

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 21, 2023**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 21, 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 Mike McKee and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Regular Session

The minutes of the regular meeting of July 17, 2023, were presented for review, revision, and approval. Mr. McKee made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mrs. Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The minutes of Special Meeting of July 24, 2023, and Special Meeting of August 7, 2023, were presented for review, revision, and approval. Mr. McKee made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Citizens wishing to address the council

None

Department Reports

Administration

Mayor Harp stated we needed to pass a resolution giving him the authority to get a loan for the roof on the clinic. He said he had talked to Sonja McCombs at Horatio State Bank, and she said we could get a loan at 6.5% interest over five (5) years. The loan would be for just over \$38,000. Mayor Harp read RESOLUTION 2023-007. Mr. McKee asked when the hospital pays half of the roof at the end of the year, will all that money go directly to pay on this loan. Mayor Harp said yes it would be applied to the loan. Mr. McKee made a motion to accept the resolution. Mrs. Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp stated in the next order of business, the council needed to pass an ordinance outlining the duties of the City Treasurer per state audit request. Mayor Harp read Ordinance 348 in its entirety. Mr. McDonald made a motion to adopt Ordinance 348. Mr. McKee seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. McKee moved to suspend the rules and read by title only. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mayor Harp read the title of the ordinance a

second time. A motion was made by Mr. McKee and was seconded by Mr. McDonald. Motion carried. Mayor Harp read the title for the third time. A motion was made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Mrs. Green. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp stated the acoustic on the ceiling at the Senior Center is falling. Mayor Harp said he had a man give a bid to replace all those ceilings and the bid was \$4,000. He stated that included scraping, touching them up, spray texture, and put a primer coat over the top of it. There was a discussion about why this was happening to the ceiling. Mr. McKee asked if they were going to get any more bids. Mayor Harp said they could. Mr. McKee asked what account the money would come out of to get it fixed. Mrs. Woods said it would have to come out of the General Fund account. Mr. McKee also asked if it was a health issue. Mayor Harp said according to the State it is a health concern. Mr. McKee asked if Boone Ministry is doing a better job running the center now than what they were. Mayor Harp replied no they were not. There was further discussion about the possibility of the city taking control of the senior center. The discussion on repairing the ceilings was tabled by the council until more information is obtained. Mr. McDonald said he would like to see pictures of the ceiling.

Mayor Harp stated he recently turned age 65 and Municipal Health Benefit Fund cancelled his health insurance. He said he has been on MHBF insurance since he has been in office. Mayor Harp said his wife, who works for the City of Ashdown and is on MHBF insurance, added him to her insurance when he found out it had been cancelled. Mayor Harp stated he is asking the Council to reimburse him for the cost of his health insurance and life insurance policy every month, retroactive to July 1, 2023, and continue reimbursing him approximately \$500 a month while he is in office. Mayor Harp said the city was paying \$700 a month for his insurance to MHBF at the time it was cancelled. Mr. McKee asked if anyone had ever been reimbursed for health insurance in the past. Mayor Harp said David Wilkinson was when he was mayor. Mr. McDonald made the motion to reimburse Mayor Harp each month for the cost of his health insurance and life insurance of approximately \$500 a month as long as he is mayor. Mr. McKee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement

Mayor Harp said he had talked to Sheriff Deputy Marcus Cook and Mayor Harp was going to give him the animal control ordinances. Mayor Harp stated Deputy Cook will start going around and ticketing all the people with pit-bull dogs.

Animal Control

Mayor Harp stated we had no dogs that went to the pound.

Fire Department

No report.

Parks Department

Mr. McDonald said there wasn't much going on, but he still needed to get those relays fixed in the walking trail lights.

Mayor Harp said he finished the Outdoor Recreation Grants Fun Park application for both the City Park and the Recreation Park and the AEDC Grant application for the Plaza/Farmers

Market. They now have all the paperwork and seem confident that we will get it. Mayor Harp said the other thing we need to do is take pictures of the city park trail, maybe some measurements and get ready for the DOT grant that they have for trails. He said if we get the grant, they will install handicap parking on both sides of the park, take out the old cement and put in new cement, and redo the playground. On the recreation park, they will put a sun cover over the playground area, run a cement walkway from the parking lot between the playground and the picnic area that is already covered both ways and put in wood chips inside the playground area. Mayor Harp said they will put wood chips in the playground area at the city park as well. Mr. McKee asked Mayor Harp if he had approached the cement plant about putting in a Splash Pad. Mayor Harp said a woman had called City Hall and said that the cement plant had talked about it and voted 'yes.' Mayor Harp said he had not talked to the new person at the plant, but we needed to nip this in the bud because people are talking to them. We need to let the cement plant know that if we want something like that done, they will be approached by someone from the city, not just a citizen.

