

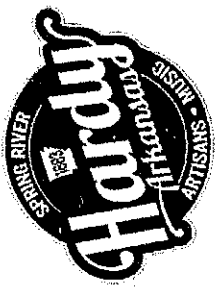
Mayor: Ethan J. Barnes

Recorder-Treasurer: Willow R. Birdsell

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

City Attorney:

City of Hardy, Arkansas



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870-856-3811
www.cityofhardy.org

**Hardy City Council
Regular Business Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2026**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Ethan J. Barnes. Mayor Barnes asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance; the invocation was offered by Councilmember Dr. Tony Berry. R/T Willow Birdsell called the council roll: Berry, Clay-Thomas, Kauffman, Smith and Taylor. Five council members were present. Quorum was established. Mayor Barnes and R-T Birdsell were present as well.

Minutes from the January 29, 2026 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 January 29, 2026 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 Clay-Thomas made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Berry 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: R-T Birdsell offered a report regarding typical bills, 2026 applications for business permits, city sales tax, and noted expenses are in accordance with current time of year.

Fire Department: Chief Josh Moore presented a run report for January 2026 referencing 47 calls for service: 5 fires, 17 medical calls, 14 public services, 5 non-emergency, and 5 law enforcement support.

Police Department: Interim Police Chief Michael Himschoot reported that the Hardy Police Department had a lot of work during the recent winter storm assisting citizens. Also, a motor vehicle accident had occurred in the city that resulted in a fatality. It was reported that this accident was currently under investigation and pending a report from the State Medical Examiner.

Public Works Department: Superintendent Steve Morris reported that the Public Works Department had been busy with quite a few water line breaks after the cold weather spell and a couple minor sewer issues that have been resolved.

Planning and Zoning Commission: No business to report.

Sharp County Regional Airport Commission: Mayor reported the commission met February 4, 2026. Mayor provided there were repairs being made to the big hangar door and the main gate, fuel had been ordered, and the airport's courtesy car had been serviced. Mayor also reported that the taxiway project and the grass runway project had been placed on hold due to the poor weather conditions.

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Tri-County Solid Waste Disposal Authority: Mayor reported the authority met January 21, 2026. Mayor reported that the large material baler had been repaired and that the phone lines at the facility were being switched over to NEXT from the previous provider.

Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC): Chairman Treat reported the Pocket Park was under construction. Chairman Treat also reported the commission held a planning meeting for the year regarding beautification, events, and advertising campaigns for Hardy. Chairman Treat reported that improvements were underway at the Civic Center: installation of sound panels, updated electrical in the concession stand, restroom expansion, and adding gravel to the parking lot area. Chairman Treat provided the commission is hopeful to see the log cabin building in the parking lot moved across the highway due to pest deterioration/damage.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Barnes reported that 2026 was off to a great start for the city. Mayor reported that the city is getting ready for the upcoming tourism season and encouraged everyone to welcome all visitors. Public Works has been repairing multiple water leaks and asked anyone that notices a leak to notify City Hall at 870-856-3811. Mayor reported that FEMA was continuing to work on scopes/costs for the city park locations and is hopeful to be able to provide new information on their assessments in the next 60 days. Mayor Barnes provided that the Fire Department was still searching for a suitable inflatable rescue boat. Councilmember Kauffman inquired about the plans for the City Hall building on Woodland Hills Road that was damaged in the 2025 flood. Mayor reported that there were no visible signs of black mold on the walls and that there are repairs that still need to be completed. Mayor provided that the building was prone to flooding again and that the current location of City Hall on Johnson Street has been a good location in town and had provided easy access for the people.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Mayor Barnes presented discussion for the vacant position on the City Council for Ward 2 Position 1. A motion was made by Councilman Berry to enter executive session—that motion was then withdrawn after a request from the public to read aloud the interested individual's letters of interest. Mayor discussed that the city had sent a notice to the newspaper for publication providing requested information regarding the vacancy; discussion continued recognizing that there had inadvertently been a printing error in the publication regarding the requested time to submit. Mayor provided by the start of the meeting he had received a total of three letters from interested individuals that wished to be considered to the vacant position. Mayor Barnes read aloud each of the three letters of interest from the following individuals: Larry Tyger, Jason Jackson, and Jason Creasey. After the three letters of interest were read aloud, Councilmember Berry made a motion for council to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the vacancy/appointment on city council in Ward 2 for Position 1. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion to enter executive session. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to enter executive session passed. The City Council left the main room and executive session began at 6:44 p.m.

The City Council reconvened from executive session at 7:21 p.m. Councilmember Berry made a motion to appoint Jason Creasey to fill the unexpired term to City Council for Ward 2 Position 1. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion for Jason Creasey to be appointed to City Council for Ward 2 Position 1. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and two were against). Mayor Barnes declared the motion to appoint Jason Creasey to fill the unexpired term to City Council for Ward 2 Position 1 passed. Mayor Barnes administered the oath of office for a Councilmember to Jason Creasey. Jason Creasey took and read aloud the oath of office for Councilmember. Councilmember Creasey joined the meeting table.

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February 23, 2026

Mayor Barnes presented Proclamation 2026-01 Ronald McDonald House Week. Councilmember Smith made a motion to read Proclamation 2026-01. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion to read. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor to read Proclamation 2026-01. Mayor Barnes read Proclamation 2026-01. Councilmember Berry made a motion to approve Proclamation 2026-01. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion to approve Proclamation 2026-01. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to approve Proclamation 2026-01 passed.

Citizen Commentary:

John Treat signed in to speak but rescinded his request at this time.


Adjournment:

Councilmember Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Creasey seconded the motion to adjourn. Mayor called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to adjourn passed. The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Willow R. Birdsell
Recorder-Treasurer

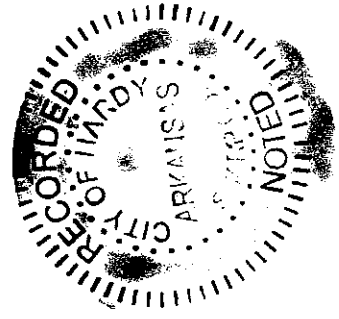
ATTEST:


Willow R. Birdsell
Recorder-Treasurer

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 16th DAY OF March 2026.

APPROVED:


Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor



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