

Mayor: Ernie Rose

Recorder/Treasurer: Darlene Wilson

Alderman: Phillip Horrell, Herbert Wise

Penny Allen, Jeff Munroe

Sue Taylor, David Garland

City Attorney: Joe Grider

City of Hardy, Arkansas

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Regular Meeting, Hardy City Council

January 4, 2022

6:00 o'clock P.M.

Mayor Ernie Rose called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM Tuesday January 4, 2022, at the Hardy City Hall, 124 Woodland Hill Road, Hardy, Arkansas and led all present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country. Councilwoman Penny Allen read the invocation. Mayor Rose asked City Clerk Greg Bess to call the roll. Prior to calling the roll Mr. Bess informed the council that Recorder/Treasurer Darlene Wilson was ill and at her request he would be sitting at the table in her stead. Upon calling the roll, the following council members answered to their names: Jeff Munroe, Phillip Horrell, David Garland, Penny Allen, Herbert Wise, and Sue Taylor. Mr. Bess stated that there were 6 of 6 council members present constituting a quorum and that Attorney Joe Grider was also present.

Councilwoman Allen made a motion that the minutes of the regular meeting of December 7, 2021, be approved as written. Councilman Horrell seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve the December 7, 2021, meeting minutes as written carried.

Mayor Rose requested that the meeting agenda structure adopted by ordinance be continued for year 2022. Attorney Grider explained that state law requires that the city adopt a meeting agenda structure yearly. Councilman Wise made a motion that the meeting agenda structure used in 2021 be continued. Councilman Munroe seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to continue the meeting agenda structure used in 2021 carried.

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 December 28, 2021. He stated the operating fund was \$110,129 and the capital account at \$1,036 in funds. He stated the HAPC accepted a bid from Salem Graphics for a 5ft by 12ft sign. He also stated the HAPC was awaiting final signoff on the paperwork for the purchase of the parking lot. He stated that the officers for 2022 were Jeff Munroe Chairman, Tracy Moore Vice-Chairman, and Mark Huscher Secretary. He stated the Financial Secretary position was still pending though Mr. Munroe would continue to serve in that capacity until another person is appointed.

Mr. Bess stated that November sales tax revenue is up 19% over last year. He stated year-to-date financials were in the packet and labeled as draft as the December data had not been reconciled. He stated the 2021 financials would be finalized by the February meeting.

Mayor Rose offered the floor to a member of the fire department to discuss the Fire status in the

Department. Mayor Rose then recognized councilman Wise the chair of the Police Committee to discuss status. Mr. Wise stated that he had met with the Police Chief and would discuss budget specifics during the budget meeting. He mentioned that one key budget concern would be to address the need to upgrade radio communications. Mayor Rose recognized Councilwoman Penny Allen, Public Works Committee Member, to report on issues with public works. She stated that there were no issues to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Rose recognized Greg Bess to discuss an issue with vacation pay for the public works director. Mr. Bess stated that Mr. Cooper had 18 days of unused vacation pay that would be lost due to the year-end roll-over. He stated that total cost to the city would be around \$3,600. Councilman Horrell made a motion to approve a one-time lump sum payment of 18 days of vacation pay to Mr. Cooper considering the issues. Councilman Munroe seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a roll call vote. Mr. Bess called the roll: Wise – Yea, Horrell – Yea, Allen – Yea, Taylor – Yea, Garland – Yea, Munroe – Yea. All answering in the affirmative, the motion carried.

