

FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 20, 2023

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 20, 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 Mike McKee, Tommy McDonald, Joyce Green, Jacqueline Wiseman, and Perry Young. Alana Cody was not present. Mayor Harp, Treasurer Theresa Woods and Water Superintendent Eddie Smith were also present. Guest Keith Pullen and Billy W. Brown were also in attendance. Mr. Quilty stated we had a quorum.

**Regular Session**

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 21, 2023 were presented for review, revision and approval. Mike McKee stated in regard to Code Red, when requesting the pastors of the local churches to encourage their members to sign up, it should only be for those members who are on the city's water system. He also noted an error regarding the information on the electronic sign states it being installed by the Fair Barn and should be at the Fair Barn. There was a short discussion and Mike McKee made the motion to accept the minutes with necessary corrections. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report for February 2023 was presented for review and approval. Perry Young asked about the amount of Fine Revenue of \$448.60. He thought that it usually was higher. Treasurer Theresa Woods said the County has deductions they have to take out of that amount. Mike McKee asked about page 21, who is Mall Energy? Mayor Harp explained it is the company we have a contract with to service our generators. Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to accept the financial report. Perry Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Citizens wishing to address the council**

Mr. Billy W. Brown came to the Council to address the property next to his owned by Mr. Phillip Caudle. He said Mr. Caudle still had done nothing to clean it up. Mr. Brown stated Mr. Caudle had called him today and told Mr. Brown he would sell his property to Mr. Brown for \$20,000. Mr. Brown said during the recent heavy rains the water backed up almost to Mr. Brown's front door because of the debris and junk Mr. Caudle has piled out in front that was blocking the drain and also caused flooding out into the highway. Tommy McDonald asked if this was causing a sanitary problem and Mr. Brown said yes, it was. He passed around pictures of all the flooding around his property. He also said they were burning trash in a barrel. Tommy

McDonald said burning household items was against Arkansas laws. Mayor Harp said the city had sent him a letter in the past. He said the city would send him another letter stating if he did not clean it up within 30 days, then the city would clean it up and charge him for it. Mayor Harp also stated that if he is encroaching on the highway, then he would get the Highway Department on him.

## **Department Reports**

### **Administration**

Mayor Harp told the council the city provides cell phones for Eddie Smith and Perry Stevenson. He said the office staff all use their personal phones. Mayor Harp stated the personal phones are subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Mayor Harp said he included a Cell Phone Resolution in their packets which would provide cell phones for the Mayor's Office, City Treasurer, and the Water Clerk. After a short discussion, Tommy McDonald made the motion they pass Resolution 2023-003 to provide cell phones to the Mayor, City Treasurer and Water Clerk. Mayor Harp read Resolution 2023-003. Mike McKee seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mike McKee moved they suspend the rules and read by title only. Joyce Green seconded the motion. Motion carried. The title of Resolution 2023-003 was read again by the Mayor. Perry Young made the motion to accept the resolution and moved to read the third and final reading. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried. The title of the resolution was read for a third time. Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to accept the resolution and Tommy McDonald seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp stated in the past the City Hall had problems with power outages and when it happens the office staff cannot work due to no heat or air conditioning available in the building. Mayor Harp presented a quote from H & K Electric of \$13,599.29 to install a 20k Kohler generator to run City Hall in case of a power outage. Mike McKee recommended tabling the issue and getting other bids. No motion was made.

Mayor Harp asked the council if they had reviewed the Water Audit performed by Berry and Associates which was included in their packet. After a brief discussion Mike McKee made the motion to accept the Water Audit. Joyce Green seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mayor Harp explained to the council the list of Bad Debt water customers presented to be written off. Mayor Harp said the accounts are flagged as Bad Debt Accounts and stay on the books. He said efforts are made to collect from these individuals if we have contact information. Mayor Harp stated the council had a list of the Bad Debt accounts in their packet. Tommy McDonald made the motion to write off the bad debts. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Harp reported Theresa Woods, City Treasurer has been contacted by the State Legislative Audit stating they will be coming to audit the city's financial records for the years of 2020, 2021, and 2022 in a couple of weeks.

### **Law Enforcement**

Perry Young again asked about the difference between the \$1,895 collected in Foreman Fines, but we only got \$448.60. Treasurer Theresa Woods explained some of those funds also had to be paid to the State.

A discussion was made regarding a party that was held in the Community Center over the weekend, which got out of hand and spread out onto the street. Mayor Harp said that a window in the building across the street on Schuman Street was shot with soft pellets. Mayor Harp and four Sherriff's Deputies looked back through the videos and saw a Sherriff's Deputy drove by with the party going all over the street only one time during the duration of the party. Jacqueline Wiseman asked if the people who rented the Community Center were responsible for the damage. Mayor Harp said they made a \$50 deposit, but never came back for the deposit. Mayor Harp said we should raise the amount of the deposit. Treasurer Theresa Woods said the rental is \$125, including the \$50 deposit. If you clean up everything, you get the \$50 back. Mayor Harp recommended changing the rental fee to \$100. A discussion was made to change the contract to read that the person who rents the Community Center is responsible for any damages and cleanup. Theresa Woods said this is the only time that a renter has not come back for the deposit and it wouldn't be fair for those who want to have a children's birthday party pay extra because of someone else's actions. Mike McKee also recommended adding NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED on the rental agreement. Tommy McDonald also recommended having time limits: "From 5PM to 10PM". Joyce Green suggested there should also be a complaint filed with the Sheriff's Department regarding the lack of adequate patrolling.

