

**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  
July 10, 2023 · 6:00 p.m.  
Hardy City Hall**

Mayor Ethan J. Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m. Monday, July 10, 2023, at Hardy City Hall, 124 Woodland Hills Road, Hardy, Arkansas. Councilman Gordon led all present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country. Councilman Berry gave the invocation. Recorder-Treasurer Darlene Wilson called 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 Joe Grider was also present.

Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 12, 2023; Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes asked for a roll call vote. Allen – yes; Gordon – yes; Berry – yes; Wise – yes; Taylor – yes; Smith – yes. All in favor; motion passed.

Mayor Barnes asked if there were any requested changes to the proposed agenda. There were no requested changes. Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

## **REPORTS**

Mayor Barnes asked Recorder-Treasurer Wilson to discuss the City financial statements. Ms. Wilson stated that financials were in the agenda packets at pages 4-11. With just at 6 months into the year, she stated that revenue is right at 50% in most areas. She stated that Act 833 funds have been applied for this year and that RV park receipts are approximately 30% over the same time last year.

Mayor Barnes then called for Committee Reports. He asked Fire Chief Josh Moore to table his report until later in the meeting under New Business. He then asked Police Chief Scott Rose to provide his report. Chief Rose provided a written report and stated that his department has responded to 53 calls in the last month. He reported on a traffic collision on July 1<sup>st</sup> where an 18-year-old was injured and later passed away. A moment of silence was taken as a gesture of respect to honor the deceased. Other traffic enforcement involved 3 DWI arrests, 4 felony arrests from out-of-town warrants, and 2 drug arrests. He reported that one of the department's full-time officers, Sgt. Janelle Tyner, has resigned from the position effective June 29, 2023, but has agreed to stay as an auxiliary (non-paid) police officer, and to remain on the Volunteer Fire Department. He introduced Officer Anthony Gielen who has been promoted from part-time to full-time in the department to replace Sgt. Tyner. Officer Gielen introduced himself and stated that he and his family live in Highland and that he has been in law enforcement since 1996. He has most recently been employed with Fulton County and previously with Jonesboro.

Public Works Superintendent Steven Morris stated that they had worked on several leaks including a couple of all-nighters. He also offered to provide tours of the wastewater treatment plant to council members or employees who are interested. He reported that he and the guys are working on bushhogging as many areas as possible. Mayor Barnes also recognized that the guys had installed 20-25 flags on utility poles prior to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

Mayor Barnes recognized Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC) Chairwoman Tracie Moore to provide the HAPC report. She stated that there had been two meetings and two special meetings. At the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, they voted to ratify the pocket park ownership back to the City and voted to reimburse the City for the water fountain. They voted to renew the contract with the Chuck Young band for their Thursday night dances. The

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**Recorder-Treasurer Office**



new business directories have arrived. They voted to spend \$250 for American flags prior to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and she thanked the City for their efforts to purchase and install those. They voted to change their regular meeting dates to the third Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. at the Hardy Civic Center. At the June meeting, the balances in the bank were \$44,280.61 in the checking account and \$51,222.90 in the reserve account. She reported that the Carl Acuff, Jr. concert was coming up on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that they had voted to approve the revised A&P tax form, and a marketing opportunity for \$850.00 in 2024 with a Springfield, Missouri TV station in conjunction with Ozark Gateway Tourist Council. Greg Bess has agreed to serve as parliamentarian for the A&P Commission. At the meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>, they adopted a format for meeting minutes, and they approved spending \$5,000.00 from Regional Event line item to help with Solar Eclipse regional branding which includes help with a website.

Mayor Barnes provided his report stating that there had recently been a site visit at the pocket park for the FUN Park Grant by an individual from the Arkansas Parks and Heritage Division and that we are pursuing the grant with White River Planning and Development. Community workers supervised by Brian Watson had worked on projects in the City including repainting crosswalks, clearing out trees and brush, and others and he stated his gratitude to Mr. Watson and Sharp County Sheriff Shane Russell for allowing those workers to help with City projects. He had attended the Tri-county Recycling meeting out at the Recycle Center and he invited the council members to attend with him sometime to see the operation out there. He also attended the Municipal League Conference in Little Rock and met with several mayors across Arkansas. He also stated that there had recently been a dedication for a bench placed on the front porch of City Hall in memory of Bob Zeiger.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Barnes introduced the newly hired Fire Chief, Josh Moore. He then asked Mr. Moore to provide the Fire Department report. He stated that for the month of June there were 25 calls including 1 wreck and 2 calls on the river. There was one fire for the entire month of June. Fire Chief Moore also stated that he had added Jason Creasey as a paid firefighter with a part-time schedule of 16 hours per week.

Mayor Barnes stated that Park Ranger Conner Keith had intended to be present to give a report but, due to an unexpected event today, was unable to do so. A written report was provided which Mayor Barnes read. The report included information about positive feedback from customers, repairs and improvements being made in the park, new video surveillance that has been installed, and that the new reservation system is live and handles reservations.

Mayor Barnes recognized Crystal Gray, Chairperson of the Hardy Homesteaders Day event sponsored by the Hardy History Association. She reported that the event is rapidly approaching with the date being the last Saturday of September which this year is Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. A rain date of October 14<sup>th</sup> is planned only if severe weather prevents the event from being held September 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated that last year we had 32 demonstrators and everything in the demonstrator area was free. This year, she has definite commitments from 22 demonstrators, 8 maybes, and 6 more in the works. The plan is for the event to be even larger this year than last. Meetings of the committee have been held the third Wednesdays of each month at the Johnson Center at 4:30 p.m. At an upcoming meeting Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 a.m. there will be butter-making, hoecake dry mix assembly, recipe book inserts, doll making, and other miscellaneous tasks. The August regular committee meeting will be held Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 p.m. due to a scheduling conflict. Current needs of the committee include more demonstrators of 1883-era skills and smaller square bales of hay or straw to borrow. New ideas in the works this year include a "merchant passport" to help get visitors to Main Street businesses; moving the General Store down to the park closer to the demonstration area; raffles of a handmade quilt, Weber grill, and a Crossbow; old-time recipes to include in the Hardy Garden Club cookbooks; and the Friday evening Hoedown Square Dance at the Hardy Civic Center.

Mayor Barnes recognized Recorder-Treasurer Darlene Wilson who read a letter addressed to the Mayor and the City Council. She stated that she is officially resigning from the position of Recorder-Treasurer August 31, 2023. Attorney Grider stated that the vacancy is not official until the resignation date, and per Arkansas statute, at the first regular City Council meeting following the vacancy in a second-class City, the Council shall proceed to elect a person to fill the vacancy by majority vote of the Council members, or by calling a special election.

**ADJOURN**


Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Councilman Wise seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, and Mayor Barnes declared the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Hardy City Council is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Hardy City Hall, 124 Woodland Hills Road in Hardy, Arkansas.

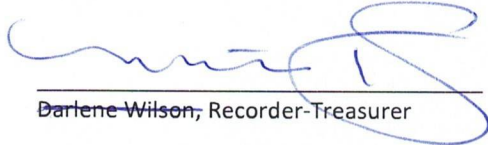
Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Wilson, Recorder-Treasurer

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August, 2023

APPROVED:

  
Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Darlene Wilson, Recorder-Treasurer

