

Mayor: Ernie Rose
Recorder/Treasurer: Greg Bess
Alderman: Bob Gilliland, Herbert Wise
Penny Allen, Jeff Munroe
Sue Taylor, Mark Gordon

City of Hardy, Arkansas

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Regular Meeting, Hardy City Council

February 2, 2021
6:00 o'clock P.M.

Mayor Ernie Rose called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM Tuesday February 2, 2021 at the Hardy Civic Center, 301 Main Street, Hardy, Arkansas and led all present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country. Councilwoman Penny Allen read the invocation. Recorder/Treasurer noted for the record that the Hardy City Council did not meet in January and that this would be the first meeting of 2021. Mr. Bess called the roll and the following council members answered to their names: Jeff Munroe, Mark Gordon, Bobby Gilliland, Penny Allen, Herbert Wise and Sue Taylor. There were 6 of 6 council members present constituting a quorum. Mr. Munroe was welcomed to the council following the election of 2020.

Councilman Gordon made a motion that the minutes of regular meeting of December 1, and the special meeting of December 30, 2020 be approved as written. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve the December 1st and December 30th meeting minutes carried.

Mayor Rose recognized R/T Bess to read a letter of resignation from Public Works Superintendent Billy Gilbreath. Mr. Bess read the letter and led those present in a standing ovation of thank you for Mr. Gilbreath's 28 years of service to the City of Hardy.

REPORTS

Mayor Rose recognized Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC) commissioner Jeff Munroe to provide a report of the HAPC. Mr. Munroe stated the HAPC met on December 28, 2020. He stated the operating fund at about \$39,039 and the capital account a little over \$50,990 in funds. He also stated the commission was actively working on getting the "hardy sign" on the right-of-way at the traffic light reworked. He stated that Chairman Wilson thanked Mr. Bruce Thurow for his service. He stated the January meeting occurred on the 25th of January with the operating account at \$38,073 and the capital reserve account at \$50,995. He discussed the bids being received for the "hardy sign" and a motion was made to proceed with the paver option. He stated that following a vote, the HAPC is requesting that Mayor Rose consider appointing Mark Huscher to fill the commissioner-at-large position.

R/T Bess stated the financials are presented in the packet. He stated that the city missed its revenue goal slightly but considering the covid pandemic the city did very well controlling spending. He stated that there is a 2020 budget modification resolution on the agenda for later. Mr. Bess stated that he was busy getting the 2020 financials closed out and summarized.

Mayor Rose recognized Superintendent Gilbreath to provide a public works report. He stated that

going forward the water department would benefit from a laptop to access online maps and other electronic water/sewer records. He stated the department was working several new house connections, replacing a pump in a pumping station, and a new graphing clock for the wastewater plant. Mr. Gilbreath stated the plant was in pretty good shape. Mayor Rose thanked him again for his service and wished him well.

Fire Chief Austin Rose stated that the department responded to 317 calls in 2020. He stated in January 12 calls had been received including a wildfire call out of the area. He stated the inflatable boat had been received and was being outfitted. Chief Rose made a recommendation that the F550 Fire Truck be sold using an auction company that takes a percentage of the sale. Councilman Gordon made a motion to allow an outside firm to sell the F550 at up to a 10% commission with a reserve established. Mr. Munroe seconded the motion. Mayor Rose requested a roll call vote:

Vote: Gordon - Yea, Munroe - Yea, Allen - Yea, Gilliland - Yea, Wise - Yea, and Taylor - Yea

The motion to sell the F550 Fire Truck via an outside firm with up to a 10% commission and a reserve was approved with **6 Yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent.**

Mr. Gordon also made a motion that the "Firetruck Slide" be decommissioned by the fire department and sold via an outside firm at up to a 10% commission. Mr. Gilliland seconded the motion. Mayor Rose requested a roll call vote:

Vote: Gordon - Yea, Munroe - Yea, Allen - Yea, Gilliland - Yea, Wise - Yea, and Taylor - Yea

The motion to decommission and sell the Firetruck Slide via an outside firm with up to a 10% commission was approved with **6 Yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent.**

Fire Chief Rose stated that in 2018 they responded to 194 calls, in 2019 270 calls, and this last year 317 calls. Given the new dispensary efforts and other growth considerations, he requested the council consider possibly adding a part-time person at the fire house. After some discussion, it was decided to take the request under consideration for future planning.

