

FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
October 17, 2022

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 17, 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 Mike McKee and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roger Quilty, Recorder was asked by Mayor Harp to call the roll. Present were Alana Cody, Jacqueline Wiseman, Mike McKee and Perry Young. Joyce Green and Tommy McDonald were not present. Also present were Treasurer Theresa Woods, City Attorney Thad Bishop and Water Superintendent Eddie Smith. Mr. Quilty stated we had a quorum.

Regular Session

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

The financial report for September 2022 was presented for review and approval. Alana Cody made the motion to accept the financial report. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the council

None

Department Reports

Administration

Mayor Harp reported the Pecan Festival was coming along and there was a lot of things getting fixed in town. Perry Young stated everything was looking real good and he had a lot of people commenting on how good it looked.

Mayor Harp said the version of QuickBooks, which is the software the city uses for all financial matters, is no longer going to be supported and must be upgraded. QuickBooks support suggested we upgrade to QuickBooks Enterprise. There are a lot more features and does cost more. Theresa Woods said the current version in use is QuickBooks Pro. The program was purchased in 2020 and was only good for three years and we paid \$550. The QuickBooks Pro didn't include Payroll which was an additional \$500 a year for Payroll. This new version includes Payroll, and it has remote access giving the opportunity to work from anywhere. The information is out on the Cloud whereas right now is on the server. The cost of the new program is \$312 a month. Mrs. Woods said she contacted the Water Auditor and discovered they were

using Enterprise and it was very user friendly. Perry Young made the motion to purchase the new program. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp presented the bid from River Valley Asphalt Maintenance to asphalt four streets in Foreman. The total cost of the bid is \$28,500. Mayor Harp stated the city would be responsible for the cost of the asphalt, supplies, and repairing the base failure. Mike McKee asked how we were going to pay for it. McKee said he has been to some of the other small towns and their streets have all been redone. Mayor Harp said they got all that done through grants and we can't get the grants because our Low and Middle Income (LMI) is now 37. Perry Young said he couldn't believe that Foreman was classified as rich. Mayor Harp said we were at 54 and he called and asked how they came up with a 37. They said the city could go door to door to get a better report. This information was supposed to be included in the census that was taken. Perry Young made a motion to accept the bid from River Valley Asphalt Maintenance to asphalt the streets. The motion died for lack of a second. Mayor Harp said he will go back to the River Valley Asphalt Maintenance Company to get a bid on just asphaltting a portion of Spring Street and 3rd Street.

Mayor Harp spoke of the grants Glen Spears with Spears Engineering has put together for water and wastewater improvements. The state has excess ARPA money, and we can request grants from it. We can apply for up to \$5,000,000 for sewer and \$5,000,000 for water. The sewer pond will be our number one priority at a projected cost of \$1,224,000. Mayor Harp said there are several grant projects Mr. Spears is proposing to apply for. Theresa Woods reminded everyone this would be a grant and we would not have to pay anything back. This has to be turned in prior to November 4th and we should hear back before the end of December. The sewer repair will be put in as a priority project. We have been cited enough times that something must be done. Perry Young made the motion to give Mayor Harp the authority to sign and submit the papers for the grants. Alana Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement

Mayor Harp asked City Attorney Thad Bishop if he was doing the prosecution for the city. He said that he was. Mayor Harp said that the deputies told him that Al Smith was still doing that. Mr. Bishop said Foreman tickets are on his docket. The City of Foreman has its own docket every month.

Animal Control

Mayor Harp said he thought the City of Ashdown had hired a new dog catcher but he wasn't sure.

Fire Department

No report

Parks Department

Mayor Harp stated the track was sealed and the handicapped parking area was coated and striped. He said one corner on the handicap parking area was built up so the water would not puddle there.

Street Department

Alana Cody said she had some people ask when the city was going to put down asphalt where the new culvert was put in on Dollarhide St. Eddie Smith said he would get it done in two weeks.

Water Department

Eddie Smith said they have had a couple of fire hydrants that were run over and have had a lot of water leaks.

Sanitation Department

The mayor said that is running good.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Harp asked if Stephens Street was ever completed. Eddie Smith said that it has been fixed.

