parks or signs to help deter the vandalism. McDonald said he will put the basketball hoops back up once he has made repairs because a lot of our high school kids play a lot and he loves to see them out there.

Animal Control

Mayor Harp said they have some traps out trying to catch the dogs.

Fire Department

Mayor Harp reported he didn't have a report from the fire department. Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Woods said the fire department applied for a Blue Cross Blue Shield mini grant and had received \$2,000.

Parks Department

McDonald reported the summer league baseball/softball games have started at the Recreation Park. McDonald stated Ashdown has agreed to come to Foreman to play ball. McDonald said the softball teams are in a different league. They play with Nashville, Dequeen, Blevins and a couple more teams. He said the Park Commission has been running the concession stand at the park. McDonald reported they have been doing \$125 to \$150 a night selling hotdogs and cokes for a dollar each. McDonald said there is at least 50 to 70 cars there when there is just one ball game. He said the park and FYSA is bringing people to Foreman. People are loving the park and think it is a great start. McDonald said the only thing is the park doesn't have money to do anything. McDonald stated people talk about wanting businesses to come to the town, but if we don't get people to come to town the businesses won't come either. He said the park is bringing in people. McDonald said it is not going to be all summer, but half the summer. He said we can have baseball/softball tournaments. McDonald said we can do a lot with these baseball and softball fields to bring people to Foreman. McDonald stated people are shopping and eating while they are here. McDonald said he would like to have a little money budgeted for the parks. McDonald asked perhaps \$500 a month from the Infrastructure account could be put in the budget for the parks so they could start finishing some projects. Young asked how much was coming into that account each month. Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Woods stated it was about \$5,000 a month. Young suggested allocating the Parks Commission \$750 a month. McDonald said Perry Young spoke with Ray LaVoice at Red River Grass and he donated two pallets of sod to the park. McDonald stated he would like to get a ten more pallets of the sod to cover some of the sand. Perry Young made a motion that we use the funds from Infrastructure Account to buy ten pallets

of sod for the park. Alana Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried. McKee asked the cost of a pallet of sod. Young said \$120. McDonald mentioned the Southern Sportsmen Foundation are going to use the park for their Outdoor Extravaganza this year and they are donating four new picnic tables.

Street Department

Water Superintendent Eddie Smith said everything is good. Smith said the department needed another vehicle. He said the motor blew up in the 2010 pickup and the 2008 is on its last legs. Mayor Harp said he tried to go through GSA (Federal Surplus) but they are not getting anything from their previous federal suppliers (military, civil service, etc.). The other problem is if they do get anything that would be good for us, we would have to call a meeting to get authorization to buy it, and they only hold it for five days. Water Superintendent Smith said he would look around to see if he could find a rebuilt motor for the truck. McKee asked about the streets that are supposed to be getting fixed. Water Superintendent Smith said before the county or state can come in to do the work, the city has to repair the roads, but the city doesn't have the equipment to do the work.

Attorney Bishop interrupted due to his having to leave to speak about the new contract with the County Sheriff's Department. A copy of the proposed contract was given to all council members at the beginning of the meeting. Attorney Bishop said the contract looked fine to him. He said the only thing he wanted to point out was the contract was a one-year contract, but it contemplates the contract would be in effect for several years. He also pointed out if the County were to give the deputies a pay raise that pay increase would be in addition to the new contract annual increase. Tommy McDonald made the motion to authorize Mayor Harp to sign the contract with the County Sheriff's Department. Mike McKee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Water Department

Water Superintendent Eddie Smith stated the water department was good. McKee asked about the new transmitters. Mayor Harp said they should be in this summer.

Sanitation Department

Mayor Harp stated the Sanitation has been running good. The truck had a flat tire this morning and it is being repaired. Eddie Smith said he was going by the shop as soon as he left the meeting to work on the tire.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Harp said they still have not done the street repairs on Stephen Street. Cody asked about Dollarhide Street repairs. Eddie Smith said he was going to look at that in the morning.

Mayor Harp discussed the Code Red System. McKee said the city needed to make a decision who was going to be used to enter the information into the system. He also said there are fliers that can be handed out telling the people what Code Red is and where they can go to sign up. McKee said there are a lot of organizations, churches, etc. that will help others get signed up.

Mayor Harp said we needed to vote on fixing the roof using 2L Enterprises (Jared Lewis) who gave the \$28,000 bid as previously covered last month. Tommy McDonald made the motion to accept the bid of \$28,000 from 2L Enterprises (Jared Lewis) to replace the roof on the City Hall building. Perry Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp stated the Clean-up Day is set up for May 7th. He said McDonald talked to Judge Mike Cranford and there will be two dumpsters placed behind the Community Center prior to the Clean-up Day. Cody showed Mayor Harp the door hangers that McDonald printed to be put out around the town. Young said he will speak with 4 K Grocery about hot dogs and would also speak with the potato chip man about donating chips.

Mayor Harp said he has spoken with Mr. Jerry Dawson about his building on Schuman Street. Mr. Dawson said he needs to get a \$1,000,000 insurance bond, at the cost of \$5,000 before he can take down the back wall of his building. Mayor Harp said the city needs to do the same thing for the city-owned building on Schuman Street.

Young spoke to the council about Dollarhide Street that runs by the high school. He stated it is in bad shape due to the contractors working on the new high school building and running heavy equipment on the street. Young stated he would like to speak with Mark Hayes with the Municipal League about using the IDC funds to repair and repave the street. Mayor Harp suggested talking with RK Hall to get an estimate.

Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn the meeting until next month on Monday, May 16, 2022. Mike McKee seconded the motion. Motion carried.



William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest:



Roger Quity, Recorder/Treasurer