R/T Bess requested the council re-approve the payment for the inflatable boat as it was in last year's budget but slid into this year. Mr. Gordon made a motion pay for the inflatable boat and equipment for the fire department at up to \$7,000 from cash reserves. Mr. Gilliland seconded the motion. Mayor Rose requested a roll call vote:

Vote: Gordon - Yea, Munroe - Yea, Allen - Yea, Gilliland - Yea, Wise - Yea, and Taylor - Yea

The motion to approve \$7,000 to pay for the inflatable boat and equipment from cash reserves was approved with **6 Yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent.**

Mayor Rose stated the \$300K Street Project was proceeding and he expect work to start in early 2021. He stated that the Sewer Project was being increased from \$755K to \$995K to include Robinhood lane and would be presented to the state for approval in early 2021. Mayor Rose stated the Gym Project folks needed additional data for submission. He stated that work was being done by the R/T. He stated that the Gym also had a water drainage problem, and he was working bids to correct for next meeting.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Rose stated that the annexation process was completed, and all paperwork processed on December 30, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Rose stated that since Mr. Munroe was already a commissioner for HAPC, he requested that Mr. Munroe take the vacated position of Mr. Bruce Thurow and that Mr. Mark Huscher be appointed to the position at large on the HAPC. Councilman Gordon made a motion that Mr. Huscher be accepted as the Mayor's appointment to HAPC for the position at large and that Mr. Munroe be placed in Mr. Thurow's vacated position. Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve the appointment of Mark Huscher to the HAPC in the position at large and to approve the appointment of Mr. Munroe to the position vacated by Mr. Thurow was approved.

Mayor Rose recognized R/T Bess to read Resolution 2021-A a resolution stating the holidays for the City of Hardy for 2021. Following the reading, Councilman Gilliland made a motion to pass Resolution 2021-A. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called a voice vote: All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve Resolution 2021-A was approved.

Mayor Rose recognized R/T Bess to read Resolution 2021-B a resolution to revise the budget of 2020 per the results of the 2020 year actual. Following the reading, Councilman Gilliland made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-B. Councilman Gordon seconded the motion. Mayor Rose requested a roll call vote:

Vote: Gordon - Yea, Munroe - Yea, Allen - Yea, Gilliland - Yea, Wise - Yea, and Taylor - Yea
The motion to approve Resolution 2021-B was approved with 6 Yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent.

Mayor Rose recognized R/T Bess to read Resolution 2021-C a resolution to revise the signatory on the City of Hardy bank accounts. Following the reading, Councilman Gilliland made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-C. Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion. Mayor Rose requested a voice vote: All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve Resolution 2021-C was approved.

Mayor Rose recognized R/T Bess to discuss the movement of funds between city bank accounts to manage the financials of the City. Mr. Bess stated that in the interest of full transparency, he wanted the council to be aware of the activities. Councilman Gilliland made a motion to recognize the actions of the R/T as presented to manage the financials of the City. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Rose requested a roll call vote:

Vote: Gordon - Yea, Munroe - Yea, Allen - Yea, Gilliland - Yea, Wise - Yea, and Taylor - Yea
The motion to approve to recognize the actions of the R/T as presented to manage the financials of the City was approved with 6 Yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent. *Exhibit A ATTACHED*

Following some discussion on the status of the interim police chief, Councilman Gilliland made a motion to approve up to \$5,000 for interim police chief pay. Councilman Wise seconded the motion. Mayor Rose requested a roll call vote:

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Vote: Gordon - Yea, Munroe - Yea, Allen - Yea, Gilliland - Yea, Wise - Yea, and Taylor - Yea

The motion to approve to up to \$5,000 to continue interim pay for the interim police chief was approved with **6 Yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent.**

R/T Bess stated that in lieu of Mr. Gilbreath's retirement, he requested a motion to approve the exit pay of unused sick and vacation leave of up to \$30,000 from cash reserves for Mr. Gilbreath. Councilman Gilliland made the motion to pay of up to \$30,000 in exit pay for Mr. Gilbreath leave accrual. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Rose requested a roll call vote:

Vote: Gordon - Yea, Munroe - Yea, Allen - Yea, Gilliland - Yea, Wise - Yea, and Taylor - Yea

The motion to approve up to \$30,000 in exit pay for unused sick and vacation pay was approved with **6 Yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent.**

Mayor Rose requested that Mr. Huscher come forward to be sworn in as a commissioner of the HAPC. Mayor Rose administered the oath of office to Mr. Huscher.

Mayor Rose recognized Building Inspector Danny Eitel to provide a building report. He stated that 3 new homes were being built. He stated the old "downhome" building was making great progress in being remodeled. He stated that the site at the end of Loberg park was under new ownership and being aggressively reworked.

ADJOURN

Mayor Rose declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM. The next regular meeting of the Hardy City Council is scheduled for March 2, 2021 at 6:00PM at the Hardy Civic Center, at 301 Main Street, in Hardy, Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Bess, Recorder/Treasurer

PASSED and APPROVED THIS 2nd DAY OF March, 2021

APPROVED:


Ernie Rose, Mayor

ATTEST:



Greg Bess, Recorder/Treasurer

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February 1, 2021

Exhibit A

Financial Housekeeping and Information

Grants 2020\

December 30,584.90 CARES Act COVid relief received into General Fund (Later xferred to Reserve)

2020 Housekeeping

December \$ 50,000 Transferred from General Checking to General Capital Reserve Checking

December \$ 200,000 Transferred from Hardy Water ROM to Water/Wastewater Reserve Account

2021 Housekeeping

February \$ 20,089.07 to transfer from Payroll LOPFI Payable back to General Capital Reserve

February \$ 4,383.06 to transfer from Payroll Mun Health back to General Capital Reserve

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