

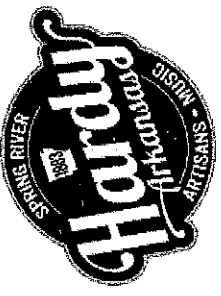
Mayor: Ethan J. Barnes
Recorder-Treasurer: Willow R. Sharp

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

City Attorney:

City of Hardy, Arkansas

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



**Hardy City Council
Regular Business Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2025
Hardy Civic Center – 301 W Main Street Hardy, Arkansas 72542**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mayor Ethan J. Barnes. Mayor Barnes led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was offered by Councilmember Dr. Tony Berry. Recorder-Treasurer Willow R. Sharp called the council roll: Berry, Clay-Thomas, Taylor, Kauffman, Smith and Quintana-DuBois. Mayor Barnes and R-T Sharp were present. All six council members were present. Quorum was established.

Minutes from the June 9, 2025 Regular Business Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Smith and seconded by Councilmember Taylor to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2025 Regular Business Meeting. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote. All were in favor and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

Minutes from the July 14, 2025 Regular Business Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Taylor and seconded by Councilmember Smith to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2025 Regular Business Meeting. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote. All were in favor and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

Minutes from the July 16, 2025 Budget Work Session were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Quintana-DuBois and seconded by Councilmember Clay-Thomas to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2025 Budget Work Session. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote. All were in favor and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

Minutes from the July 25, 2025 Special Business Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Smith and seconded by Councilmember Quintana-DuBois to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2025 Special Business Meeting. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote. All were in favor and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

Mayor Barnes presented the agenda for the evening's meeting. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois made a motion to approve the agenda as prepared. Councilmember Berry seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Mayor called for a voice vote—all were in favor and the motion to amend the agenda passed.

Reports:

City Financials: R-T Sharp reported new additions to the meeting packet at the request of Council and recommended to Council to archive the packets monthly as a reference for previous topics and records. Councilmember Kauffman had a few questions regarding new construction, insurance, settlements,

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library funding, Hardy Campground & RV Park receipts, and contract services for the Parks & Recreation Department. Mayor Barnes offered information relating to the topics.

Fire Department: Chief Josh Moore reported that the Hardy Volunteer Fire Department had 49 calls in the month of July 2025, bringing the total calls for service to 276 thru the end of July. Chief Moore also reported that Sharp County was (and still is) under a burn ban and that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will conduct a control burn the following day on August 12th, 2025 in the area of the Game Reserve on River Road.

Police Department: Interim Police Chief Michael Himschoot reported that the Police Department was doing well. He reminded everyone that school is back in session and to always stop for buses when the flashing red lights are on.

Public Works Department: Superintendent Steve Morris reported that the Public Works Department had many work orders in the last few weeks, including sixteen (16) water leaks. Supt. Morris also reported on a couple of sewer overflows, and reported his department had been brush hogging the streets in the high traffic areas as of late. Supt. Morris also reported the SCADA water alarm system for the water system has been updated.

Planning and Zoning Commission: No report.

Sharp County Regional Airport Commission: Mayor reported repair to the Jet A pump and calibration was completed. Mayor reported that the airport beacon has been adjusted, is now visible at night and the fuel hose has been replaced and is in working condition.

Tri-County Solid Waste Disposal Authority: Mayor reported that the authority was still looking for an affordable replacement option for the box truck to conduct recycle material pick-ups and that two (2) containers had been purchased for recycle material storage. The next meeting was to be held on August 20, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the landfill in Cherokee Village.

Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC): Commissioner Jackson reported that the HAPC had decided to move the A & P office to upstairs in the Civic Center. Commissioner Jackson reported that the HAPC had lots of business taking place, including eleven (11) different grant applications written for approximately \$193,000 in requested funding. Commissioner Jackson reported that there would be new upgrades coming to the Civic Center including updates to the kitchen/concession area and restrooms.