Street Department

Mr. Smith said it was okay. They will start patching the streets again soon.

Water Department

Mr. Smith said he has three water taps that need to be done as well as the trash that was keeping everyone busy.

Mr. Smith said he had a call from Glen Spears. Mr. Spears said they are getting the paperwork ready to put some of the jobs out for bid.

Mr. McKee said he has been getting complaints from people about not getting their water bill until after the grace period due date. He recommended getting the bill out sooner or moving the due date out. Mrs. Woods said they get the bills out on the last day of the month. Mr. McDonald asked if the due date could be extended, since the Post Office is not getting the bills delivered in a timely manner. Mr. McKee said all mail from the Foreman Post Office is sent to Shreveport, LA and then back to Foreman before it is delivered. Mrs. Woods said that if the due date is extended, it will also affect the city's cash flow. She also said people can pay online. Mr. McKee said he did not know that could be done. No action was taken.

Sanitation Department

Mayor Harp said the LRC Landfill is still down, so we are still taking the trash to Nashville to dump.

Planning and Zoning

Mr. Quilty said there were copies of the minutes from the last couple of Planning and Zoning meetings in front of the council members. He said Mike Cranford attended the last meeting. Mr. Cranford listened to everything the committee has done and looked over the zoning map that has been created. Mr. Cranford accepted the position on the Commission. He will fill the remaining five-year term left vacant by Brett Rankin earlier this year. The five-year term expires September 30, 2027. Mr. Quilty said Trent Liggin could not make the Planning and Zoning meeting but will invite him to the next meeting and if he accepts the invitation, the commission will ask him to join the Planning and Zoning Commission and serve a five-year term. Mayor Harp said at this

point the Council needs to appoint Mike Cranford and Trent Liggin to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. McKee made the motion to accept the recommendations to appoint Mike Cranford to fill the remaining five-year term left vacant by Brett Rankin and appoint Trent Liggin to serve a five-year term. Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Quilty asked if we had any date that we would be getting the changes to the map back from the State. Mayor Harp said he did not have an update on the maps. Mayor Harp said City Attorney Thad Bishop has been working on the ordinance. Mayor Harp said he did find a smaller map the State had sent him we can use but we would have to go through and color-code it again.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Harp said he is still waiting to hear back from the County on the street repair on Murphy, Smith, and Pecan Streets and what it will cost us.

Mayor Harp said we found out some more information on the water rate study. Mayor Harp stated the State needs to approve the recommendations before we can implement the new rates. Mayor Harp said he was going to a meeting next month on Act 605 of 2021 and now a new Act 545 of 2023.

Mr. McKee said Roddy Smith, OEM Coordinator from Howard County will be here tomorrow at 9:00a.m. to train the personnel here on the Code Red System. Mr. McKee said hopefully after tomorrow we can put together a program to start presenting to churches and get people signed up for Code Red. Mayor Harp said we need to get everyone signed up for this. Mayor Harp said the information gathered is not going to be sold to anyone; we just need to let everyone know about boil orders, fire bans, water shortages, street closures, etc. Mayor Harp said the information needed for citizens to get signed up on Code Red is address, telephone number and/or email address. Mayor Harp said whatever contact information the citizens enter Code Red will be the method in which they will receive notices and warnings. Mrs. Wiseman said once everything is ready, she doesn't mind going door-to-door to talk to people. Mayor Harp stated if we can get the churches to help encourage people to sign up it will help us tremendously.

Executive Session

Mayor Harp told the council he would like to go into executive session. Upon return, Mayor Harp stated no action was taken.

With no further business, Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn until the next meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 4p.m. Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Attest:  _____
Roger Quilty, City Recorder


William B. Harp, Mayor