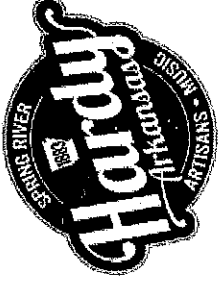


Mayor: Ethan J. Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer: Willow R. Sharp
Council Members: Tony Berry, Amy Clay-Thomas, Natalie Quintana-DuBois, Ginni Kauffman, Sue Taylor, Laura Smith
City Attorney: M. Joseph Grider

City of Hardy, Arkansas



P.O. Box 5
Hardy, Arkansas 72542
870-856-3811
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Hardy City Council Meeting Regular Business Meeting Minutes May 12, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. 203 School Street, Hardy, Arkansas 72542

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Ethan J. Barnes at the Old Hardy Gym, 203 School Street, Hardy, Arkansas. Councilmember Kauffman led all in the Pledge of Allegiance; Councilman Dr. Tony Berry offered the invocation. Due to the absence of the Recorder-Treasurer, City Administrator Trisha Bushey called the councilmember roll: Quintana-DuBois, Berry, Clay-Thomas, Taylor, Kauffman, and Smith were all present. Also present was City Attorney M. Joseph Grider, Mayor Barnes, and City Administrator Bushey filing in as Deputy Clerk. Quorum was established with all six councilmembers present.

Due to the recent flooding of the City Hall building and relocating to the Johnson Center, minutes were not placed on the agenda for approval at the May meeting.

Councilmember Kauffman made a motion to add an item to the agenda for discussion: Clarification on the Tanker Truck Loan and the Sale of the Yellow Fire Truck (note: there is not a loan on the fire department's tanker truck). The motion to add an item to the agenda was seconded by Councilmember Quintana-DuBois. Mayor Barnes called for a roll call vote, and all were in favor of adding the item to the agenda under new business.

Reports:

The statement was provided on the agenda that reports would be conducted in the June meeting, however, Commissioner Kauffman offered to present highlights for the City Advertising and Promotion Commission from their March meeting. It was reported the commission accepted resignations, and that there would be a full report in June regarding the A & P Commission.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Mayor Barnes opened discussion regarding the *Implementation of Operation Hours in Parks*. Due to continued and increased vandalism regarding the restroom facilities, the council discussed the implementation of hours of operation to deter future defacement of public property. Mayor Barnes provided examples of various destruction of property in the restrooms. Discussion entailed regarding the city park properties, how to decide on the hours of operation, how to close the parks, and the posting of signage to notify the public of the hours of operation. Mayor Barnes and City Attorney Grider wanted the council to take the proposed ordinance with them, collect feedback from constituents, and return next month with suggestions for the proposed ordinance. L. J. Berg Park, Dr. L. J. Berg

Filed 7/15/25
City of Hardy, Arkansas
Recorder-Treasurer O.

City of Hardy Regular Business Meeting of City Council
May 12, 2025

Thompson Park, and Buford Beach were discussed as the primary locations of focus. The Hardy Campground and RV Park were to be addressed separately due to the general overnight lodging nature of the location. The time was discussed to be 4:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for hours of operation. There was no action taken at this time.

Mayor Barnes opened discussion regarding the *Arkansas Municipal League Convention Ninety-One*. Mayor Barnes provided the agenda for the convention and invited the councilmembers to attend the convention if able. The Mayor discussed the cost of attendance. City Attorney Grider recommended to the council to attend the conference. Councilmember Kauffman inquired if there was funding available in the budget for council to attend. Mayor Barnes reported there was some funding available for the convention if some wanted to attend, but the budget did not have enough funding for the entire council to attend twice annually.

The next item on the agenda was the *City Advertising & Promotion Commission Vacancies (3)*. The letters of interest were provided to council by Commissioner Desai. Discussion was held regarding which positions were being proposed for appointment and which positions were currently occupied. Councilmember Berry made a motion to enter executive session to discuss the appointment of the three individuals to the City of Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission to fill the unexpired terms. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion to enter executive session. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the council entered executive session at 6:32 p.m.

The council returned from executive session at 7:10 p.m. Mayor Barnes provided that Rebecca Quintana applied with a letter of interest, Manuel Lopez applied with a letter of interest, and Jason Jackson applied with a letter of interest. A motion was made by Councilmember Quintana-DuBois to appoint Rebecca Quintana to fill the *At-Large* position (replacing Phillip Horrell) for the remainder of the term. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion to approve the appointment. Mayor Barnes called for a roll call vote. The results were as follows: DuBois: Yes; Berry: Yes; Clay-Thomas: Yes; Taylor: Yes; Smith: Yes; Kauffman: Yes. Having received the affirmative votes, Mayor Barnes declared the motion passed and offered that the oath of office would be conducted after the business meeting.

