

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 19, 2022**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in the Foreman Community Center.

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

Roger Quilty, Recorder was asked by Mayor Harp to call the roll. Present were Jacqueline Wiseman, Joyce Green, Mike McKee, and Tommy McDonald. Alana Cody and Perry Young were not present. Mayor Harp and Treasurer Theresa Woods were also present. Mr. Quilty stated we had a quorum. Perry Young arrived at 4:02 p.m. Water Superintendent Eddie Smith arrived at 4:03 p.m.

Citizens wishing to address the council

iWorq presented a Zoom exhibition of their computerized program for handling paperwork. It was given by Mike McKee and Dace Whatcott. After the presentation they said they would send an estimate to Mayor Harp with any discounts they may be able to apply. The program was discussed for a while, but no actions were taken.

Regular Session

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 21, 2022 and the special meeting of December 5, 2022 were presented for review, revision and approval. Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to accept the November 21 and December 5 minutes as presented. Mike McKee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report for November 2022 was presented for review and approval. Perry Young made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. Tommy McDonald seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Administration

Theresa Woods said she was working on the Budget, but had a few hiccups with the new QuickBooks program the city is now using. Theresa Woods said it is a cloud-based program called Enterprise. Mike McKee asked if it would be done before the first of the year. Mayor Harp said as soon as it is done he would have it home delivered to the councilmen and then we will go over it in January.

— Mayor Harp said we received ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act) grant funds that Spears Engineering had submitted on the cities behalf. Mayor Harp said the city received the grant for water line replacement and improvements in the amount of \$1,139,000; ground storage tank improvements in the amount of \$195,200, and wastewater treatment plant improvements in the amount of \$1,388,772. Mayor Harp said all the grants are 100% grant.

There was discussion on the frequency of cleaning and inspecting the water tanks. Mike McKee and Joyce Green stated during the ACT 605 class it was discussed about the frequency of the cleaning and inspections and having money allocated every month to pay for the services when it is needed.

Mayor Harp said we will be required to have a Water & Sewer Rate Survey since we are receiving the grant funds. Mayor Harp stated we will need to raise the water and sewer rates some. In the Rate Survey you put in all the things that you have to do. He said at the District Water meeting the woman spoke of all the things that have to be put into the survey i.e.: a truck payment, etc. He said there is no way we can guess when or how much RDA is going to increase the cost of the water. He said the survey is for five years and he told the woman there is no way we can know what that is going to be. She said you just guess.

— Mayor Harp said we received a letter from RDA stating they will have a rate increase of 2 cents per thousand gallons. Mayor Harp said the increase is effective January 1, 2023. Mike McKee said there are a lot of things we need to start figuring into our rate increase: salaries, automobile expenses, etc. that need to be figured into the survey.

Law Enforcement / Animal Control

Mayor Harp said there were a lot of medical calls this month. He stated Animal Control and Law Enforcement kind of went together this month. He talked to City Attorney Thad Bishop and Sheriff Bobby Walraven. He said Attorney Bishop said to write tickets and keep writing them to the dog owners as long as they were in violation of the ordinances. The Sheriff agreed and the City Attorney will prosecute every one of the tickets that come through the courthouse. Mayor Harp stated even though the city doesn't have an animal control officer we will still take traps out to people that request them. Mayor Harp said when a dog is caught it will be taken to Ashdown. They have a new Animal Control Officer.

Water Department

— Mayor Harp brought up the placement of the water line for the proposed Family Dollar. He said Glen Spears with Spears Engineering said it would run \$10,000 to \$12,000 to get the water across Madden St. to the property Family Dollar is purchasing. Mayor Harp said the sewer was no problem since it was on the east side of Madden St. Mayor Harp asked Eddie Smith if it was a 6" line by the Fair Barn. Eddie Smith replied it was an 8" line. Mayor Harp asked the council if they wanted to use IDC Funds to pay for getting the water to the new Family Dollar. Perry Young made the motion to use IDC Funds to pay for getting the water lines run to the new Family Dollar. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Mike McKee asked if that was going

to be an incentive offered to Family Dollar. Mayor Harp said he would say so. Eddie Smith told the council the water line on the west side of Madden St. is an old transite line that is scheduled to be replaced in the water line replacement grant. Mr. Smith said if a tap was made in the transite line it would have to be done again when the line was replaced and would cost the city a lot of money. Mike McKee said he had a valid point. Mayor Harp said we had to get something done before January because that's when Family Dollar is supposed to start construction.

