

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

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Hardy City Council Regular Business Meeting Minutes October 20, 2025 Hardy Civic Center – 301 W. Main Street Hardy, Arkansas 72542

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Mayor Ethan J. Barnes. Councilwoman Sue Taylor Mayor led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was offered by Councilmember Dr. Tony Berry. Mayor Barnes called the council roll: Clay-Thomas, Smith-excused, Taylor, Kauffman-excused, Berry and Quintana-DuBois. R-T Sharp was also excused from the meeting. Four council members were present, and quorum was established.

Minutes from the September 8, 2025, Regular Business Meeting were presented for approval by Mayor Barnes. A motion was made by Councilmember Taylor and seconded by Councilmember Clay-Thomas to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2025, Regular Business Meeting. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes 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 Taylor seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Mayor called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to approve the agenda passed.

Reports:

City Financials: Mayor Barnes offered a report in the absence of the Recorder-Treasurer. Mayor spoke of current revenues regarding sales tax and the Campground & RV Park income, as well as overall expenditures. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois asked about funds from the recent certificate of deposit that matured and then discussed where those figures were referenced in the budgets for disaster recovery use.

Fire Department: Chief Josh Moore was unable to attend this evening; Mayor Barnes provided the Fire Department Run Report for September 2025.

Police Department: Interim Police Chief Michael Himschoot reported the Police Department is doing well. Interim Police Chief Himschoot reported he attended the annual Arkansas Chiefs of Police Conference and a Leadership Conference with Sharp County within the past month. He continued that the County is working on a warrant/compliance check with an estimated 30 officers working saturation. IPC Himschoot addressed state training compliance within the department and affirmed that Hardy is 100% in compliance to date.

Public Works Department: Superintendent Steve Morris reported that the Public Works Department had repaired 19 water leaks, one sewer matter, replaced the fire hydrant on the corner of N. Spring

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and W. Main Street, was working on brush hogging efforts, and had replaced various missing or damaged street signage.

Planning and Zoning Commission: Mayor reported one permit had been approved for an individual in the Old Rio Vista area. Mayor reviewed the current Strategic Plan and discussed the goal to approve the final version in November 2025.

Sharp County Regional Airport Commission: Mayor reported the commission met on October 1, 2025. Mayor reported the airport replaced a windsock, jet fuel had been ordered, all hangers have been rented, and the EAA Chapter has been started. The next meeting for the commission will be November 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the airport.

Tri-County Solid Waste Disposal Authority: Mayor reported that the authority met on October 15, 2025. Mayor reported a replacement box truck has been identified for possible purchase and that a load of sellable cardboard is in the production stage. Mayor reported that the 2026 recycling cost price per capita would likely soon be adjusted from \$1.00 to \$2.00 due to inflation.

Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC): Commissioner Jason Jackson reported recent HAPC minutes had been provided and that a debit card would be used for all HAPC purchases rather than the current reimbursement process. Com. Jackson reported the status of the King Family/Pocket Park project is still in progress and that they would soon be selecting a contractor. Mayor Barnes requested a building plan/specification sheet of the structure to be built. Com. Jackson confirmed he would provide the requested information to the Mayor. Com. Jackson reported that the HAPC is waiting to hear the results of the recent grant applications submitted.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Barnes reported that the initial FEMA site inspections have been completed and the city is waiting on the site inspection finding results. Mayor addressed the advertised City Code Enforcement Officer position; Mayor reported that he met with an experienced individual for the position and spent time observing areas in Hardy that could need attention. Mayor was later informed that this individual would not be able to start service until a later date due to retirement timing from a previous employment position. Mayor offered that he has visited with various individuals in the city who are potentially in violation of city codes and has asked them to remedy certain situations at hand. Mayor will continue to address potential violations as best as possible until a qualified and experienced civil code officer has been identified. Mayor discussed the upcoming 2026 budget process and reported that he will submit to the council for review a draft budget in the November 2025 meeting. The 2026 Strategic Plan was discussed at the Planning and Zoning meeting earlier in the evening and will be provided to council for adoption in November. Mayor reported the Hardy Christmas Parade will be the 2nd Saturday in December at 5:30 p.m.; anyone who wishes to pre-register for prizes in the parade should contact City Hall by the 2nd Friday of December to sign-up. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois inquired about the vacant status of the City Attorney. Mayor Barnes reported that the city has advertised the vacancy twice with no response.

