

**Mayor:** Ethan J. Barnes  
**Recorder-Treasurer:** Darlene Wilson  
**Council Members:** Penny Allen, Tony Berry  
Mark Gordon, Laura Smith  
Sue Taylor, Herbert Wise  
**City Attorney:** Joe Grider

# City of Hardy, Arkansas

PO Box 5 · 124 Woodland Hills Road  
Hardy, Arkansas 72542  
870-856-3811

[www.cityofhardy.org](http://www.cityofhardy.org)  
[www.facebook.com/cityofhardy](https://www.facebook.com/cityofhardy)



**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Hardy City Council  
March 13, 2023 · 6:00 p.m.  
Hardy City Hall**

Mayor Ethan J. Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Monday, March 13, 2023, at the Hardy City Hall, 124 Woodland Hills Road, Hardy, Arkansas. Mayor Barnes led all present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country. Councilman Berry gave the invocation. Mayor Barnes asked Recorder-Treasurer Darlene Wilson to call the roll. The following council members answered to their names: Penny Allen, Tony Berry, Mark Gordon, Laura Smith, Sue Taylor, and Herbert Wise. With all six council members present, there was a quorum. Attorney Grider was also in attendance.

Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 13, 2023 as written; Councilman Berry seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of February 21, 2023; Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Councilwoman Allen spoke regarding the special meeting and the subject of the increased sales tax for the A&P. She apologized and stated that she had made a mistake. She wanted to make it clear that she did not want that sales tax and wanted to make sure it was on record that she intended to vote "no" on that subject. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote to approve the motion on the floor regarding the minutes of the special meeting. Wise – no; Taylor – yes; Smith – yes; Gordon – yes; Berry – yes; Allen – no. With 4 voting "yes" and 2 voting "no" the motion passed.

Mayor Barnes asked if there were any requested changes to the proposed agenda. There being none, Councilman Berry made a motion to approve the agenda; Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Gordon – yes; Smith – yes; Taylor – yes; Berry – yes; Wise – yes; Allen – yes. All in favor; motion passed.

## REPORTS

Mayor Barnes recognized Recorder-Treasurer Wilson to give the financial report. Ms. Wilson stated that the current financial statements are included in the packet pages 7-14. She made note that the financials covered a little over two months' activity and revenue was on track where it should be. She addressed a few expense items that are showing over-budget such as civic events, emergency flight insurance, and equipment purchase of the skid steer. These items are on the agenda for budget revisions later in the meeting. Councilwoman Smith asked about the grant funds for the Lake Sherwood water line and whether those funds are showing in the budget. Ms. Wilson made note that those funds are not yet in the budget and would be added later. She also stated that the funds in the grants line item currently reflect carryover ARPA funds left unspent from 2022.

Mayor Barnes then called for Committee Reports. In the absence of Fire Chief Austin Rose, Josh Moore reported that the fire department was busy with 24 calls in the month of February, twelve of them being medical calls, some water-related incidents, one brush fire, and two wrecks. They have also been doing maintenance on water rescue boats, and they now have the brush truck back in service.

Police Chief Scott Rose provided a written report and discussed the recent flood beginning early in the morning on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and stated that the river crested at 13.5 feet which is well over the flood stage of 10 feet, but below the major flood stage of 16 feet. All citizens in the immediate areas of danger were contacted. The City was fortunate

Filed DW 4/10/23 1/44  
City of Hardy, Arkansas  
Recorder-Treasurer Office

the water receded before major flood stage. Chief Rose also reported that there were six accidents in the area which the department assisted with, and he noted that traffic is beginning to increase and his officers will step up traffic enforcement in hopes of preventing as many accidents as possible. The ATV ride on February 18<sup>th</sup> was a huge success with \$3,325 raised for the Main Street and Loberg Park cameras, leaving a little over \$1,000 still needed to complete the purchase. Councilman Wise asked if there was anything that could be done about the west end of the bypass and the frequency of accidents at that area, especially during wet weather. Chief Rose stated that they Highway Department has been asked about caution lights, rumble strips, signage or other options that might be considered to help with the safety at that intersection. He stated that he would continue to have discussions with them and see if something can be done.