Mayor Rose recognized Greg Bess to discuss the issue of APERS backpay. Mr. Bess stated that while he was investigating APERS retirement options for elected officials, he discovered that the city had an obligation to offer APERS for all elected officials earning minimum as calculated with their salary over 80 hours. As a result, he discovered that the city had an obligation to pay approximately \$30,000 in backpay for the R/T and Mayor. He also stated that a part of this backpay was an employee obligation to pay, but since the city was at fault for not paying it was his understanding that the city was obligated for the entire amount. Councilman Horrell made a motion to pay the bill for R/T and Mayor APERS back payment. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Rose stated that he asked R/T Wilson to contact APERS to verify the situation and to investigate the option of opting out of the program. He stated that he did not want APERS. Mr. Bess stated he did not want it either but understood that it was not optional. Mayor Rose called for a roll call vote. Mr. Bess called the roll: Wise – Yea, Horrell – Yea, Allen – Yea, Taylor – Yea, Garland – Yea, Munroe – Yea. All answering in the affirmative, the motion to pay the APERS back payment carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Rose recognized Mr. Bess to read resolution 2022-A, a resolution stating the holidays for the City of Hardy. Mr. Bess read the resolution. Attorney Grider requested that the New Year's designation be changed to Friday December 31st. Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-A as amended. Councilman Horrell seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to approve Resolution 2022-A as amended carried.

Mayor Rose recognized Mr. Bess to lead the 2022 budget discussion. Mr. Bess directed the council to the budget portion of their packet. Mr. Bess requested the council take the budgets in the order of Street Fund, Hardy Water Works, and General Fund going line by line to make changes or propose additions. Starting with the Street, Mayor Rose requested \$140,000 for a chip and seal project be added. Mr. Bess stated he would add an expense of \$140K and a carryover revenue addition of \$140K.

per the council's approval.

Following no further discussion on the Street budget Mr. Bess proceeded to discuss the Hardy Water Works budget. Mayor Rose requested that \$5,000 be added to the Sanitation Budget for a Civic Dumpster Program. Following some discussion, Council agreed to the \$5k budget items with the understanding that Mayor Rose and Attorney Grider would draft a policy for the civic dumpster program prior to starting activity.

With no further discussion on the HWW budget, Mr. Bess proceeded to discuss the General Fund Budget. Mr. Bess explained the proposed general revenues and discussed carry over monies for the Gym HVAC project and Buford Beach bathroom construction. He stated that he had separated the Public Safety budgets of last year to Fire and Police Budgets. Councilman Wise expressed the need to acquire new radio equipment and criminal reporting software that was not in the police budget yet. He requested \$40,000 be added to the police budget for these items. Following some discussion, Councilman Munroe made a motion to add \$40,000 into the police budget for radio equipment and criminal reporting software for 2022. Councilman Wise seconded the motion. Attorney Grider cautioned that bid requirements be reviewed prior to spending funds. Mr. Bess suggested a voice vote as the overall budget resolution would cover the total budget spending later. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote. All answering in the affirmative the motion to add \$40,000 to the 2022 police budget carried.

Mr. Bess also stated that \$79,000 in revenue was from stimulus money being carried over from 2021. He stated the city received \$79,000 in funds in September but since the criteria for spending have not been determined they were not spent. The 2022 budget assumes spending criteria will be determined and that these criteria will apply to the budget items presented. He also stated that \$30,000 was added in revenue from reserves to cover the APERS back payment issue.

Mayor Rose requested that Mr. Bess read Resolution 2022-B, a resolution to adopt a 2022 budget for the City of Hardy Water Works Fund, the Street Fund, and the General Fund. Councilman Horrell made a motion to approve resolution 2022-B as amended with the change in R/T signature. Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a roll call vote. Mr. Bess called the roll: Wise – Yea, Horrell – Yea, Allen – Yea, Taylor – Yea, Garland – Yea, Munroe – Yea. All answering in the affirmative, the motion to approve Resolution 2022-B the 2022 Budget Resolution for the City of Hardy carried.

ADJOURN

Mayor Rose declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next regular meeting of the Hardy City Council is scheduled for February 1, 2022, at 6:00PM at Hardy City Hall, at 124 Woodland Hills Road, in Hardy, Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Bess, Senior Clerk

Signatory on next page

Filed 2/15/22 6:03
C. J. H.
Armed... k

PASSED and APPROVED THIS 1st DAY OF February, 2022

APPROVED:

Mayor Ernie Rose
Ernie Rose, Mayor

ATTEST:

Darlene Wilson
Darlene Wilson, Recorder/Treasurer

Filed 2/15/22 GSB
City of Hardy
Arkansas Clerk

