

Mayor: Ethan J. Barnes

Recorder-Treasurer: Willow R. Sharp

Council Members: Tony Berry, Amy Clay-Thomas, Natalie Quintana-DuBois, Ginni Kauffman, Sue Taylor, Laura Smith

City Attorney: M. Joseph Grider

City of Hardy, Arkansas

P.O. Box 5
Hardy, Arkansas 72542
870-856-3811
www.cityofhardy.org



Hardy City Council Meeting Regular Business Meeting Minutes March 10, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

124 Woodland Hills Road, Hardy, Arkansas 72542

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Ethan J. Barnes. Mayor Barnes led all in the Pledge of Allegiance; Councilman Dr. Tony Berry offered the invocation. Recorder-Treasurer Willow R. Sharp called the council roll: Quintana-DuBois, Berry, Clay-Thomas, Taylor, Kauffman, and Smith were all present. Also present was City Attorney M. Joseph Grider, Mayor Barnes, and Recorder-Treasurer Sharp. Quorum was established with all six councilmembers present.

Mayor Barnes asked for the council to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2025, Regular Business meeting. Councilmember Berry made a motion to approve the minutes; Councilwoman Kauffman seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—all were in favor and the motion passed.

Mayor Barnes asked for the council to approve the prepared agenda. Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilwoman Quintana-DuBois seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to approve the agenda as prepared passed.

Reports:

City Financials: Mayor Barnes reflected on the 2025 budget(s) and noted needed repairs to the Hardy Water Works wastewater system. R-T Sharp reported to council that the amended final budget(s) for 2024 will be presented and addressed later in the meeting. Councilwoman Kauffman had a question regarding line Item 6482-Refund for the General Fund. Mayor Barnes explained that the Sharp County District Court Clerk's Office inadvertently issued the same check payment twice, and that the city had refunded the unintentional payment back to the appropriate office. Kauffman also inquired regarding the General Fund for a budget expenditure under the Parks and Recreation Department for A & P Tax Collected of \$0.85. Mayor explained that the \$0.85 was the collected taxes for the A & P Commission from the Hardy Campground & RV Park revenues.

Hardy Volunteer Fire Department: Fire Chief Josh Moore presented to council a run report form for the prior month. The Hardy Volunteer Fire Department had 28 calls in the month of February 2025. Those included calls for service relating to five (5) structure, 14 medical, one (1) standby, and two (2) for traffic control.

Hardy Police Department: Assistant Chief Michael Himschoot presented a report for the Hardy Police Department. Assistant Chief Himschoot affirmed that overall, the police department was doing well. Assistant Chief Himschoot also advised that patrol had been increased and that the police department is prepared for the upcoming tourism season.

Filed 4/11/25 MS 1025
City of Hardy, Arkansas
Recorder-Treasurer Office

City Public Works: Superintendent Steve Morris provided a report for the water and street departments. Superintendent Morris reported there were two (2) water leaks in the process of being repaired. Supt. Morris reported that the fire hydrant on Main Street and N. Spring Street had been repaired from the initial leak. Supt. Morris also reported that several roads continue to be repaired with cold-patch and that the department is down to only one snowplow at this time. Councilwoman Taylor thanked Supt. Morris for grading the roads during the recent inclement weather.

Planning and Zoning Commission: Mayor reported from the meeting earlier in the evening that there was a request for one (1) building permit from Laura Smith and that the permit was approved.

Sharp County Regional Airport Authority: Mayor reported on the Sharp County Regional Airport Authority and provided that the authority is continuing to accomplish the required FAA audit, that the perimeter fences were repaired, that the authority is finalizing the new hanger project, and that there is a group working to start an EAA Chapter.

Tri-County Solid Waste Disposal Authority (TCSWDA): Mayor reported on the Tri-County Solid Waste Disposal Authority. Mayor offered that work continues to add Cave City to the recycling services schedule and that the authority is working towards replacement of the box truck for cardboard collection.

