

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 20, 2023**

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

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

**REGULAR SESSION**

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 18, 2023, was 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 September and October 2023 was presented for review and approval. Mrs. Wiseman asked about an item on page 29 and asked if the city was in red. Mrs. Woods said it was. Mrs. Woods said that was one of the reasons the State was making us go up on our water rates. Mr. McKee made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Mrs. Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Cliff Summers and his wife were present and spoke of a tree branch falling out of a tree during a storm and causing \$8,000 damage to his car. He asked if the city could take care of removing the rest of the tree, so it doesn't fall on his car again. Mrs. Wiseman asked who was responsible for the tree. Mayor Harp said the city was, but the city is under tort immunity. Mayor Harp stated if we had known that the tree was rotten, we could have dealt with it earlier. Mayor Harp told Mr. Summers if he wanted the tree down, the city would take care of it. Mr. Summers said, "Take it down."

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Administration**

Mayor Harp reported that the annual Breakfast with Santa and the Christmas Parade will be on December 2, 2023. Breakfast with Santa will be at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Center. The parade will be held at 6:00 p.m. that evening. Mrs. Woods asked the Council if they knew about the events going on December 2, 2023. There was a brief discussion on the events happening on December 2, 2023. Mayor Harp said this is the time that we discuss giving the employees a one-time \$100 employee retention incentive on their paycheck. Mrs. Cody made a motion to give the hourly and office employees a one-time \$100 employee retention incentive on the next payroll cycle. Mrs. Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Wiseman asked if they would be able to have the Black History Parade again next year. Mayor Harp replied yes. Mrs. Wiseman said the parade would be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024. She also asked if they could have vendors like the other events. Mayor Harp told Mrs. Wiseman they could have vendors.

### **Law Enforcement**

Mayor Harp asked if everyone had looked over the Law Enforcement Report. Mrs. Cody stated there were lots of warnings. She said she had seen a lot of blue lights around town. Mr. Young said he has seen a lot more of the Sheriff vehicles around town.

### **Animal Control**

Mayor Harp stated three dogs were taken to the pound this month, two of them were pit bulls.

### **Fire Department**

Mr. McKee said he is trying to get the Fire Department to give a Report of Call so we can see what is being done. Mr. McKee said he could give the council a report on the past couple of months. Mr. McKee reported the fire department logged fourteen calls in September, 11 calls in October, and so far in November they responded to six calls. He said calls are not always fires; they are also rescue related, etc. Mr. McKee said the fire department also did a Fire Safety program at both schools. They made eighteen medical calls in September and 14 in October. Mr. Young asked how many First Responders are in Foreman. Mr. McKee said Foreman has five first responders.

Mr. McKee reported the fire department currently has one truck down. They need to replace the motor and pump on the back of the old brush truck. Mr. McKee said the cost for the complete engine with Fire Chief Roden picking it up is \$6,490. Mr. McKee asked if the Council could help by paying for this out of the Infrastructure account. Mrs. Cody asked what can the American Rescue Funds be used for? Mayor Harp said it was for water projects. Mr. Young made the motion that the City Council use money from the Infrastructure account to purchase the needed motor and pump for the old brush truck. Mrs. Cody seconded the motion. Mike McKee abstained. Motion carried.

### **Parks Department**

Mayor Harp said he went last week and got another breaker for walking trail lights. He met an electrician that said it may be a magnet inside the breaker switch. Mayor Harp said he will test the breaker.

### **Street Department**

Mayor Harp said they did a little bit of patching on the streets. Mayor Harp said the past week the guys have been trying to get the Christmas decorations up. Mr. McKee asked if 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue was back open where they had to repair the sewer line. Mrs. Woods replied that the road is open.

### **Sanitation Department**

Mayor Harp said the landfill compactor is still down, so we are taking the trash to Murfreesboro to the landfill.

### **Planning and Zoning**

Mr. Quilty said the Planning & Zoning committee has not had any meetings and are waiting on the information from City Attorney, Thad Bishop. Mr. McKee replied that the new zoning needs to go into effect on January 1, 2024. Mayor Harp and Mr. Quilty made plans to get together and work on the city map.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Clinic Roof**

Mayor Harp said the clinic roof is completed. He stated he is getting the final cost so he can sit down with James Dowell the hospital administrator. Mrs. Woods asked about the money Little River Memorial Hospital was supposed to pay in the fall. Mr. Young called Mr. Dowell and asked if the hospital had received the money to reimburse the city for the roof repairs on the clinic in Foreman. Mr. Dowell replied they should have the money by the end of the year. Mayor Harp said he would get the figures together the next day.

