

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

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 17, 2023, 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 Alana Cody, Jacqueline Wiseman, Joyce Green, Mike McKee, Perry Young, and Tommy McDonald. Mayor Harp and Water Superintendent Eddie Smith were also present. Mr. Quilty stated we had a quorum.

**Regular Session**

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 21, 2023 (revised) and March 20, 2023 were presented for review, revision and approval. Mrs. Wiseman made a motion to accept the minutes as revised and written. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report for March 2023 was presented for review and approval. Mr. McKee made a motion to accept the financial report. Mrs. Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Citizens wishing to address the council**

None.

**Department Reports**

**Administration**

Mayor Harp presented information as requested by the council about the proposals for a generator for City Hall. Mayor Harp said Nantze, Inc. submitted a quote for a 26kw Generac generator at a cost of \$15,145.00 and includes the gas connection. H & K Electric submitted a quote of \$13,599.29 for a 20kw Kohler generator and the city would be responsible for the gas connection. Mayor Harp said a resolution would need to be passed to authorize the mayor to purchase the generator. A motion was made by Mr. Young to purchase the 26kw Generac generator from Nantze, Inc. for \$15,145.00. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Wiseman. Motion carried. Mayor Harp read Resolution 2023-004 authorizing the mayor to purchase the Generac 26kw generator for city hall. Mr. Young made a motion to accept the resolution and Mrs. Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp reported he has contacted the Municipal League lawyers to get clarification on ACT 605 Rate Survey mandate. Theresa Woods has talked with Arkansas Rural Water Association (ARWA) about doing the Water Rate survey for the city and submitted the information they

requested. Mayor Harp said ARWA is now requiring we split out the water and sewer income and expenses and resubmit. Mrs. Woods is working on getting the new information compiled and sent back to ARWA. More discussion followed and no action was taken.

### **Law Enforcement**

The report was read and discussed.

### **Animal Control**

Mayor Harp said we still have the same problems with the pit bulls. The one animal we had complaints about is no longer around.

### **Fire Department**

No report.

### **Parks Department**

Parks Commissioner Tommy McDonald said there have been a lot of people showing up for the ball games. The concession stand is doing pretty good. Mayor Harp asked about the bathroom doors always being locked. Mr. McDonald said there was a problem with the push button on the door, when people exit the restroom the way they grab the handle, it pushed the button in. He said the county gave the park two loads of gravel and he put it on the road, so it's smooth going in and coming out. Mayor Harp mentioned Judge Cowling picked up a bunch of light poles and asked how many we needed. Mr. Young mentioned how bright the lights were around the walking path. Mayor Harp said we still need to go around and ground the walking trail lights. Mr. McDonald said people are really respecting the parking signs. He asked if there was any way to create a Fire Lane or a No Parking area. Mr. McKee said he would have to talk to Justin Roden from the Fire Department.

### **Street Department**

Mayor Harp reported they have been patching holes. Mr. Smith said they are trying to catch up. Mayor Harp said he still hasn't heard anything from ARDOT as to when they are starting the overlay on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Bell Street.

### **Water Department**

Mayor Harp reported the meter deposit rates for renters has been \$100 for quite some time. Mayor Harp said the \$100 deposit doesn't cover the water bill since the water rates have increased several times since the \$100 meter deposit was put in effect. Mayor Harp said RDA charges their renters a \$200 meter deposit. Mayor Harp said the current meter deposit for homeowners is \$60 and this barely covers a minimum water bill. Mayor Harp suggested increasing the homeowners meter deposit to \$100. Mayor Harp said since we haven't raised our rates in the past year and a half and supplies have tripled in cost in the last year, we are in a situation in the Water Department where we are having trouble meeting our monthly obligations. Mayor Harp said Treasurer Theresa Woods' thought was to borrow money from the Infrastructure Account instead of General Fund to help the Water Department. He said we are

paying \$15,145 out of the General Fund to pay for the generator for city hall. Mr. McKee asked Mayor Harp how much he wanted to borrow from the Infrastructure Account. Mayor Harp replied \$20,000. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Wiseman made the motion to transfer \$20,000 from the General Fund to the Water Operating Account. Mrs. Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Young made the motion to raise the water meter deposit for renters to \$200 and to \$100 for landowners. Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion carried. There was a discussion about raising the price for water and sewer taps. It was suggested the city get rates from Ashdown and Horatio to use for comparison before changing the water and sewer taps.

