

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 17, 2023**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Foreman Community Center.

The meeting was called together 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, Alana Cody and Perry Young. Tommy McDonald was not present. Mayor Harp, Treasurer Theresa Woods and Water Superintendent Eddie Smith were also present. Mr. Quilty stated we had a quorum.

Regular Session

The minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2022 were presented for review, revision and approval. Mike McKee made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report for November 2022 was presented for review and approval. Mike McKee made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. Alana Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Citizens wishing to address the council

None

Administration

Mayor Harp reported Steve Morgan from AR DOT called to discuss the City of Foreman street overlay grant. Mr. Morgan said the DOT put the Foreman project back out for bids. Mr. Morgan said the low bid they received was \$357,738.75. Mayor Harp said the Foreman project grant amount is \$300,000 and the city will owe the difference of \$57,738.75 if the council voted to approve. Mayor Harp said the streets included in the grant are 1st Avenue from Madden St. up to Fourth Street, and Bell Street from 8th Avenue south to just across the bridge. Alana Cody made the motion to take the \$57,738.75 from the Infrastructure Account. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

There was discussion about redoing other streets in town: Murphy Street, Pecan Street and Smith Street. Mike McKee asked Mayor Harp to bring an estimate in to redo those particular streets. McKee said he wants to see the costs before voting on it. Mayor Harp said he would contact Glenn Ridge with H.H. Howard to see if they could give a bid.

Mayor Harp reported he needed to call the new County Judge Larry Cowling to see if the county could help the city get the bridge on Bell Street fixed. Mayor Harp stated we received a letter from the State a while back saying the bridge was washing out and needed repaired. Mayor Harp said we need to get it repaired before the State comes around to inspect it again. The council ask Mayor Harp to try to get Ash Grove to donate the cement to do the bridge repairs.

Treasurer Theresa Woods gave a rundown of some of the changes to the budget. Woods told the council due to the increase in the cost of supplies, the Water Department was struggling. Mike McKee made the motion to accept the 2023 General Fund and Water Department budgets as prepared. Perry Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement

Jaqueline Wiseman stated the County law enforcement officers should start fining the big trucks that are parked on residential streets.

Animal Control

Mayor Harp told Perry Young he sent out a letter regarding the pit bulls to a resident near Mr. Young. Mayor Harp said he talked to the animal control people at the Municipal League Winter Conference and they suggested we have a full-time Animal Control Officer. He said if the people won't take care of their dogs we need to enforce the ordinances. Theresa Woods asked if the Sheriff's Department has written a ticket yet. The mayor said he didn't know, but when he talked to Sheriff Bobby Walraven he said they were going to start writing tickets. Theresa Woods said if they wrote tickets, it would change people's attitudes.

Fire Department

Mayor Harp said they are doing a lot of training.

Parks Department

Mayor Harp reported a water line busted in the restroom at the concession stand due to the heavy freeze we had. He said that Parks Commissioner Tommy McDonald fixed the pipe and insulated it. He has also shut off all the water.

Street Department

Eddie Smith reported they have cleaned the ditches out on Rocky Comfort Street and installed some new culverts.

Water Department

Water Superintendent Eddie Smith said everything was good. Smith reported Spears Engineering was getting the paperwork ready to go out to bid on the Water and Wastewater Grant projects. Smith said he had worked with Glen Spears last week about getting some fire hydrants repaired or replaced. Smith said with the grant that we got we will be able to put in valves around town so we don't have to cut everybody off to repair a leak.

Smith commented he has about 2.5 years left before retirement and he is willing to change to a salaried position to get away from overtime. Smith stated when the water line replacement and wastewater renovation projects begin, he will be with the contractor and crews 24/7. Smith said it would save the city money not paying overtime. Theresa Woods said they would have to look at the labor laws to see if that could be done. Mayor Harp said he had spoken to others at the conference and they said that as long as Mr. Smith is a department head, he could be put on salary. Smith said he wants to see the projects completed before he retires. Smith also said if he has to stay around until he can get someone trained to do what he does it won't be a problem.

Sanitation Department

Mayor Harp said he had spoke to someone that was questioning about the trash barrels downtown and around the parks not being emptied. The Sanitation department has not been emptying the barrels if they were only half full. Mayor Harp stated he has told them to empty them every week on Wednesday.

Planning and Zoning

Roger Quilty said Keith Pullen had gone to the county and ordered an updated map of the city. He stated they originally had planned on getting two copies, one for the Zoning Commission and one for City Hall but the cost of each map was \$135. Quilty said he talked to Ms. Keeny at East Lab and she said they could provide us with a plastic covering for us to color code the city. Mike McKee said the council had created this commission and needed to provide them with the tools to work on it. Mayor Harp said the map in the city hall was from 1957. Mike McKee made the motion to purchase the maps. Alana Cody seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Mike McKee reported Mike Cranford talked with OEM Director Rudy Hatridge and he said the Code Red system was going to be implemented by the end of March. McKee told Mr. Hatridge regardless of what the rest of the county does, this part of the county needs to implement Code Red.

New Business

Mayor Harp and Councilwoman Jacqueline Wiseman read the National Day of Racial Healing 2023 Proclamation.

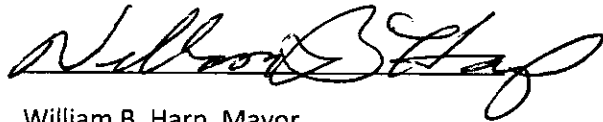
Executive Session

Mayor Harp stated he would like to go into Executive Session. Theresa Woods, Eddie Smith and Roger Quilty left the building. At 4:47 pm the Council went in to Executive Session


Mayor Harp called the Regular Session to order at 4:57pm.

Mayor Harp announced during the Executive Session the City Council voted to give Treasurer Theresa Woods a pay raise of \$1.00 per hour effective immediately.

With no further business, Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn until the next meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Alana Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.



William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest: 
Roger Quilty, Recorder/Treasurer