Public Works Superintendent Steven Morris was absent and Mayor Barnes announced that he had a few items in this department he would discuss in his Mayor's report.

Mayor Barnes recognized Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC) Recording Secretary Ginni Kauffman to provide the HAPC report. Commissioner Kauffman reported on the regular meeting February 28, 2023. The balance in the operating account was \$35,216.62 and the reserve account was \$51,126.03. Action taken included scheduling a strategic planning meeting for the A&P Commissioners for Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. They approved a Main Street Hardy request for advertising support for the Gun and Knife Show of \$500 for Radio advertising and \$125 for print advertising to come out of Event Support. Also approved was early payoff of the Civic Center parking lot final amount of \$25,000.

Mayor Barnes provided a written report with twenty-six items outlining things he has been working on since taking office. Councilwoman Allen asked if handicapped railings could be added at the fishing dock at the camper park. She also asked about cleaning sidewalks and parking places on Main Street. Mayor Barnes agreed to check into the handicapped railings and he stated that he is planning to have pressure washing done on Main Street sidewalks soon.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Barnes reported that we had received the Arkansas Economic Development Commission letter awarding the CDBG funds for the Lake Sherwood water line removal and a copy is in the city council packet.

Mayor Barnes then reported about the bids received for lawn maintenance for 2023 and 2024. A list with all four bids received was provided to the council. Bidders included Newby's Lawn Care, Estate Maintenance Contractors, Tim Cooper, and Spring River Landscaping. Councilwoman Taylor stated that she thought Tim Cooper had done an excellent job last year. Councilman Wise stated that the price for the lowest bidder, Spring River Landscaping, was so much less that he thought the City should consider him to help out with the budget, and that he is willing to supervise him to make sure the work is good. Councilman Gordon made note that there was previous history with the owner of Spring River Landscaping, Mr. Hunter Morris, and that it was not good, and that he thought the subject should be tabled until further research was done. After more discussion on the subject, Councilman Wise made a motion to hire the lowest bidder, Spring River Landscaping, on a trial basis for 3 mows at his bid price of \$525 each over the next month for a total of \$1,575; Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Allen – yes; Berry – yes; Gordon – yes; Wise- yes; Taylor – yes; Smith – yes. All in favor; motion passed.

Mr. Hunter Morris, owner of Spring River Landscaping is the son of City employee, Steve Morris, Public Works Superintendent. Therefore, an Ordinance is required to allow Mr. Hunter Morris to be paid by the City. Councilman Wise made a motion to read Ordinance 2023-4, An Ordinance Approving Business with Hunter Morris d/b/a Spring River Landscaping, Declaring an Emergency and for Other Purposes. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed. Attorney Grider read Ordinance 2023-4.

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of Ordinance 2023-4 and to read it by title only; Councilman Wise seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed. Attorney Grider read Ordinance 2023-4 by title only.

Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-4, An Ordinance Approving Business with Hunter Morris d/b/a Spring River Landscaping, Declaring an Emergency and for Other purposes. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Allen-yes; Berry-yes; Smith-yes; Gordon-yes; Wise-yes; Taylor-yes. All in favor; motion passed.

Councilman Wise made a motion to enact the emergency clause allowing Ordinance 2023-4 to go into effect immediately; Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Allen-yes; Berry-yes; Gordon-yes; Taylor-yes; Wise-yes; Smith-yes. All in favor; motion passed.

Mayor Barnes stated that the new Bobcat Skid Steer equipment ordered in 2022 has now been delivered to the City, with two of the accessory pieces that were ordered, leaving two pieces still on backorder. The 2022 budget had included purchasing the equipment and spending up to \$75,000. The total bill for the equipment ordered is \$68,859.53, with \$57,726.29 having already been paid for the equipment and accessory pieces already delivered, leaving \$11,133.24 for the sweeper bucket and brushcat pieces that are on backorder. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjust the 2023 budget approving \$68,859.53 for new equipment in the Street Fund; Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes called for a roll call vote. Allen-yes; Gordon-yes; Taylor-yes; Wise-yes; Smith-yes; Berry-yes. All in favor; motion passed.