### **Sanitation Department**

Mayor Harp said Sanitation is still running well. He said they haven't fixed the dumpsters yet because he didn't want to put the financial strain on Sanitation because of what was happening in the Water Department. Mayor Harp said he is going to get some prices on the metal to repair the dumpsters. Foreman School Superintendent Pat Tankersley called asking the city to replace the 8-yard dumpster at Oscar Hamilton Elementary with (2) two 4-yard dumpsters with lids because the crows are scattering the garbage across the school yard and neighbor's yards.

### **Planning and Zoning**

Roger Quilty said the Zoning Commission is still trying to work with the old map from 1957. The State is sending us newer maps from 2017 so we will work on those when we get them. Mr. Quilty said he registered for a virtual Business Meeting for Planning and Zoning, and it will be in the Community Center starting at 9:00a.m. on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. He invited anyone from the Council that wanted to come.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Code Red**

Mayor Harp said they haven't had time to get the Code Red started. Mayor Harp said we need to get the flyers. Churches have already told Mayor Harp they would help to get people to fill out the information needed.

#### **Street Repair Murphy, Pecan & Smith**

Discussed the needed repairs on Murphy St., Pecan, and Smith St. Mayor Harp reported he has measured the streets. No action was taken.

#### **New Electronic Sign**

Mayor Harp said the Foreman Community Foundation Committee (FCFC) has opened an account at Horatio Bank for donations for the LED sign that will be placed inside the fence at the Fair Barn near the Cowling Building. The Foreman Community Foundation Committee (FCFC) has talked to Ash Grove and Domtar asking for donations. The FCFC has started a savings account with \$3,000 they received from the Jail or Bail Fundraiser.

**Billy Brown Complaint**

Mayor Harp reported he spoke to ARDOT about the easements along Highway 41 and was told the easements run in and out all along Highway 41. Garland Baker with the ARDOT said he was going check the books and find out what the proper measurements are. Mayor Harp said if the easement goes into the junk along the road, then the property owner is in big trouble with the state.

**Legislative Audit**

Mayor Harp said the Legislative Audit has started the audit of the city’s financials for the years of 2020, 2021, and 2022 and it covers everything but water.

**2008 Chevrolet Pickup**

Mayor Harp said the 2010 Chevrolet pickup is still not fixed. John Baker is working on getting the motor installed. Mayor Harp said some of the bolts, etc., are missing and Mr. Baker is having to look for parts for it. Mayor Harp said the 2008 Chevrolet pickup is at the Chevrolet service department in Ashdown, so we are down to one truck.

**New Business**

There was a discussion about the problem of the former 4K Grocery store. Don Kegley, owner, had the electric meter turned off at the store when he closed it down and in order to get electric service turned back on it is going to cost about \$10,000 to upgrade everything in the building. Mr. Quilty asked if it was possible for the city to help him financially since it would be to get another grocery store in the building. Mayor Harp said he didn’t think that would be a problem.

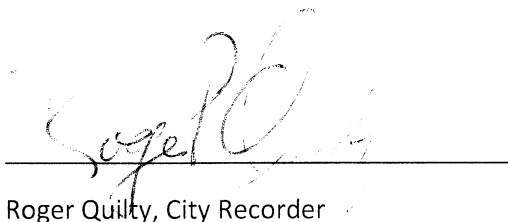
Mr. Young asked if the city could run water out to his son, Cal Young’s chicken houses which are located past Dollarhide Cemetery. Mr. Young’s chicken houses are currently on RDA water. After a brief discussion, Mayor Harp said he would check into it.

With no further business, Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn until the next meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023. Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion carried.



William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_



Roger Quilty, City Recorder