Mayor's Report: The Mayor reported that the Casey's General Store is open for business and will transition to 24/7 starting on September 1, 2025 (store management later updated the city to report this change in operation hours will be delayed to the second or third week of September, due to their corporate office). Mayor Barnes thanked everyone who assisted in the opening of this new business addition to Hardy, as well as ARDOT for repainting and widening the entrances and exits for better traffic flow. Mayor Barnes also reported that the FEMA work process continues and discussed the reimbursement process. Mayor also offered that the Hardy Volunteer Fire Department received approval for a \$15,000 Rural Community Grant Program from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Mayor Barnes also reported that the city submitted a grant application to the state with

the help of the White River Planning and Development District for the potential restoration of Loberg Park after the flooding event in April of 2025; Mayor Barnes highlighted that the HAPC also applied for a project for the same grant program. The Mayor closed in reporting that the Fun Park Grant Application Project clean-up day was slated for August 20 at 9:00 a.m. in the playground area of Loberg Park. The clean-up efforts were to focus on picking-up limbs, trash, litter, pulling weeds, removing remaining flood debris, power-washing, and clean-up of the outdoor restroom facilities.

Old Business:

Mayor Barnes presented *Ordinance 2025-06 Implementation of Operation Hours in Parks*. Mayor discussed the proposed ordinance with the discussed revisions: setting the non-operation hours of 11:00 p.m. to 4:30 a.m.; Hardy Campground & RV Park stay limitations; work-stay exception (up to six months with proof of a work contract). Councilmember Kauffman inquired regarding Section Seven (7) referencing the penalty for violation and court costs. After discussion, Councilmember Smith made a motion to read *Ordinance 2025-06* by title only and to waive the first, second, and third readings; Councilmember Quintana-DuBois seconded the motion. Mayor called for a voice vote; all were in favor of reading *Ordinance 2025-06* by title only and to waive the first, second, and third readings. Mayor Barnes read *Ordinance 2025-06* by title only, an Ordinance Establishing Rules and Regulations for the City Parks and Recreation Parks; Providing a Penalty for Violations Thereof; and Declaring an Emergency. Councilmember Taylor made a motion to approve *Ordinance 2025-06*; Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. Mayor called for a voice vote; all were in favor of approval and the motion passed. Mayor Barnes requested a motion to enact the *Emergency Clause*. Councilmember Smith made a motion to enact the *Emergency Clause* for *Ordinance 2025-06*; Councilmember Quintana-DuBois seconded the motion. Mayor called for a voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to enact the Emergency Clause passed. Mayor Barnes read the emergency clause.

New Business:

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution 2025-12 Mutual Aid with Sharp County* to the council. Mayor reported that during and after the flooding event in April of 2025, Sharp County Judge Mark Counts had offered to assist the City of Hardy with immediate repair needs due to the largely affected flooded area. Mayor Barnes thanked Judge Counts for the County's assistance and reported that there was a need to solidify this relationship in writing with a mutual aid agreement for future natural disaster occurrences and for the FEMA reimbursement process. Councilmember Taylor made a motion to read *Resolution 2025-12*—seconded by Councilmember Smith. Mayor called for a voice vote to read *Resolution 2025-12*; all were in favor, and the motion to read passed. Mayor read *Resolution 2025-12*. Councilmember Kauffman made a motion to approve *Resolution 2025-12*—seconded by Councilmember Smith. Mayor called for voice vote; all were in favor and the motion to approve *Resolution 2025-12* passed.

