

Mayor: Ethan J. Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer: Mitchell Sparks
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
September 11, 2023 · 6:00 p.m.
Hardy City Hall**

Mayor Ethan Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Monday, September 11 at Hardy City Hall, 124 Woodland Hills Road, Hardy, Arkansas. Councilman Gordon led all in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country. Mayor Barnes noted that the flag of the United States was different. The stripes listed the names of all the people that died during the 911 terrorist attack. A moment of silence was observed. Councilman Berry gave the invocation. Recorder-Treasurer Mitchell Sparks 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 on August 14, 2023. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

Councilman Berry made a motion to approve the agenda as it's presented at the meeting. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

REPORTS

Mayor Barnes called for committee reports.

New Recorder-Treasurer Mitchell Sparks spoke about the transition into the office. He complimented the help outgoing RT Darlene Wilson has provided during the transition. Although he still needed some time to understand the financials, if any member had a question about them, he would find out the answer and get back to them. Mayor Barnes stated he has reviewed the financials and he says they are right where they need to be at this time of year. He highlighted the interest income and sales tax revenue. He mentioned that Wilson will continue to work as a contract advisor through the remainder of the year. Councilman Gordon questioned the wastewater fuel spending that doesn't have any budgeted funds. Mayor Barnes said it's coded correctly and when we revise the budget at the end of the year, we'll move the money to that line.

Fire Chief Josh Moore reported that there were 37 calls in the month of August. He didn't have a detailed report, but noted there were at least three fires, multiple car wrecks, and a holiday weekend. On Labor Day weekend the fire department set up a boot drive for donations and raised approximately \$8000. He stated that although the summer season is coming to an end, the fire department is still busy. Only 11 days into September, they've already been on 18 calls. The second brush fire season is about to start. Councilwoman Taylor asked if the city is under a burn ban, and Moore said the city is not. He urged caution when burning. He encouraged anyone that is going to burn any brush piles should call 870-994-2211 to let the dispatch center know about it. It might keep the fire department from having to make an unnecessary run. Councilman Gordon asked about invoicing citizens for fire department calls during a burn ban. Mayor Barnes stated the fire chief was talking to county judges to get some directives from the Quorum Courts. Councilwoman Smith asked for information about the city fire inspections. Moore said they are getting them completed, and that they have about 15 more businesses to inspect. Smith said the local business were asking her when they would be inspected. Moore gave Smith his office number and said the business could call and get the inspection scheduled. Mayor Barnes asked about the results, and Moore stated they are good. They haven't failed anyone. Mayor Barnes bragged that Moore is creating great relationships with neighboring fire departments, such as Ozark Acres, Williford, Highland and Ash Flat.

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City of Hardy, Arkansas
Recorder-Treasurer Office

Lieutenant Michael Himschoot gave the police report in place of Chief Scott Rose. They had only one major accident during the holiday weekend. He said there was a good turn out today (Monday) for the 911 remembrance on the bridge. Mayor Barnes reported that the city has submitted a grant to the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management to acquire a drone for the police department and requested more body cameras as well as cameras to put in police vehicles. The city has requested license plate reader scanners at the junction. The scanners track license plates that pass through the area and are logged into a state database. It's not for minor vehicle offenses, such as speeding or going through a red light. It will help with Amber and Silver Alerts, as well as people with arrest warrants.

Superintendent Steve Morris reported that several sewer motors have gone out. The public works department has been 'chipping away' at their list of tasks. He said the department has been running short-staffed for the last 10 weeks with different staff members out for various reasons. Councilman Gordon asked about Highland Water Department cutting into the road to fix their water line, but the City of Hardy had to fix the road afterwards. Why didn't the Highland Water Department (a private entity) repair the road? Discussion took place, but no answer was given.

Mayor Barnes noted the planning and zoning commission did not meet this month, because there were no applications submitted. The minutes from the August 14 meeting will be presented at the next meeting.

