

**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

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**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Hardy City Council  
April 10, 2023 • 6:00 p.m.  
Hardy City Hall**

Mayor Ethan J. Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Monday, April 10, 2023, at 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 March 13, 2023 with two corrections; Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Corrections to the minutes included adding a clarification to approval of the February 21, 2023 special meeting minutes to make clear the vote was on the minutes, and to correct the date of the next meeting to April 10, 2023. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Allen – no; Berry – yes; Gordon – yes; Smith – yes; Taylor – yes; Wise – abstain. With 4 voting “yes,” 1 vote of “no,” and 1 “abstain,” the motion passed.

Mayor Barnes asked if there were any requested changes to the proposed agenda. There were no requested changes.

## **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 at pages 6-13. She made note that the financials covered a little over three months’ activity and revenue was on track where it should be at roughly 25% year-to-date on most revenue items. She made note of a few items in the parks budget including \$30,000 revenue from the A&P Commission to help with the city’s parks budget and stated that she requested that funding from the A&P on a quarterly basis and the first quarter’s \$7,500 would be requested soon. She also discussed the civic center rental income of \$4,900 and the fact that it would be shown as an expense when it was paid to the A&P on a quarterly basis. She made note of the RV park receipts of \$1,500 so far already this year. She addressed a few expense items including computer maintenance and supplies being at 73% spent already because it included a new server and a computer for the mayor which has already been done this year. After further discussion about the Street Fund and Hardy Water Works reports, Councilwoman Allen asked about the pump maintenance fee on water bills and where it showed up on the financial reports and whether it should be charged to people who do not have sewer. Public Works Superintendent Morris and the Mayor agreed to investigate that issue.

Mayor Barnes then called for Committee Reports. Mayor Barnes announced that he had received a letter of resignation from Fire Chief Austin Rose. Mayor Barnes introduced Josh Moore as the interim Fire Chief. Josh Moore reported that the fire department was busy in March with 42 calls, including a building fire, several motor vehicle accidents, a vehicle fire, several grass fires, and 18 medical calls. He reported that maintenance on the boat trailers was almost finished. He also reported that the new truck had arrived and that they had been involved in the Easter Egg hunt and that it went very well. He also stated that he was getting ready to start doing fire inspections again throughout the City.

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Recorder-Treasurer Office



In the absence of Police Chief Scott Rose, a written report was provided by Officer Michael Himschoot. He discussed that there had been 6 accidents inside the City, but no major criminal activity. Officers are patrolling extra in Loberg Park and Buford Beach as more tourists are starting to visit the area. The police department also helped with the Easter Egg hunt which ended up being a great event with no major incidents. He reported on the recent storms and the availability of the Hardy Gym basement as a shelter during storms. Councilwoman Taylor stated that she thought it was a great thing for the City to open the Gym for those who needed a place to go during potential severe weather.

Public Works Superintendent Steven Morris stated that they had worked on several leaks and that they are working on projects including Buford Beach, striping the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Parking Lot, and several others.

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 March 27, 2023. The balance in the operating account was \$26,299.86 and the reserve account was \$51,144.46. Action taken included approving the new Hardy rack card; setting aside \$10,000 for Christmas lights and displays; and spending \$5,000 to Richland Group to design and build the website. A special meeting was held April 1, 2023 and action was taken to change the rack cards vendor. Another special meeting was held April 5, 2023 where action was taken to spend \$850 for an advertising opportunity on KATV7 in Little Rock.

Mayor Barnes provided a written report which summarized items he has been working on.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Barnes presented Resolution 2023-7 Lawn Care Contract to formalize the awarding of the contract to Hunter Morris d/b/a Spring River Landscaping. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to read Resolution 2023-7; Councilman Gordon seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed. Attorney Grider read Resolution 2023-7. Councilman Wise made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-7; Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

Mayor Barnes presented Resolution 2023-8 Park Ranger Contract to formalize the awarding of the contract to Conner Keith. Councilman Gordon made a motion to read Resolution 2023-8; Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed. Attorney Grider read Resolution 2023-8. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-8; Councilman Berry seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

Mayor Barnes presented Resolution 2023-9 Janitorial Contract to formalize the awarding of the contract to Kathryn Byron. Councilman Gordon made a motion to read Resolution 2023-9; Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed. Attorney Grider read Resolution 2023-9. Councilman Wise made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-9; Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

Mayor Barnes presented Resolution 2023-10 Fire Department Truck purchase to formalize the council's approval of the purchase. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to read Resolution 2023-10; Councilman Gordon seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed. Attorney Grider read Resolution 2023-10. Councilwoman Allen made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-10; Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes requested a roll call vote. Allen – yes; Berry – yes; Gordon – yes; Smith – yes; Taylor – yes; Wise – yes. All in favor; motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Barnes recognized Bobby Gilliland who spoke regarding his opposition to the recently approved Hardy Advertising and Promotions Tax increase.

#### **ADJOURN**

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, and Mayor Barnes declared the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

City of Hardy Regular Meeting of City Council  
April 10, 2023

The next regular meeting of the Hardy City Council is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Hardy City Hall, 124 Woodland Hills Road in Hardy, Arkansas.

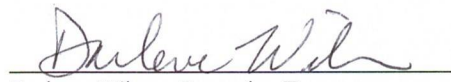
Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Wilson, Recorder-Treasurer

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF May, 2023

APPROVED:

  
Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Darlene Wilson, Recorder-Treasurer

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