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution 2025-13 2025 Budget Revisions* to the Council. Mayor reviewed the City's three (3) separate budgets of General, HWW, and Street to the Council. Mayor noted that there was a change in the Police Department Expenses to reduce the salary/payroll expense of the former fourth full-time Police Officer position. Mayor reported that the Police Department would be operating with just three (3) full-time Police Officers for the remainder of the 2025 fiscal year. Mayor Barnes discussed the FEMA funding and how the reimbursements proceeds of 75% would be allocated

into the 2025 Budget Revisions. Discussion ensued regarding plans for the 2026 Budgets. Councilmember Kauffman expressed her concerns of the financial status of the city and requested more cuts in spending in relation to the Fire Department. Councilmember Berry made the recommendation to approve this revision and look into the 2026 Budgets with possible changes. Mayor Barnes shared how the city's 1.00% sales tax is extremely high in relation to the small population of Hardy (743) and how the majority of the local economy is driven off of tourism in this part of the state. Mayor Barnes discussed the aging infrastructure and public needs of the city. Councilmember Berry made a motion to read *Resolution 2025-13*, seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Mayor called for a voice vote to read *Resolution 2025-13*; five were in favor; Councilmember Kaufmann was opposed. The vote count to read was 5:1 and the motion to read passed. Mayor read *Resolution 2025-13*. Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve *Resolution 2025-13*, seconded by Councilmember Berry. Mayor called for voice vote to approve *Resolution 2025-13*; five were in favor; Councilmember Kauffman was opposed. The vote count to approve was 5:1, and the motion to approve *Resolution 2025-13* passed.

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution 2025-14 Financial Statements* to the Council. Mayor Barnes reported this item was brought before council by Councilmember Quintana-DuBois, requesting copies of the City's monthly bank statements for all city accounts, monthly statements for city credit or purchasing cards, and corresponding receipt records. Mr. Greg Bess, a former Recorder-Treasurer of the City, was in the audience and Mayor Barnes yielded his time to Mr. Bess. Mr. Bess offered his recommendation of providing a monthly expenditure and reconciliation report to the council due to the possible legal concerns of releasing bank statements with sensitive information in the documents. Mayor thanked Mr. Bess and another attendee for their suggestions. Discussion continued that these records are open to the public for inspection at City Hall during normal business hours. There was also discussion that there may need to be some possible revisions to this proposed resolution. Councilmember Smith made a motion to table *Resolution 2025-14*, seconded by Councilmember Quintana-DuBois. Mayor called for a voice vote to table *Resolution 2025-14*; all were in favor, and the motion to table passed.

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution 2025-15 Financial Summaries* to the Council. Mayor Barnes reported this was also brought before Council by Councilmember Quintana-DuBois requesting similar financial documentation regarding a monthly financial summary report for each active city fund including but not limited to the General Fund, Street Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, and any special or grant funds. The resolution also included for reports to be compiled for the current fiscal year-to-date for the beginning fund balance, total revenue received, total expenditures and current available balances. Discussion ensued between Mayor and Councilmember Quintana-DuBois to continue to work together to modify the councilmember's monthly packet to reflect the desired information. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois made a motion to table *Resolution 2025-15*, seconded by Councilmember Berry. Mayor called for a voice vote to table *Resolution 2025-15*; all were in favor, and the motion to table passed.

Mayor presented the next item of business, Hardy Water Works 2022/2023 Reports Update. Mayor Barnes explained that the CPA firm conducting the 2022 report had a delay in response of compiling and reporting the 2022 report to the state and city. Due to the 2022 water and wastewater fund financial statements not being submitted in time to the state, the city is expecting its share of state turnback revenue to temporarily be withheld and would likely resume in October with the revenues of

the withheld and then current period. Mayor confirmed that the withheld state turnback funds are not the city's 1.00% sales tax revenues. Mayor confirmed that the 2023 report was scheduled to be completed by the end of August 2025. Mayor concluded that once all the CPA's reports are submitted to the state, then the temporarily withheld funds would be disbursed back to the City.