City Advertising and Promotion Commission: It was presented that the chairperson position was currently vacant. Commissioner Kauffmann offered a report for the Advertising and Promotion Commission (A & P) in absence of a chairperson. Com. Kauffman reported that the A & P financials currently reflect \$92,475.38 in the checking account; Capital Reserve balance was reported to be \$213,319.30. Com. Kauffman reported that the Thursday dance night Forever Young Band contract renewal remained the same for a weekly rental rate of \$125.00. Com. Kauffman reported that two (2) contracts to rent the Civic Center were signed in October of 2024 at the old rate of reservation and that the A & P accepted those contracts to not be changed to reflect the new rental prices. Com. Kauffman also reported that the Civic Center was to be re-keyed for a cost of \$750. Com. Kauffman reported that \$770.00 was approved for an advertising expense to support the Main Street Hardy Gun and Knife Show. Com. Kauffman reported that Tracie Moore had resigned from the A & P commission due to personal reasons. Com. Kauffman also reported that Phil Horrell had resigned from his position but will remain on the A & P Commission until the meeting slated for the following day, March 11, 2025. Com. Kauffman reported that there was currently two (2) Dining and Lodging Positions and one (1) At-Large Position vacant. Com. Kauffman reported that there was \$120.00 to be spent to advertise for the vacant A & P Commission positions. Com. Kauffman reported that the next meeting was scheduled for the following day, March 11, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Village Inn of Hardy Conference Center.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Barnes presented a report from the Mayor's office. Mayor Barnes offered that ARDOT had issued permits for the installation of four (4) streetlights on the Hardy Truck Route. Mayor reported that Entergy of Arkansas will be installing the streetlights. Mayor also reported that ARDOT had approved the red flashing LED stop sign rings on both ends of the Truck Route and that they would be powered by solar energy. Mayor reported that Fire Chief Moore had identified a vehicle for the fire department. Mayor also reported that the Public Works utility vehicle had arrived and is being used to read water meters. Mayor also reported the city was monitoring strange weather. Mayor

also informed that brush burning season is upon the city and if anyone is going to have a controlled burn to please call Sharp County Dispatch at 870-994-2211. Mayor continued that all calls go through Sharp County Dispatch and to telephone Dispatch for any non-emergency situation. Mayor also reported that at 10:00 a.m. on April 1, 2025, a groundbreaking ceremony is planned for the new Casey's General Store. Mayor shared that the construction manager is hoping for opening day on August 7, 2025.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution No. 2025-05 Sharp County Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to read *Resolution No. 2025-05*—seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to read passed. Mr. Grider read *Resolution No. 2025-05*. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-05*; Councilwoman Quintana-DuBois seconded the motion to approve. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-05* passed.

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution No. 2025-06 Animal Services Funding*. Councilwoman Kauffman made a motion to read *Resolution No. 2025-06*—seconded by Councilman Berry. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote to read *Resolution No. 2025-06*; all were in favor and the motion to read passed. Mr. Grider read *Resolution No. 2025-06*. There was discussion of the funds and how the funds will be utilized. Councilwoman Clay-Thomas made a motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-06*—Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-06*. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-06* passed.

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution No. 2025-07 Purchase/Finance Fire Truck Vehicle*. Mayor provided the total purchase price of the vehicle was \$26,350.00. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to read *Resolution No. 2025-07*—seconded by Councilwoman Quintana-DuBois. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to read *Resolution No. 2025-07* passed. Mr. Grider read *Resolution No. 2025-07*. Councilman Berry made a motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-07*—Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-07*. Mayor Barnes called for a roll call vote: Clay-Thomas-yes, Taylor-yes, Berry-yes, Quintana-DuBois-yes, Smith-yes, Kauffman-yes. All councilmembers were in favor and the motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-07* passed. Councilwoman Kauffman mentioned her concern regarding the amount of debt the city is incurring and would like the City to be as conservative as possible. Mayor Barnes offered to review a debt schedule with any member of council if interested.

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution No. 2025-08 State Street Aid Available Funds* of approximately \$65,000.00 to pave the City Street of Loberg Drive. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to read *Resolution No. 2025-08*—seconded by Councilman Berry. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote to read *Resolution No. 2025-08*. All were in favor and the motion to read *Resolution No. 2025-08* passed. Mr. Grider read *Resolution No. 2025-08*. Discussion pertained to the houses and permanent residents in the area. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-08*—Councilman

Berry seconded the motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-08*. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote: Berry-yes, Smith-yes, Clay-Thomas-yes, Taylor-yes, Quintana-Dubois-yes, Kauffman-no. The vote count resulted in five in favor and one opposed. The motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-08* passed.

