

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](http://www.cityofhardy.org)



**Hardy City Council: Budget Work Session  
November 20, 2025**

**Hardy Civic Center – 301 W. Main Street Hardy, Arkansas 72542**

Mayor Ethan J. Barnes called the work session to order at 4:13 p.m. Mayor Barnes asked those in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Dr. Tony Berry offered the invocation. Recorder-Treasurer Willow R. Sharp called the councilmember roll: Berry, Clay-Thomas-*excused*, Kauffman, Quintana-DuBois, Taylor, Smith. Mayor Barnes, R-T Sharp, and all department heads were also present.

Mayor Barnes expressed the purpose of the work session was to have open communication and discussion about the proposed 2026 Budget(s). Mayor Barnes explained the provided packet included the following: General Fund Budget, Hardy Water Works Fund Budget and Hardy Street Fund Budget.

Mayor Barnes offered some good financial news for the city at this time from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC). Mayor Barnes announced two major projects: 1) a Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement project with up to \$1,003,651.50 in a loan with principal forgiveness (grant funding) & a loan up to \$334,550.50; 2) a Metering System Replacement project with up to \$778,865 in a loan with principal forgiveness (grant funding). In total, Mayor Barnes announced that the total “grant amount” to be awarded to the city would be \$1,782,516.50 for the two projects applied for to ANRC. Mayor Barnes congratulated Superintendent Morris on the announcement of the projects and reported that this was just announced on November 19 and that the city would be waiting for the official award notification.

Mayor Barnes directed the council to review each budget individually and addressed each line within the General, Hardy Water Works, and Street budgets one at a time, line by line, comparing and contrasting the 2025 budget(s) to the proposed 2026 budget(s). Discussion involved the following topics: General Fund overall, additional General Revenue suggestions, anticipated annual General Revenues, specific Fire Department Revenues, Library Department expenses, Parks and Recreation Department income and expenses, refund expenditures, propane cost, water utilities, potential Police Department donation income, Police Department fuel expense, vehicle insurance expense, insurance settlement repairs, payroll expenses, purchase of equipment, repair and maintenance expense, Police Department supplies, alderman salaries, publications and subscriptions, postage expense, travel and training, overall revenue projections, franchise tax, miscellaneous expense, Library building maintenance, animal services, Police Department licensees, fees and dues, Police uniforms, HWW-Pump Maintenance, Wastewater audit expense, Water audit expense, Water electricity, Water Meter account, Wastewater fuel expense, Water fuel expense, Wastewater receipts, Street Revenues, Street Fund budget adjustments, outstanding debts and liabilities, City Council and employee earnings, Volunteer Fire Department reimbursements, Hardy Water Works debt retirement, city bank account balances, Sales Tax information, on-going FEMA projects/funding, & city improvements.

Council reviewed the above topics in detail and worked through the 2026 proposed budget(s) line by line. Mayor Barnes thanked council for taking the time to review the budgets and attend the special work session to review in detail the city’s financials.

Mayor Barnes had more good news for the city and reported that there would be a replacement Fire Department Tanker Truck delivered to the Hardy Vol. Fire Department on Church Street on November 25, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. and all are invited to attend and participate in a special truck roll-in ceremony with the department and Chief Moore.

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Mayor Barnes had one more item of good news to offer during the evening. Mayor Barnes presented an executed copy of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the city and the HAPC for a joint project at the Main Street "Pocket Park" property. The City of Hardy and the HAPC have agreed to terms and conditions to construct the area known as the "Pocket Park". Mayor reported that due to the terms of the MOU an additional \$10,000 from the city would be added to the New Construction/Updates expense line under Parks and Recreation in the General Fund Budget to comply with the MOU terms and previously awarded funding from Entergy.

Mayor Barnes concluded the work session and offered that there would be a resolution presented in the December meeting to adopt the 2026 Budget(s).

**Citizen Commentary:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Councilmember Smith made a motion to adjourn the work session. 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 work session was declared adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

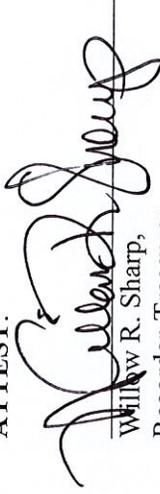
Willow R. Sharp

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December, 2025.

APPROVED:

  
Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Willow R. Sharp,  
Recorder-Treasurer



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