Mayor Harp stated in order to develop and sell the land behind the Dollar General, the city needed to get the city utilities to the property. There was a brief discussion on the subject.

New Business

Jacqueline Wiseman read the information on the Black History Parade on February 18, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.. The parade route will be from the Foreman Medical Office to the gazebo, then east to Bell St. and back to the starting place on 3rd Avenue.

Fire Department

Mayor Harp said he had no report. Mike McKee said he would report for them. Mr. McKee said all the trucks and equipment have been winterized and moved inside and under the heater.

Parks Department

Tommy McDonald said they were going to start working on the ball parks pretty soon. He said he had been up to the park and cleaned up the bathrooms, turned the heaters up to about 45 degrees so the pipes will be okay. He said the insulation in there is pretty good because he went in one morning when it was about 30 degrees, but the temperature in the concession stand was about 60 degrees. He said they have never had a budget for the Parks Department. He said the Infrastructure Funds can be used for parks, so he wanted to ask the council for a percentage of that money to be allocated to the Park every month. Mayor Harp asked what kind of percentage would he like. Mr. McDonald replied 5 or 10 percent. Mayor Harp said the amount would fluctuate each month due to the amount of Sales & Use tax money received each month varies. Mr. McDonald said if it is 5 percent then it would be \$300 a month or \$3,600 a year; 10% would be \$600 a month, \$7,200 a year. Mr. McDonald made the motion to allocate 10% of the Sales and Use Tax money received in the Infrastructure Fund account beginning in January go into the Parks and Recreation Fund. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp mentioned he has some FOI (Freedom of Information) booklets coming for all of us and we had to make some changes according to the new laws on the books. All committees will be subject to audit and FOI, so meetings have to be made public. Mike McKee mentioned to Roger Quilty the meetings of the new Planning and Zoning Commission have to be made public. Mayor Harp said that all meetings had to be announced over the radio two hours before the meeting and it should be posted.

Street Department

Nothing to report.

Sanitation Department

Mayor Harp reported the department was running good. He said the 8 yard dumpsters need repaired. They are rusting out on the bottom and need to buy some metal to be welded. Mike McKee asked when the truck would be paid for. Mayor Harp said another year and three months. He said the dumpsters will be paid off around the same time.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Roger Quilty handed out the notes from the three meetings held since the commission was started on November 3rd. He said in the first meeting they determined the length of each member's term on the commission. Eventually all members would be on the commission for five years. At the start one member would be on the commission for only one year, another for two years, another for three years, and another for four years and the last for five years. Their replacements would all be on the commission for five years. At the first meeting it was determined that Keith Pullen would be one year, Mark Smith would be two years, Roger Quilty would be three years, Sandy McDonald would be four years and Brett Rankin would be for five years. At the next meeting Sandy McDonald brought in a map of the city and she had already started color-coding the commercial and residential sections of the city. Mayor Harp stated that Glenn Spears was going to print some maps for us that actually have the structures on them. Mr. Quilty said voting also took place at that meeting placing Roger Quilty as Chairman, Mark Smith as Vice-Chairman and Sandy McDonald as Secretary. At that time, it was also decided the Planning & Zoning committee would hold quarterly public meetings and any other meetings would be private. Mr. Quilty said he was not aware that all meetings are public. Mr. Quilty reported the committee will establish a certain day of the week for the meetings so they can all be posted on the website.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Harp reported we have not been trained on the Code Red system. Mike McKee said they are trying to get someone to train us.

With no further business, Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn until the next meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Tommy McDonald seconded the motion. Motion carried.



William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest:



Roger Quilty, Recorder/Treasurer