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution No. 2025-09 Adoption of Final 2024 Budgets*. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to read *Resolution No. 2025-09*—seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote to read *Resolution No. 2025-09*. All were in favor to read *Resolution No. 2025-09*, and the motion passed. Mr. Grider read *Resolution No. 2025-09*. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-09*—Councilwoman Quintana-DuBois seconded the motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-09*. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to approve *Resolution No. 2025-09* passed.

Mayor Barnes presented *Ordinance No. 2025-04 Authorizing Timothy Butler for Contract* to manage the Hardy Campground and RV Park for park ranger services. Councilman Berry made a motion to read *Ordinance No. 2025-04* by title only and waive the first, second, and third readings of *Ordinance No. 2025-04*—seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote to read *Ordinance No. 2025-04* by title only and waive the first, second, and third readings of *Ordinance No. 2025-04*. All were in favor of said motion and the motion to read and waive passed. Mr. Grider read *Ordinance No. 2025-04* by title only. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to approve *Ordinance No. 2025-04*. Councilwoman Quintana-DuBois seconded the motion to approve *Ordinance No. 2025-04*. Mayor Barnes called for a roll call vote: Berry-yes, Smith-yes, Quintana-DuBois-yes, Taylor-yes, Kauffman-yes, Clay-Thomas- yes. All were in favor of approval of *Ordinance No. 2025-04* and the motion to approve *Ordinance No. 2025-04* passed.

Mayor Barnes asked for a motion to *Enact the Emergency Clause* for *Ordinance No. 2025-04*. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to enact the Emergency Clause— Councilwoman Kauffman seconded the motion to enact the Emergency Clause. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to enact the Emergency Clause passed.

Mayor Barnes addressed the vacancy on the City Advertising & Promotion Commission. Commissioner Kauffman made a motion to approve Mr. John Treat as a Commissioner to the City Advertising & Promotion Commission for a term of four (4) years for the Tourism Related Business position as a representative from his retail business of 3 Magi on Main Street in downtown Hardy. Councilwoman Quintana-DuBois seconded the motion to approve Mr. John Treat for appointment to the City Advertising & Promotion Commission for a term of four (4) years for the Tourism Related Business position. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Treat passed.

Mayor Barnes administrated the Oath of Office by swearing-in Mr. John Treat to the City Advertising & Promotion Commission Tourism Related Business position.

Mayor Barnes addressed Mr. Ron Martin of Main Street of Hardy. Mr. Martin reported on the annual Main Street grant cycle. Main Street of Hardy offered to expend their grant funding to install three (3) handrails needed downtown in the historic district on Main Street. Councilman Berry made a motion to allow Main Street of Hardy to install three (3) Handrails using their funding in the downtown area;

Councilwoman Quintana-DuBois seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to allow permission to Main Street of Hardy for the installation passed.

Mayor reminded everyone that the next Regular Business Meeting of the Hardy City Council was scheduled for April 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall (note- the April 2-22, 2025 flooding event struck Hardy during this time and the meeting was cancelled). Mayor Barnes also reminded everyone that the Casey's General Store Groundbreaking Ceremony was scheduled for April 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the construction site, and the next City Advertising and Promotion Commission Meeting was set for the following day, March 11, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Village Inn of Hardy Conference Room.

Citizen Commentary:

None

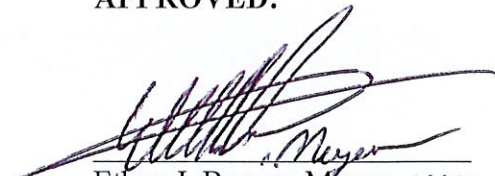
Adjournment:

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Kauffman seconded the motion to adjourn. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote. All present were in favor and the motion to adjourn was approved. The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:09 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Willow R. Sharp
Recorder-Treasurer

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9th DAY OF June, 2025.

APPROVED:


Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:


Willow R. Sharp
Recorder-Treasurer