Mayor Barnes discussed the Buford Beach bathroom project status and stated that with the roof and doors installation the project will be complete soon. The 2022 budget had included spending up to \$40,000 on the project out of the ARPA budget. Some of those funds were not paid until 2023 and an amount of \$16,334.37 is needed out of the 2023 budget to complete the spending on this project. Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to adjust the 2023 budget to approve \$16,334.37 to be spent on the Buford Beach project out of ARPA funds; Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Berry-yes; Smith-yes; Taylor-yes; Allen-yes; Gordon-yes; Wise-yes. All in favor; motion passed.

Mayor Barnes discussed the emergency flight insurance through Survival Flight. A contract has been agreed to with Survival Flight covering all employees for \$60 annual premium each. Councilman Berry made a motion to adjust the 2023 budget to include emergency flight insurance expense for Admin \$540, Fire \$960, Police \$420, and Water \$240 for a total expense of \$2,160. Councilman Gordon seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Smith-yes; Taylor-yes; Allen-yes; Gordon-yes; Berry-yes; Wise-yes. All in favor; motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Barnes then reported about response to the ad for bids for the City Park Ranger. He presented the only bid that was received and stated that it was from Conner Keith for \$1,500 per month. He stated that some duties that had been performed by the RV Park Manager in the past were now being conducted by someone else, such as cleaning the restrooms and maintenance of the campground lawns. The new City Park Ranger duties would be expanded to add some other responsibilities such as overseeing the other park properties, assisting with Christmas lights displays, set up and take down of events, online promotions of city functions, and 24/7 emergency response availability. With an increase in some of the RV park fees and additional marketing and availability year-round, there is anticipation of additional park income. Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve contracting with Connor Keith for \$1,500 per month for City Park Ranger duties and to adjust the budget adding \$4,500 to allow the \$18,000 annual expense. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Allen-yes; Berry-yes; Gordon-yes; Smith-yes; Wise-yes; Taylor-yes. All in favor; motion passed.

Mayor Barnes asked Recorder-Treasurer Wilson to discuss the Fire Department ARPA Funds. Ms. Wilson stated that Sharp County passed along \$60,000 to the City of Hardy Fire Department from their allocation of ARPA funds in 2022. The 2022 budget included approving purchase of turn-out gear and radios from those funds, but they

were still on backorder at the end of the year. Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve \$60,000 in the 2023 budget from the Fire Department ARPA funds for the turnout gear and radios. Councilman Gordon seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Gordon-yes; Allen-yes; Wise-yes; Taylor-yes; Smith-yes; Berry-yes. All in favor; motion passed.

Councilman Gordon stated that the Fire Department has located a much-needed brush truck appropriately equipped and located in California. Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve purchase of the brush truck and shipping cost up to \$7,100, amending the budget line items to take the funds from water rescue and repairs and maintenance to make the equipment purchase. Councilman Wise seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Berry-yes; Allen-yes; Smith-yes; Gordon-yes; Wise-yes; Taylor-yes. All in favor; motion passed.

**ADJOURN**

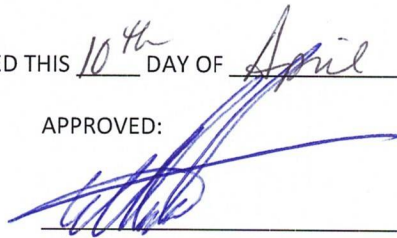
Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Councilman Berry seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, and Mayor Barnes declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Hardy City Council is scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Hardy City Hall, 124 Woodland Hills Road in Hardy, Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Wilson, Recorder-Treasurer

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 2023

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene Wilson, Recorder-Treasurer

Filed DW 4/10/23 Pg 4 of 4  
City of Hardy, Arkansas  
Recorder-Treasurer Office