Mayor Barnes reported that the solar eclipse preparedness committee discussed obtaining Narcan, AED defibrillators, tents for emergency response, substations, and scheduling CPR classes. The committee is working hard to prepare for the public safety and health for the City of Hardy, and we'll be bringing a few funding requests to the council for radios, detour signs, porta potties, and some medical supplies.

Mayor Barnes stated the Sharp County Regional Airport is planning a fly-in event at the airport for the eclipse where the pilots/passengers can fly into to the airport, view the eclipse from the airport grounds, and then fly back out. They are looking for food trucks and lodging spaces for some campers. He noted the Sharp County Fairgrounds is exploring having some camper slots on the grounds. Barnes believes the airport has received some grant money from the FAA. He told of an airport success story about a private jet from California flying in to pick up a Hardy made product and fly it back to California.

Mayor Barnes restated that Peggy Long will be concluding her service at the Tri-County Recycling facility at the end of the year. They are looking for someone new to help with budgeting. He made the council aware that there will be a collaborative effort among the Highland, Ash Flat, Cherokee Village and Hardy mayors to work with our county judges in Fulton, Sharp and Izard counties to request more funding from the Quorum Courts to keep the recycling center open. The fear is the center will close and the municipalities will have to deal with recycling on their own.

There was no report from the Hardy A&P Commission. Chairwoman Moore was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Barnes talked about the Patriot's Day event on the Spring River bridge. They had the "striking of the four fives" from the fire chief, introduction of dignitaries and recognized all of emergency response personnel present. The Star-Spangled Banner was played, Dr. Tony Berry led the invocation, and Lt. Himschoot read the names of the Arkansans that lost their lives during the 9/11 terrorist attacks. A collection of stories was told by members of the community about their recollection of that day. It was completed with the playing of Taps and Berry providing the benediction.

A fun park grant application was submitted, and we received a letter from the Arkansas Park and Tourism in Little Rock acknowledging they have received the letter.

The city also put in for a public safety grant to the Department of Emergency Management (clarified after the meeting as the Department of Public Safety) and those grants will be announced on December 1st.

Hardy campground has a new system using QR Codes that allows campers to self-register for a spot in the campground.

The Welcome to Hardy sign north of Hardy has been hit. The sign is not owned by the City of Hardy. It is owned by Renee Clay Circle, who has told Mayor Barnes she will have the sign fixed.

Mayor Barnes spoke with Scott Petroleum and he pre-bought 3000 gallons of gas for the winter season to lock in a great rate on fuel.

The Hardy Trail of Treats will be on October 28 from 4 to 6 p.m. It will start at the Hardy Fire Department and go through town on Main Street. The city is asking businesses to participate by handing out candy.

The Lake Sherwood waterline relocation grant had bids submitted in the last 30 days. Mayor Barnes met with White River Planning and Development to open the bids and Big Creek Contractors, Inc. was selected with a bid of \$243,760.00. They will begin work starting the second week of October, weather permitting.

Councilman Gordon requested information concerning fire hydrants. Fire Chief Moore stated they are reviewing the areas that need fire hydrants. The value of the properties is important when determining fire hydrant location.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Barnes shared Proclamation 2023-3 Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to read Proclamation 2023-3 and Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed. Mayor Barnes read the proclamation. A moment of silence was observed.

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt and approve Proclamation 2023-3 and Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

Mayor Barnes encouraged council members and attendees to be present at the Hardy Homesteaders Day on Saturday, September 30.

Dr. Tony Berry was asked to mention that the First Baptist Church of Hardy will be celebrating their 125th anniversary on October 15.

ADJOURN

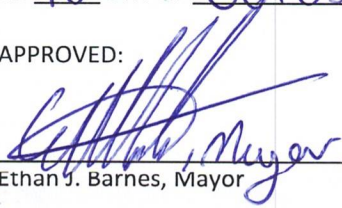
Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Taylor seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, and Mayor Barnes declared the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Hardy City Council is scheduled for Monday, October 16 at 6:00 p.m. at Hardy City Hall, 124 Woodland Hills Road in Hardy, Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Sparks, Recorder-Treasurer

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 16th DAY OF October, 2023

APPROVED:


Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:


Mitchell Sparks, Recorder-Treasurer