

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

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 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.

Mayor Harp asked Recorder, Roger Quilty to call the roll. Present were Alana Cody, Jacqueline Wiseman, Joyce Green, Mike McKee, Perry Young, and Tommy McDonald. Mayor Harp and Treasurer Theresa Woods were also present. Mr. Quilty stated we had a quorum. Water Superintendent Eddie Smith arrived at 4:15.

Regular Session

The minutes of the regular meeting of June 20, 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 financial report for June 2023 was presented for review and approval. Mr. McDonald referred to page 10 asking about the charge under Parks and Recreation for \$671.59. Mrs. Woods stated it was for insurance for the park. Mr. McKee made a motion to accept the Financial Statements as presented. Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the council

Cody Colbey, owner of Iron Horse Fitness in Dierks, AR, spoke to the city council about his plan to establish a fitness gymnasium in the building previously housing 4K Grocery. There were questions asked of him and most of the council was very interested and stated they would be joining. He stated their target date was the first of the year. Mr. Quilty said it would be nice if he could have something going during the Pecan Festival on October 21, 2023.

Trevor, from Hostetler Roofing, spoke to the Council regarding a new roof for the Memorial Medical Clinic. He went over the differences and prices and answered questions from the council. Mr. Young called Mr. James Dowell, Hospital Administrator, to set up a time and place for a meeting with the city council and to make a decision on the roof repair/replacement on the Memorial Medical Clinic. Mr. Dowell agreed to meet in a special called meeting on July 24, 2023 at 4pm in the Foreman Community Center. Mr. McKee moved to table the decision until the special meeting on July 24, 2023. Mrs. Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Administration

Law Enforcement

The monthly Sheriff Report was reviewed.

Animal Control

Mayor Harp stated we had one pit bull that went to the pound.

Fire Department

No report.

Parks Department

Mayor Harp said he would like to apply for a Fun Park Grant through Arkansas Parks, Heritage, and Tourism. He said the grant will include doing upgrades at both parks, around the playground equipment, and putting two cement pads down at the city park where we have cement walkways. The grant would also include putting in pads for handicapped vehicles. At the Recreation Park they are going to put cement all around the shaded area where the picnic tables are now and pour a cement sidewalk that will “T”. It will come off the main parking lot and then “T” off to the playground and the picnic area. Mayor Harp stated you may apply for up to \$100,000, and it is 100% match. Mayor Harp said we will have to pass a resolution authorizing him to apply for the grant. Mayor Harp said Southwest Planning and Development will finish the application and send in the application packet.

Mayor Harp reported the other grant he is looking at trying to do will be a 50/50 match through the Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program, which can be a cash match or in-kind labor and materials. Mayor Harp said this grant would be to put a cover on an area of the Farmer’s Market, build restrooms, and some other improvements. Mayor Harp said we already have \$5,000 worth of cement blocks. Mayor Harp said he has spoken to others at the meeting he attended last week on the grants, who said we had a pretty good chance of getting the Fun Park grant because we never got one before.

Mayor Harp then read Resolution 2023-005: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO APPLY TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM Fun Park Grant. Mr. McKee made the motion to accept the Resolution, Mrs. Cody seconded, motion passed.

Water Department

Mr. Smith said the transducer on the high tank was hit by lightning during the recent storms. Chris Whitehead from OIC came and replaced the transducer.

Mayor Harp guided the council to page 27 of their packets for the Arkansas Rural Water Association Water Rate & Sewer Study Based on 2022 Year Reports. Mrs. Woods said the survey indicated the current rate water rates were sufficient, but the sewer rates are too low, which was no surprise because they have not been increased in years. The rate study breaks the sewer increase in increments. Mrs. Woods said she needs to speak with Glenn Spears to see how the Sewer Pond Rehab will affect, if any, the sewer rates. She wants to let him look over the information provided to see if that is going to suffice, because we want to make sure we are going in the right direction on this. Mr. McKee asked what timeframe we were looking at to implement the change. Mrs. Woods said she was getting the ordinances ready now. Mr. McKee said then by the next meeting we should be able to make a decision before implementing the next year. Mrs. Woods agreed. She also said on the water we want to go up on the meter deposits, the taps and all those things. She is gathering information to get to City Attorney Thad Bishop. After much discussion, Mrs. Woods stated she would have recommendations for the council at the next meeting.

Sanitation Department

Mayor Harp said the Sanitation Dept. is still running okay. He reported the county landfill had broken down and we were having to go to Nashville to dump.

Planning & Zoning

Mr. Quilty presented copies of the minutes from the last couple of Planning and Zoning meetings to the council members. He announced the Commission has approached Mike Cranford and Trent Liggin to join the Commission. Mike Cranford said he would like to come to the next meeting. Trent Liggin said he would wait to hear if he was on the Commission before attending the meetings. Mr. Quilty said he would like to have both of them on the Commission. One of the men would replace Brett Rankin and take over his position as part of the Commission for five (5) years effective the date of Mr. Rankin's appointment to the commission (11/3/22). The other gentleman would begin a term of five (5) years. Mr. Quilty reminded the Council they needed to approve the map previously presented to them. Mayor Harp said the map had been sent to City Attorney Thad Bishop, but he has not gone over the information sent to him yet. Mayor Harp also said the city needed to get the map reduced down to fit in the book. It was discussed asking the high school EAST class if they could reduce the map and print. Mrs. Cody asked if this could be presented at the special meeting planned for next week with the hospital administrator. Mr. McKee said it could if they elected to do so. Mrs. Woods said it was okay as long as the only things spoken of are those on the agenda.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Harp said he has given the information to the county road department to work up a price on the cost of chip and sealing Murphy, Smith, and Pecan Streets.

Mr. McKee said we are going to have to start promoting the Code Red program by taking letters or flyers to the churches and trying to promote people to join. Mr. McKee said we have a training class set up for 9 am, August 22, to train Mrs. Woods, Mrs. Fowler, Mayor Harp and himself.

Mr. McKee believes Rudy Hatridge will also be coming to sit in on this class. Mr. McKee said they may have to go around to the churches to speak to the people about the Code Red program and how important it is to everyone.

Mr. Young asked if Phillip Caudle responded to the letters sent to him regarding the building on Highway 41. Mayor Harp said he talked to him on Monday, and Mr. Caudle said he was going to start hauling off the items and cleaning up.

Mr. McKee asked if there was any more information on the sale of property to Family Dollar. Mr. Young gave a brief update of the meeting with the Family Dollar representatives and Mrs. Brown.

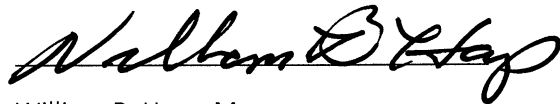
New Business

None

Executive Session

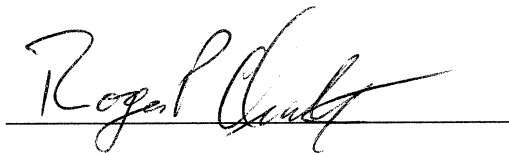
None

With no further business, Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn until the Special Called meeting on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 4pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on August 21, 2023. Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion carried.



William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest:



Roger Quilty, City Recorder