Regarding *Tax Collector Dining/Lodging Position Number Two (2)* (replacing Tracie Moore). Councilmember Kauffman made a motion to approve Manuel Lopez to fill this position; Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion to approve the appointment. Mayor Barnes called for a roll call vote. The results were as follows: Kauffman: Yes; Taylor: Yes; Smith: No; Clay-Thomas: No; Berry: No; DuBois: Yes. The vote results were a 3-3 tie. The Mayor did not vote to break the tie. The motion failed to pass. City Attorney Grider advised to return with a nomination at the next meeting.

Regarding *Tax Collector Dining/Lodging Position Number Three (3)* (was held by Ginni Kauffman, who is now serving a term on city council and as the city council A & P representative). Councilmember Taylor made a motion to approve Jason Jackson to fill this position; Councilmember Kauffman seconded the motion to approve the appointment. Mayor Barnes called for a roll call vote. The results were as follows: DuBois: Yes; Berry: No; Clay-Thomas: No; Smith: No; Taylor: Yes; Kauffman: Yes. The vote results were a 3-3 tie. The Mayor did not vote to break the tie. The motion failed to pass.

The final item on the amended agenda was the *Clarification on Tanker Loan and Sale of Yellow Truck*. Mayor Barnes offered that there was not a loan on the tanker truck, the tanker truck is an old military truck received from the Forestry Department. A grant is being applied for by the Fire Chief and Mayor to replace the truck; a grant application for \$10,000 has been submitted to outfit the truck, and that the old tanker truck was insured, but the city is waiting on a pending FEMA declaration for steps to move forward. Regarding the sale of the yellow fire truck, the sale of the vehicle was approved around the time of September 2024. The yellow truck, a 1994 Spartan heavy rescue that was used at ground zero in NYC, has electrical and brake issues and it is required to respond to every motor vehicle accident with extrication gear. A replacement truck was acquired from the Rome, GA Fire Department for approximately \$23,000. The Fire Chief reported that similar trucks are worth between \$150,000 to \$200,000. Money was borrowed from FNBC Bank for the replacement rescue truck, with note payments of approximately \$433.00 per month. ACT-833 money is intended to cover the note payment. Proceeds from the sale of the yellow truck could potentially pay off the note prior to maturity. The old tanker insurance claim could potentially be \$29,000 to \$30,000 and could be used to pay off current fire department debts as well. The yellow fire truck was listed for sale initially at \$35,000.00 on firetruckmall.com. The \$10,000 grant will be used to outfit the replacement tanker truck with a light bar and a 2,500-gallon water tank. If the \$10,000 grant covers the outfitting of the replacement tanker truck, then the insurance settlement money could be used to pay off debts early. The Mayor reminded council that there is not a guarantee the city receives the \$10,000 grant, but that the City is hopeful. The Mayor thanked the Fire Chief for his time and good work in the Fire Department.

Citizen Commentary:

Terri Hightower: Mrs. Hightower inquired regarding: the status of fixing roads in the POA, placement of rocks in ditches and roads, Police Chief Scott Rose's annual continuing education, Chief Rose's provisional certification, council members meeting to discuss the budget, and accusations against Chief Rose and any investigation, notice, or suspension. Mayor Barnes acknowledged the recent massive flooding, and that work is needed to address cleanup after the flood. Mrs. Hightower credited Jason Jackson for unstopping drains. Mayor Barnes credited the Public Works team for unstopping drains under bridges after the flood as well.

John Treat: Mr. Treat commented about promoting Hardy, noting distractions from tragedy and politics. Mr. Treat commented that Main Street is hurting, and the A & P Commission and City Council need to work together. Mr. Treat also commented due to a lack of quorum, half a season of advertising was lost. Mr. Treat urged everyone to put the past behind them and focus on the future of Hardy. Mr. Treat commented that the Mayor has done excellent work keeping things moving with the flood and that there is a need to save the tourist season, especially with lost advertising time and the potential loss of the river for part of the season.

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Adjournment:

Councilmember Berry made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois 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 7:28 p.m.

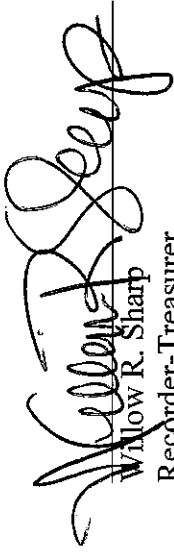
Respectfully submitted,

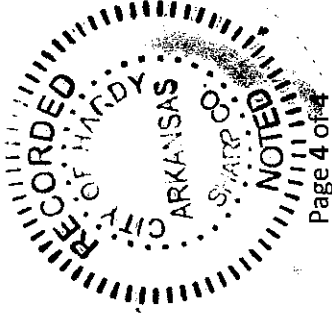
Willow R. Sharp
Recorder-Treasurer

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF July, 2025.
APPROVED:


Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:


Willow R. Sharp
Recorder-Treasurer



Filed 7/15/25 18:48
City of Hardy, Arkansas
Recorder-Treasurer Office