Old Business:

Mayor Barnes presented the topic of *A & P Commission Vacancy: Tourism Industry Position*. Mayor Barnes thanked HAPC Com. Desai for her recent efforts to clarify and document the correct current terms and positions for the HAPC. The HAPC had prepared a nomination form for the vacancy and submitted it to the Mayor for City Council review. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois made a motion to approve Dr. John Treat to the HAPC in the seat of the Tourism Industry Position for a four-year term. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to appoint passed. Mayor Barnes issued the oath of office to Dr. John Treat.

New Business:

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution 2025-17 Artificial Intelligence Policy Act 848*. The Resolution was provided from the Municipal League to the city for new business. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois made a motion to read *Resolution 2025-17*. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor, and the motion to read carried. Mayor Barnes read *Resolution 2025-17*. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois made a motion to table *Resolution 2025-17*. Councilmember Clay-Thomas seconded the motion to table. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the resolution was tabled until the November meeting.

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution 2025-18 Sharp County Ad Valorem Taxes*. Mayor Barnes offered that the City Council must levy the ad valorem taxes once a year for the collection of real and personal property taxes in each county the city limits are located within. The current levy (2.9) was discussed and will remain unchanged for the upcoming collection year in both Sharp and Fulton Counties. Councilmember Taylor made a motion to read *Resolution 2025-18*. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois seconded the motion to read. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to read carried.

Mayor Barnes read *Resolution 2025-18*. Councilmember Clay-Thomas made a motion to approve *Resolution 2025-18*. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion to approve. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and *Resolution 2025-18* passed.

Mayor Barnes presented *Resolution 2025-19 Fulton County Ad Valorem Taxes*. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois made a motion to read *Resolution 2025-19*. Councilmember Clay-Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to read carried.

Mayor Barnes read *Resolution 2025-19*. Councilmember Quintana-DuBois made a motion to approve *Resolution 2025-19*. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion to approve. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and *Resolution 2025-19* passed.

Mayor Barnes presented the next topic *Pocket Park Update* by the HAPC. Com. Jackson reported there was no update needed as the topic was addressed during the HAPC report.

Citizen Commentary:

Terri Hightower addressed the council and read a letter that she sent to council regarding the topics of transparency with financial matters, a matured certificate of deposit, and budgeting.

Jason Jackson, as representative of the Woodland Hills Property Owners Association, spoke to the council regarding the code enforcement position and how he believes that the Chief of Police should be addressing the potential civil city code violations. Mr. Jackson commented regarding the state mandated water/sewer rate study increases and implementation process.

Ralph Lowe addressed the council with the topic of "The Hardy Party" event that he would be co-hosting with various non-profits in the Old Hardy Gym. He commented that it would be a family friendly environment/program for the community starting in November to May with music and concessions. He invited the community to attend the events.

Mary K. addressed the council with the topic of hidden blind spots on Woodland Hills Road when she drives. Mary expressed her concerns of the lack of right-of-way mowing and the need for more speed limit signage. (Supt. Morris confirmed his team had been performing maintenance work on this same area being discussed).

Connor Thompson addressed the council with the topic of general promotion of Hardy. Mr. Thompson commented about social media advertising and was looking for clarification on city rules and licenses for food and beverage sales in the city parks.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Quintana-DuBois made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion to adjourn. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to adjourn passed. The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Willow R. Sharp
Recorder-Treasurer

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF November 2025.

APPROVED,


Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor



ATTEST:

Willow R. Sharp
Recorder-Treasurer

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