Mayor Harp asked what was still needed to get trained on the Code Red system. Mike McKee said they were waiting for someone to come down to teach them. Jacqueline Wiseman asked if they had all the equipment, but just needed someone to teach the class. Mike McKee said it is supposed to be up and running but no one has been trained on how to use it. Mayor Harp said that once they get it up and running they still must get people signed up for it. Mike McKee said that someone had to be taught before they can explain how to sign up.

Alana Cody asked if any of the people they discussed last meeting had been contacted about being on the Planning and Zoning committee. Mike McKee and Mayor Harp said they had made their contacts. Jacqueline Wiseman said she had turned in the name of Billy Brown but didn't know if he had been contacted.

Mayor Harp reported to Attorney Thad Bishop the city sent letters and talked to the property owners about the junk that was over on Mr. Brown's property. Mayor Harp said the property owner moved the junk from Mr. Brown's property to a different location on own his property. Mayor Harp mentioned Mr. Brown came to the Council and complained about his neighbor's stuff being put in his yard. Mayor Harp asked Thad Bishop if that was a civil suit or did the city still need to be the one to take the ball. Thad Bishop said the Code Enforcement Officer has to make the call if it has been cleaned up. If the Code Enforcement Officer says the property owner is complying with the ordinance then there is nothing else the city can do. The stuff on the neighbor's property is between the two landowners. Perry Young asked if it is not removed from Mr. Brown's property can Mr. Brown take it to the landfill. Thad Bishop said that is what he

would do. Alana Cody said part of the ordinance says that items like the tires stacked up breeds mosquitos. Mike McKee said he also had combustibles stacked on top of butane/propane tanks. Roger Quilty asked if he owned the property or if the owner was just letting him live there. Mayor Harp said the property belongs to Phillip Caudle. Perry Young said it is Phillip Caudle's son that lives there. Theresa Woods asked what the next step was since we have already sent him letters. Thad Bishop said to write him a ticket. Mike McKee asked since it is an old mechanic garage can the Fire Marshall step in. Thad Bishop said if there is a fire hazard then he is in violation of the city and state codes and the Fire Marshall can step in. Thad Bishop said if he is in violation of the city codes then the Fire Marshall can write him a ticket.

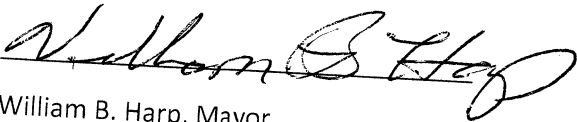
Mayor Harp said that the city-wide clean-up would be next Saturday at 8:30. He asked Alana Cody if they were going to be down at the Farmer's Market. She said yes and that they were not going to have hot dogs this time, just doughnuts and coffee. Alana Cody asked what the council wanted to work on that day. She mentioned there were a lot of weeds in the market area. Mayor Harp recommended starting in the downtown area and circle out from there. Eddie Smith said to just bag up the trash and leave it along the road and the city workers would pick it up on Monday. There was a discussion on where to put dumpsters for some of the trash picked up. Alana Cody asked if the Pecan Festival Committee would be involved. Mike McKee said they have talked about it and would again in the morning. Alana Cody said she was trying to get some of the school kids involved.

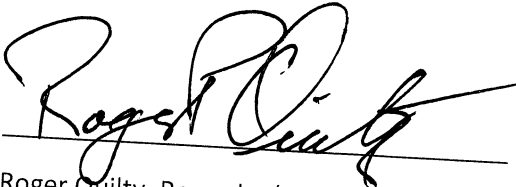
Mayor Harp said that the Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 3rd. He said the city would be putting up Christmas decorations and there would be Breakfast with Santa in the Community Center at 9am on December 3rd.

Roger Quilty said he was asked at the last meeting if he would take the Chair for the Planning and Development Commission. Mr. Quilty said that he would accept the position. He asked Theresa Woods for copies of the new ordinance. Mr. Quilty asked if the members of the commission had to be a resident of the city. Mayor Harp responded yes.

Mike McKee asked about the Employees Handbook that was tabled from last month. Short discussion was had with no action.

With no further business, Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn until the next meeting on November 21, 2022. Perry Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.


William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest: 
Roger Quilty, Recorder/Treasurer