

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 18, 2023**

The Foreman City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 18, 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 not present. Treasurer Theresa Woods was asked by Mayor Harp to call the roll. Present were Alana Cody, Jacqueline Wiseman, Mike McKee, and Joyce Green. Tommy McDonald was not present. Perry Young arrived late. Also present were Treasurer Theresa Woods and Water Superintendent Eddie Smith. Mrs. Woods stated we had a quorum.

**Regular Session**

The minutes of the regular meeting of August 21, 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 August 2023 was presented for review and approval. Mrs. Wiseman made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Mrs. Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Citizens wishing to address the council**

None

**Department Reports**

**Administration**

Mayor Harp reported he was installing a wall and door inside the foyer at City Hall and will unlock the front door to allow access to the building. Mayor Harp said this will allow customers inside out of the weather but restrict access to the entire building. A monitor was put in Mrs. Woods office so she can see the front and back doors. He said all the monitors that he has in his office, she can see.

Mayor Harp stated the annual Breakfast with Santa for children will be at 9:00 a.m. on December 2. The Christmas parade will be held at 6:00 p.m. that evening following with Santa at the Community Center after the parade.

**Law Enforcement**

Mayor Harp said it was a busy month for the Sheriff's Department. They reported 104 calls for the month.

### **Animal Control**

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

### **Fire Department**

Mayor Harp reported the Burn Ban is still in effect.

### **Parks Department**

Mayor Harp reported he didn't know of anything going on at the park. He stated he still hadn't heard anything on the grants and probably won't for another couple of months.

### **Street Department**

Mr. Smith reported they were trying to catch up. Mayor Harp said he had a tree cut down on 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Water Department**

Mr. Smith said he had a call from Glen Spears this morning. Mr. Spears said he is about to get the paperwork finalized to put the grant projects out for bid.

Mayor Harp told the council they should have a handout with the proposed water and wastewater rate increases. Mayor Harp explained the water and wastewater tap fees were determined by quotes for materials needed for these services. He stated the tap fees have remained the same for years and materials have increased drastically over the years. Mr. Young asked about a water tap fee going from \$300 to \$4,800. Mayor Harp explained that was the rate for a 2" line. Mrs. Woods stated the meter alone for a 2" line is \$1,000. Mrs. Woods said a copper setter is over \$1,500 for a 2" tap. Mayor Harp said we are proposing a 3% increase for water. Mrs. Woods stated the Rate Study stated we need to go up 3% every year on water. She said it is not something we have a choice to not do, we must do as recommended per ACT 605 and ACT 549. Mrs. Wiseman asked when the increase will start. Mrs. Woods said as soon as the Council approves the proposed increases Thad Bishop, the City Attorney, will prepare an Ordinance. Mrs. Woods stated the recommendation for the wastewater to break even, we need to increase the wastewater rates as follows: Minimum of 1,000 gallons water usage is \$13.00 per month, in addition, everything over 1,000 gallons is \$4.01 per 1,000 gallons of water usage per month. Mr. McKee asked if this is based on winter months. Mrs. Woods stated that it is based on actual gallons of water usage each month. For example, the sewer rate for 4,000 gallons water usage, the monthly cost would be \$25.03. Mrs. Woods said this recommendation is not a profit-making situation but just to break-even on the wastewater system. Mr. McKee made a motion to accept the water and wastewater rates as proposed. Mr. Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Sanitation Department**

Mayor Harp reported Sanitation is still taking the trash to Murfreesboro to dump. The county has not found out what is wrong with the trash compactor.

Mr. Bishop said he felt mobile homes should be part of the R2 area. Mr. McKee asked if the council needed to pass the ordinance before having the public meeting. Mr. Bishop said they needed to go back and rezone R-2, so we know where mobiles are allowed and not. He said he would come back with some more language for this. He said zone R-2 would probably become the mobile home area. He said he would add some language about permitting tiny houses. Mayor Harp suggested having a workshop with the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mrs. Cody said they needed to do this soon. Mrs. Green said they need to have some very good maps outlining each area. Mr. Bishop recommended getting it done before the end of the year and put it into effect the first of the year. Mr. McKee said he was in favor of everyone needing a permit to put anything on their property, a very nominal amount, but the city would know what residents are trying to do.

### **Unfinished Business**

Mayor Harp said the contract to repair the roof on the clinic building has been signed with Hostetler Roofing but has not heard back from them as to when they will be able to start. Mayor Harp said the cost of materials has increased so the contract price also increased to \$43,528.

Mayor Harp presented pictures of the Senior Center ceiling as requested. The issue was tabled for the time being.

Mayor Harp said he had copies of Code Red applications to be given to residents. Mr. McKee said you can go on the website and sign up instead of filling out the application. The website is: <https://lrcounty.org>, go to the bottom of the page and click on Code Red and you can register.

Mayor Harp reported we received the final report from the 2020-2022 Legislative Audit. He said the only thing we had supplemental finding was the ordinance for the Treasurer job duties, which has been taken care of.

Mayor Harp said the Great Arkansas Clean Up has begun and Alana Cody has volunteered to once again head up the Great Arkansas Clean Up in the city. Mrs. Cody said Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> was the only weekend available before the Pecan Festival.

There was discussion on stripping and waxing the floors in the Community Center and City Hall. Mrs. Woods said she contacted John Hemphill and he gave a quote of \$1,500 to do the floors in the Community Center. Mrs. Woods said she needs to contact Mr. Hemphill to get more information.

With no further business, Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn until the next meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023. Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed.

William B. Harp

William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest:

Roger Quilty

Roger Quilty, City Recorder