

Mayor: Ernie Rose
Recorder/Treasurer: Greg Bess
Alderman: Vacant, Herbert Wise
Penny Allen, Jeff Munroe
Sue Taylor, Vacant
City Attorney: Joe Grider

City of Hardy, Arkansas

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Regular Meeting, Hardy City Council

November 2, 2021

6:00 o'clock P.M.

Mayor Ernie Rose called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM Tuesday November 2, 2021, at Hardy City Hall, 124 Woodland Hill Road, Hardy, Arkansas, and led all present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country. Recorder/Treasurer Greg Bess called the roll and the following council members answered to their names: Jeff Munroe, Penny Allen, Herbert Wise, Mark Gordon, Bob Gilliland, and Sue Taylor. Mr. Bess stated that there were 6 of 6 council members present constituting a quorum. He stated that Attorney Joe Grider was also present.

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2021, as written. Councilman Munroe seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve the October 5, 2021, meeting minutes carried.

Mayor Rose recognized Councilman Mark Gordon for an announcement. Mr. Gordon read a letter to the Mayor and Council stating he was resigning his position on the council effective immediately due to a change in residency. Mayor Rose thanked Mr. Gordon for his service and led all present in applause for his service.

During the agenda review R/T Bess stated that Mr. Munroe had a proposal to present to council for Dr. Thompson Park that would be added under new business.

REPORTS

Mayor Rose recognized Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC) commissioner Mark Huscher to provide a report of the HAPC. Mr. Huscher stated the HAPC met on October 25, 2021. He stated the operating fund had about \$89,785 and the capital account had \$1,033. He stated that the HAPC had made the final payment for the Hardy Civic Center. He also stated they were in the process of exercising the option to purchase the lot next to the Civic Center for \$125,000. He stated the HAPC received approval for a billboard at the bypass and was working the graphic design. He stated that the Commission had approved a nomination that Ms. Amanda Garland fill the position vacated by Mr. Charles Wilson and the that the HAPC was recommending council approval at this meeting. Mayor Rose requested Ms. Garland come forward to be sworn in for the position on the commission.

R/T Bess stated the year-to-date financials were in the packet and labeled as draft as the October data had not been reconciled. He stated that the city had received 107% of the budgeted sales tax revenue 3 months ahead of years end. He stated that revenue was up, spending was in control and that the Mayor and staff were doing a find job of managing spending.

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Mayor Rose provided a brief report on the Fire Committee. He stated that there was a repair to a garage door but other than that no significant other news to report. Councilman Wise speaking for the Police Committee stated that there no news to report.

Mayor Rose recognized Jeff Munroe, councilman and public works committee member, to provide a summary of public works activities. Mr. Munroe stated that Public Works Supervisor Cooper was working on getting Main Street restriped and with Entergy to assist with getting street lights and park lights put up. He stated that technician Jonathon Hussung had received his Wasterwater 2 license.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Rose stated that the transient business license and "food truck" permits issues were still pending. He stated that following a working meeting in October there was still significant details to work out. Attorney Grider stated that he did not see any one ordinance or resolution fixing the problem. He suggested the mayor form a committee to address the issue. He suggested at least 5 individuals be the size including several council members and citizens. Councilmen Munroe and Wise volunteer to staff such a committee. Councilman Munroe made a motion to create a special committee composed of 2 council members and 3 at large to draft a cohesive proposal to review business permits either permanent or transient in the city and present to council. Councilman Wise seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve forming a special committee of 5 individuals two of which are council member to draft a cohesive proposal for council approval that manages all business activity within the city was approved.

Mayor Rose requested Councilmen Munroe and Wise to staff the meeting and stated he would work to find another 3 residents to participate. He also stated that anyone was invited to attend the committee meeting and provide input. R/T Bess clarified for the record, that this committee would not be making law but they would be providing a draft for council to possible approve.

Mayor Rose reported that the State Highway Street project was completed. He stated the city was working drainage and undermining issues around some new surfaces. Mayor Rose stated that the Buford Beach bathroom project was awaiting contractors but that he hoped to see work begin by December.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Rose recognized Councilman Munroe to discuss the needed work at Dr. Thompson park. Mr. Munroe presented an estimate of costs. Mayor Rose requested that the effort be put out for bids and stated he wanted to discuss this further next meeting.

Mayor Rose opened the discussion concerning the resignation of the Recorder/Treasurer Bess set for November 10. Mr. Bess stated that his goal would be to provide seamless R/T support including orientation and transition assistance with the new R/T. Attorney Grider explained the ways for the council to fill the vacancy. He also explained the city could not begin the process of filling the position until the office is vacated. Following some discussion, Mr. Bess stated that given that there could be a gap in coverage November 10th through next meeting scheduled for December 7th he would

amend his resignation to be effective December 6, 2021, at midnight. Mr. Bess stated he would amend his letter of resignation and resubmit it to council. Mayor Rose requested that a notice be placed in the paper of record for the R/T position and for the council position vacated by Mark Gordon. He stated his goal was to appoint a new R/T via council approval at the December Meeting.

Mayor Rose agreed to publish the names of those submitting a request to fill an open position of R/T for Councilman in the city by December 1, 2021.

Mayor Rose recognized R/T Bess who provided the mayor's proposed budget for 2022. He stated that this was a framework of what was spent last year and that the mayor was looking for any planned new spending in 2022 to be added. He stated the plan would be to discuss the changes at the next meeting and approve a final budget shortly thereafter.

Mayor Rose recognized the new owner of the "Rhythm and Brews" property on Main Street in Hardy. She stated they would be opening the facility as the Hardy Mainstreet Café. She also expressed concern for the proposals for transient business and food trucks in the area. She stated that it was not fair to those investing in property in the city. She questioned the policing and inspection of these non-permanent facilities most especially in the case of food born illness where the word would get out of the problem in a generic fashion tainting the overall reputation of hardy business community.

Mayor Rose recognized R/T Bess to discuss Hardy Strategic Plan and the Strategic Planning Ordinance 2021-6. Councilman Munroe made a motion to read ordinance 2021-6. Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve the reading of Ordinance 2021-6 carried. Attorney Grider read ordinance 2021-6.

Councilman Munroe made a motion to wave procedure and read Ordinance 2021-6 a second and third time by title only. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to wave procedure and read Ordinance 2021-6 a second and third time by title only carried. Attorney Grider read ordinance 2021-6 title only.

Councilman Gilliland made a motion to accept ordinance 2021-6 as read. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to accept ordinance 2021-6 as read carried

Councilman Munroe made a motion to approve the emergency clause of ordinance 2021-6. Councilman Gilliland seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve the emergency clause of ordinance 2021-6 carried.

Councilman Munroe made a motion to approve the City of Hardy Strategic Plan version 1.0 as amended. Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve the City of Hardy Strategic Plan Version 1.0 as amended carried.

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R/T Bess stated that the Hardy Christmas Parade was scheduled for December 11, 2021 at 11:00AM with parade lineup starting at 9:00AM.

ADJOURN

Mayor Rose declared the meeting adjourned at 7:18PM. The next regular meeting of the Hardy City Council is scheduled for December 7, 2021, at 6:00PM at Hardy City Hall, at 124 Woodland Hills Road, in Hardy, Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,


Greg Bess, Recorder/Treasurer

PASSED and APPROVED THIS 17th DAY OF December, 2021


APPROVED:


Ernie Rose, Mayor

ATTEST:


Recorder/Treasurer



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