

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

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 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 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, Perry Young and Tommy McDonald. Mike McKee was not present. 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 January 17, 2023 were presented for review, revision and approval. Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to accept the minutes. Tommy McDonald seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report for January 2023 was presented for review and approval. There was a few questions about some expenditures on the financial reports. Mayor Harp explained what the expenditures were. Tommy McDonald made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. Perry Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Citizens wishing to address the council

None

Administration

Mayor Harp presented the final Amended 2022 Budget for approval. He stated we had to do a Resolution to amend our final budget for last year. Mayor Harp read Resolution 2023-002, A Resolution Amending and Approving the Final Budget for Calendar Year 2022 for The City of Foreman, Arkansas. Tommy McDonald made the motion to accept Resolution 2022-002, amending the budget of 2022. Joyce Green seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement

A discussion was made to have the Sheriff's Department leave off the number of miles driven in the city limits of Foreman.

Animal Control

Mayor Harp stated they haven't had much going on. Mayor Harp said he talked with Sheriff Walraven and told him to go ticket them and just keep ticketing them until they are in compliance with the Ordinances. Alana Cody asked if any had been written. Mayor Harp responded he didn't know. A brief discussion followed on vicious and aggressive dogs.

Fire Department

Nothing to report.

Parks Department

Tommy McDonald said they have been working on the ball fields. Mr. McDonald said he is looking at purchasing a product called Turface to spread on the ball fields. He said it helps absorb water and when you drag it, it makes a smoother surface and stops the grass from growing so much. Mr. McDonald stated he has been talking to the high school coaches who really wants to be involved with the Recreation Park. They would like to host baseball and softball tournaments this summer and utilize both the High School fields and the fields at the Recreation Park for the tournaments. Mr. McDonald said the Park commission would run the concession and get the proceeds from the park concession stand. The Foreman School Booster Club would operate the concession stand at the school ballfields and would get the proceeds from that concession stand. The Foreman School would also get the proceeds from the entry and gate admission fees. He said that if this was successful, the coaches said they would be interested in hosting a district, regional, or a state tournament. Mayor Harp asked Mr. McDonald if Musco Lighting had called him regarding lights on the ballfields. Mr. McDonald replied they were going to give us an estimate on the lights. More discussion was had on ballfield lights and purchasing sod.

Street Department

Eddie Smith reported they needed more cold mix to patch the streets. Mayor Harp reported Eddie Smith had filled some of the potholes around town that morning. Mayor Harp said he had not gotten any asphalt yet because it had been raining and cold and he didn't want to waste any of it. Mayor Harp said he had talked to ARDOT last week about the overlay project on Bell Street and First and Fifth Avenue and ARDOT are getting ready to begin. Mayor Harp said he was told it would be two to three weeks before they get started.

Mayor Harp told the council he has measured Pecan St., Smith Avenue and First Street. He reported he also measured Murphy Street. Mayor Harp said he would contact County Judge Larry Cowling and see if the County Road Department can help us on the street repairs. Mayor Harp said there's a company out of Texas that is willing to come up and do work for the city if the County can't help.

Mr. Young then asked when our big project was going to start. The mayor said we had to have our water survey first. We can't even raise the rates yet. Perry Young asked about Family Dollar. Mayor Harp said he got the blueprints last week, so it shouldn't be too far off.

Water Department

Water Superintendent Eddie Smith said everything was good, but they were waiting for Glen Spears and the rate study. Mayor Harp said they needed to sit down and do a conference call with Glen Spears. Mayor Harp said Arkansas Rural Water Association (ARWA) was contacted about doing the water rate study for the city. The rate study is mandatory due to ACT 605 before we can proceed with our grant projects. Mayor Harp said ARWA is swamped with rate studies so it may be a while getting ours done.

Sanitation Department

Mayor Harp said Sanitation is running alright. He reported we still need to get some steel and fix the bottoms in the eight yard dumpsters. The bottoms are rotting out.

Planning and Zoning

Roger Quilty handed out the General Plan for the city to everyone. He said that Sandy McDonald has worked on this intensively. She was getting information from other small cities in the state. It also includes Foreman history. He said we have to have this completed before we start writing any ordinances. We still don't have any maps, so the zoning has to wait. Mayor Harp said he thought Keith Pullen was close on getting the maps printed. Mr. Quilty apologized for not having the minutes from the last Planning and Zoning meeting. Mr. Quilty said they were going to call the downtown area the Historical Area. The Historical Area will be from the gazebo up to the museum.

The other areas would be commercial and two residential areas, single family and multiple family.

Unfinished Business

Code Red

Mayor Harp said they have been training on the Code Red System. He said the ZOOM classes are very informative but we have not been able to complete one training session with multiple interruptions. The classes are recorded so Mayor Harp is trying to get the recording so they can be watched at a more convenient time. He said there are four people set up to do the Code Red Alerts. Mayor Harp said he has talked to some of the pastors of the local churches and asked them to encourage their congregation to come in and give us the information that is needed to receive alerts. We are only needing the information from citizens who are on the City of Foreman water system.

New Business

Mayor Harp said he was putting in for another ARDOT grant. He was told when he went to the Winter Conference the city can apply every year for grants.

Mayor Harp spoke of getting an electronic LED sign put at the Little River County Fair Barn on Madden St. It would be financed by the City, the Community Foundation, the Little River County Fair Association, and the Foreman Volunteer Fire Department. It would be a larger sign than the one at the school. He said the Foreman Community Foundation got a quote from a place out in California. Mayor Harp said the buyers are responsible for mounting the sign. He said it could be placed right by the Cowling Building and be wired into the building. Perry Young asked what it was going to say. The mayor said whatever we want it to say.

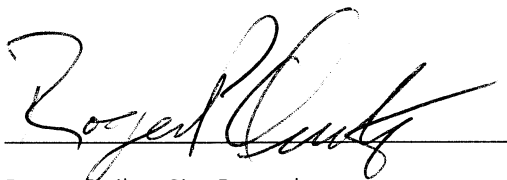
Mayor Harp asked if there was any more business to be discussed. Mr. McDonald spoke of the couple who came into town and their vehicle had mechanical issues. Mayor Harp said their brakes failed and the truck ran onto the sidewalk on Schuman St. near the Foreman Flea Market and hit a lamp post knocking it down. Mr. McDonald said they were living in the truck. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Green said the matter was taken care of.

Jacqueline Wiseman said she wanted thank everyone for being able to have the Black History Month Parade. Several members said that it was a nice parade and had a good turnout.

With no further business, Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn until the next meeting on Monday, March 20, 2023. Alana Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.



William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest: 

Roger Quilty, City Recorder