Councilmember Kauffman presented the next topic: Pocket Park. The Pocket Park is located between Miller's Leather Shop and the Crosseyed Catfish Café downtown on Main Street. The land was originally donated by the late Honorable Judge (and former Hardy City Attorney) Kevin King & Family to the Advertising & Promotion (A & P) Commission. A & P Commissioner Jason Jackson (of the audience) approached the podium and joined in the discussion explaining that the A & P would like to take possession of the Pocket Park from the City and start an improvement project. Discussion ensued regarding how the A & P can work with the city to improve any declared park. Mayor Barnes suggested that we could contact the King Family and ask their input on what they would like to see the land be utilized for. The council discussed possibly consulting with an attorney and reviewing the state municipal code regarding how A & P revenues are allowed to be used for city park improvements. Mr. Peter Martin of the audience engaged in the discussion to refer the council to research the existing ordinances in place as guidelines. A & P Commissioner John Treat of the audience engaged in the discussion, as well as former R-T Greg Bess, suggesting for the A & P to work alongside with the city to complement one-another to carry out projects together for the betterment of the City. Mayor Barnes agreed this would be a great step in the right direction for the city and the A & P Commission to work together.

Mayor Barnes presented the next item of Code Enforcement as requested by Councilmember Kauffman. Councilmember Kauffman passed out a resolution to the council. Mayor Barnes offered that the City had received a qualified applicant for the Code Enforcement position. Mayor Barnes offered that the funding for the Code Enforcement position was already figured into the budget and that the city did have an approved job description on file. Mayor Barnes continued that the Code Enforcement position would report directly to the Mayor and that this individual would also handle building permit application requests and work with the Building Official, among other duties. The Council discussed and agreed for the City to proceed in the hiring for the Code Enforcement position. Mayor Barnes offered that he will contact the individual and confirm their continued interest in the part-time position for 16 hours a week and will report back to the Council next month.

Mayor Barnes presented the next item of 2025 FOIA Changes Act 505 from the Arkansas Municipal League. The attachment in the packet defined what are public meetings and what are not public meetings, as well as the requirements to hold a meeting, notices, physical attendance requirements, deliberation, polling, and the penalties for violation.

Mayor Barnes presented the final item under new business, Discussion: Review of Resolution 2025-01. Mayor Barnes addressed the current language of Resolution 2025-01 regarding the delivery process of the meeting packets to the council members. It was discussed that the language would be more appropriate in the resolution for the packets to be placed in the council member's mailbox by 12:00 p.m. noon and then electronically sent by 1:00 p.m. on the Friday before the Regular Business Meeting takes place. Mayor Barnes will update the current rules in place and return to the council next month with the amended information to reflect the requested changes on the delivery process language.

Citizen Commentary:

Jeff Munroe: Mr. Munroe addressed the council regarding documents, requesting that the city's website soon be updated. Mr. Munroe asked about the city's total liabilities. R-T Sharp offered that this information was presented last month in July at the Budget Work Session and that this information could be provided.

Nannette Daugherty: Ms. Daugherty addressed the council regarding the annual Hardy Homesteaders Day event slated for Saturday, September 27, 2025, in Loberg Park. Hardy Viddles and Vibes will be included this year in the Homesteaders Day events with music starting at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Daugherty announced that the Hardy History Association would be utilizing generators for electricity and had ordered additional port-a-potties for the event.

Jason Jackson: Mr. Jackson addressed the council regarding his concern about the city budgets and how the City can spend with its' current revenue projections.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois seconded the motion to adjourn. The Mayor called for a voice vote for the motion to adjourn; all were in favor and the motion to adjourn passed. The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

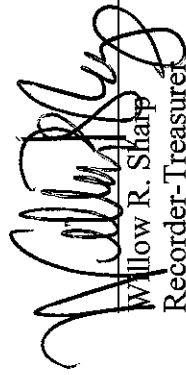
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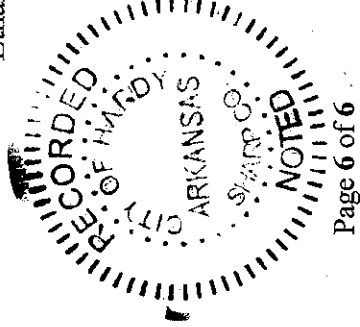
PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8th DAY OF Sept 2025.

APPROVED:


Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:


Willow R. Sharp
Recorder-Treasurer



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