#### **Street Repair**

Mayor Harp said he is waiting for the county to give him the cost of repairing Smith, Pecan, and Murphy Streets. Mr. McKee talked about repairs over in the Pecan and Smith Street areas. He said it was his understanding those areas were part of the waterline rehab that will be happening soon to replace the transite water lines. Mr. McKee said that until that job is finished, we don't want to put a whole lot of money into those streets.

#### **Water and Sewer Rate Ordinance**

Mayor Harp read Ordinance No. 349, AN ORDINANCE RAISING WATER AND SEWER RATES IN THE CITY OF FOREMAN, ARKANSAS in its entirety. A motion was made by Mike McKee and seconded by Jacqueline Wiseman to approve the first reading of Ordinance 349. Motion carried. Mike McKee made a motion to suspend the rules and read the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading by title only. Alana Cody seconded motion. Motion carried. Mayor Harp read Ordinance 349, second reading, by title only. The motion was made by Perry Young and was seconded by Alana Cody. Motion carried. Mayor Harp read Ordinance 349 a third time by title only. The motion was made by Mike McKee and seconded by Jacqueline Wiseman to approve Ordinance 349. Motion carried. Mr. McKee said this was not an easy decision to make, but for the benefit of the city and the survival of the city, we have no choice. Mrs. Woods said the city did not have a choice. She said the state mandated we raise our rates and told us what we had to change them to. It's something we must do.

#### **Senior Center Ceiling**

Mayor Harp said he and Mr. McKee went over and looked at the ceiling in the Senior Citizen building. The acoustic on the sheetrock ceiling is turning loose from the sheetrock. It is not sticking due to moisture. Mr. McKee said that texturing the ceiling will not show any imperfections. Mr. McKee asked what the cost would be. Mayor Harp said the one bid he has received is \$4,000. This scope of work includes scraping the ceiling dining room, bathroom, and the coffee room, spray a sealer, and put a texture on it. The other rooms are all wood. Mayor Harp said he would get more bids on the job.

#### **Code Red**

Mayor Harp said they still have not gotten registration information to the churches on the Code Red system. Mr. Young asked when it would start. Mr. McKee said it is already in service.

**NEW BUSINESS**

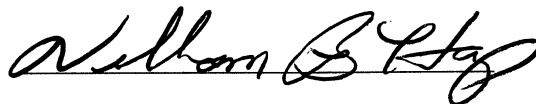
Mayor Harp said he had another ordinance concerning raising the residential trash rate fifty cents per month. Mayor Harp said the county landfill is still down and the cost for fuel has tripled due to taking the trash to Murfreesboro landfill two times a week. Mr. McKee asked what the current charge for residential trash pickup was. Mayor Harp replied \$14.00 per month. Mr. McKee then asked about commercial rates. Mrs. Woods stated that it depended on the dumpster size.

Mayor Harp read ORDINANCE 350, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 337 RAISING RATES FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY THE SANITATION DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF FOREMAN, ARKANSAS; AND ANY OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH REGARDING THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE AND TRASH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Perry Young made a motion and Alana Cody seconded the motion to approve reading one of Ordinance 350. Motion carried. Perry Young made a motion to suspend the rules and read the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 350 by title only. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mayor Harp read Ordinance 350 a second time by title only. A motion was made by Perry Young and seconded by Jacqueline Wiseman to approve the second reading of Ordinance 350. Motion carried. Mayor Harp read Ordinance 350 a third time by title only. Alana Cody made a motion and Perry Young seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 350 increasing residential sanitation monthly rate to \$14.50. Motion carried.

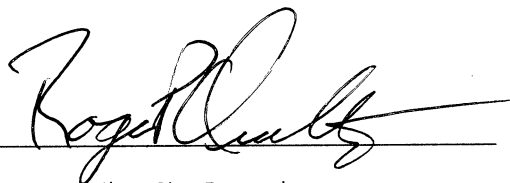
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

With no further business, Mrs. Wiseman made the motion to adjourn until the next meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023. Mr. Young seconded the motion. Motion passed.



William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest:   
Roger Quilty, City Recorder