### **Animal Control**

Mayor Harp reported that according to the Municipal League Winter Conference he attended our ordinance regarding pit bulls will become null and void. He said some State Legislative officials are trying to change the laws on ownership of these animals. He said it would make it hard for a dog to be deemed as vicious.

### **Fire Department**

No report.

### **Parks Department**

Parks Commissioner Tommy McDonald said the balance in the Parks & Recreation budget has gone up a little. They now have \$5,500.

### **Street Department**

Eddie Smith said they started patching some holes on North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and stopped around 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Mayor Harp reported they recently got a load of asphalt. He reported all three of the weed-whackers are in the shop getting repaired and serviced. Mayor Harp was asked if we were still waiting for parts for the 2008 Chevrolet truck in the shop. Mayor Harp said a control unit that goes under the dash was not working. He said he ordered one but it wasn't the right one for the truck. A brief discussion followed.

### **Water Department**

Water Superintendent Eddie Smith said he was still waiting on Glenn Spears and the water survey.

### **Sanitation Department**

Mayor Harp said Sanitation is running good.

### **Planning and Zoning**

Roger Quilty said at the last meeting Keith Pullen brought a map for us to work on, but it was the same as the map on the wall of the City Hall, dated 1957. Mr. Quilty said there are several properties not showing on the outdated map. After some discussion, Eddie Smith said he had a number of maps taken from an aerial photo of the city in his shop. Keith Pullen said they would begin blocking off the city as residential or commercial. Schuman Street and the downtown area from the gazebo up to the Library and Museum would be called the Historical Area. Mr. Quilty discussed making the areas like Tracy Lawrence Ave. and Madden St. designated commercial zone, but he said there are also a few residents presently in this area. He stated if these residential homes that are in the commercial zone are sold the property will revert to commercial property only. Mr. Quilty said he has registered for a virtual Business Meeting for Planning and Zoning and would have it in the Community Center starting at 9:00 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. He invited anyone from the Council that wanted to could come.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Code Red**

Mayor Harp said all of the online training classes are now loaded on the computers so we can view the training classes when it is convenient for us. Mayor Harp said Rudy Hatridge, OEM Coordinator, has the flyers done and the Mayor said he will have copies printed off after making the necessary changes that apply to the city.

#### **Street AR DOT Grant**

Mayor Harp said we have installed the risers on the valves in the streets and AR DOT is waiting for some dry weather to get started on the Bell St. and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. overlay project.

#### **Street Repair**

Mayor Harp reported he has gone down to Murphy St. and Pecan St. and got measurements to get bids on repairing those streets. Mayor Harp said he has to draw them up.

#### **LED Sign**

Mayor Harp said the interested groups are trying figure out the numbers getting the LED sign to be placed at the fairgrounds. Keith Pullen said the Foreman Community Foundation Committee (FCFC) has started a savings account with \$100 and any money we get for the sign will go into that account and give people receipts showing that is what the money is for. Mayor Harp asked if everything was done regarding the 501C3 for the FCFC and Mr. Pullen said as far as he knew, yes, they had. Mayor Harp said the sign was similar to the one at the new County Jail in

Ashdown. Mr. Pullen said they spent a lot more money than we will. The sign will be placed inside the fence at the Fairgrounds.

**New Business**

Mayor Harp said he went to a meeting at the Election Board for the State Broadband Office. They are putting together a committee of twenty people that will be talking to the residents around the County and take that information to the State. He said Foreman is surrounded by fiber optic, but the State won't release the city to get it. We have three companies that are chomping at the bit, ready to go with it.

Mayor Harp said he got an email from Jennifer Harland with SWEPCO who asked if we would consider putting in for a grant for EV Stations. He said the closest ones are in Mount Pleasant, New Boston, and Hope.

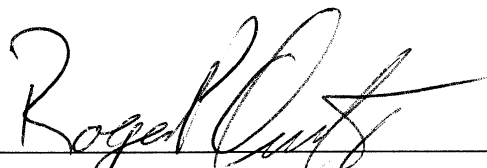
Mike McKee brought up the Cleanup Day and asked Mr. Pullen to talk about it. Mr. Pullen said the Greater Arkansas Cleanup is this week and after the FCFC meeting tomorrow morning the committee will start at the high school gym and come up to at least the EZ Mart, picking up trash 50n both sides of Madden St.

Keith Pullen talked about a gentleman who contacted him about having an old-fashioned tractor pull during the Pecan Festival in October. He would need 10 to 15 feet of level surface for the pull. Since we don't have any streets level enough, Mr. Pullen asked if it would be feasible to use the basketball court on First Ave. Tommy McDonald said he would talk to the Parks Commission about it, but he didn't know if he would like that or not. There are a lot of people that use the basketball court.

With no further business, Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn until the next meeting on April 17, 2023. Perry Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.



William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest: 

Roger Quilty, City Recorder