

Mayor:

Ethan J. Barnes

Recorder-Treasurer: Willow R. Sharp

Council Members:

Tony Berry, Amy Clay-Thomas, Ashton Hester, Ginni Kauffman, Sue Taylor, Laura Smith

City Attorney:

City of Hardy, Arkansas



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Hardy City Council

Regular Business Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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. Recorder-Treasurer Willow Birdsell called the council roll: Berry, Clay-Thomas, Hester, Kauffman, Smith and Taylor. Quorum was established with all six councilmembers present. Mayor Barnes and R-T Birdsell were present as well.

Minutes from the April 13, 2026, Regular Business Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Smith and seconded by Councilmember Hester to approve the minutes from the April 13, 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 Kauffman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Smith 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 city financials. R-T Birdsell reported the city's portion of the Pocket Park project in the amount of \$10,000.00 had been met and the HAPC will cover any remaining expenses. R-T Birdsell also reported that Act 671 of 2025 is in effect, mandating training requirements for the Office of the Recorder-Treasurer—R-T Birdsell reported that she would be completing the training on June 23, 2026. R-T Birdsell concluded with discussion of the city's sales tax revenues, expressing hopes of higher revenues in the coming tourism season months ahead.

Fire Department: The HVFD was working on a special project in Loberg Park during the time of the meeting. Mayor Barnes presented the HVFP report due to Chief Moore overseeing the special project. The run report for April 2026 referenced 59 total calls for service: 2 fires, 7 hazardous situations, 24 medical calls, 15 public services, 8 non-emergency, and 3 law enforcement support.

Police Department: Interim Police Chief Michael Himschoot reported that the Hardy Police Department was doing well. He reported that the HPD was preparing for the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend activities. Unfortunately, the HPD reported one fatality accident that involved a motorcycle in the city limits.

Public Works Department: Superintendent Steve Morris reported that the Public Works Department had been very busy. He reported that Public Works had repaired some sewer issues, had a large load of cold mix placed on various roads around the city, had been brush hogging and clearing traffic rights-of-way, and had been working on repairs at the wastewater treatment facility center.

Planning and Zoning Commission: Mayor Barnes reported one permit request was approved at the P & Z meeting earlier in the evening.

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Sharp County Regional Airport Commission: Mayor reported the commission met May 6, 2026, and provided that the airport is continuing work on the taxiway project and the grass runway project. Mayor reported the next meeting is June 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the airport.

Tri-County Solid Waste Disposal Authority: Mayor reported the authority met April 15, 2026. Mayor reported a load of cardboard had been processed and they are exploring replacing the forklift. Mayor reported the next meeting is May 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the recycling center.

Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC): Chairman Treat reported the HAPC had several projects underway: the gravel parking lot at the Civic Center, restroom updates at the Civic Center, and the completion of the King Family Pocket Park. Chairman Treat reported that the King Family Pocket Park Dedication will be held on Independence Day along with the America250 Celebration. Chairman Treat also reported that the mural project restoration should be starting soon. Chairman Treat also reported that the Visit Hardy Arkansas Facebook page had a half million views recently, the Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America on May 6 was successful with many visitors, and later in the month on May 21-23, 2026, the Christian Motorcyclists Association – USA for the Heart of the Ozarks Rally – East will be held at the Civic Center. Chairman Treat provided the HAPC had American themed decorations available for businesses in Hardy to use to celebrate America250, and that there would be multiple musical acts performing throughout the day at the King Family Pocket Park Stage in downtown Hardy. Chairman Treat also reported that the HAPC is continuing to work with the Jackson Family to secure a place for signage regarding the notice of the truck route/downtown traffic route options. Chairman Treat concluded with notice that all dates have been scheduled for Music on Main for 2026.

Mayor's Report: Mayor reported that the city was getting ready for the upcoming tourism season with the Public Works Department working on various roadways and cutting brush back in the rights-of-way. Mayor thanked the HAPC for all the hard work on the King Family Pocket Park project, and for expanding the available parking space at the Civic Center for future larger events in Hardy. Mayor highlighted the success of the Kyle Petty Ride Across America stop in Hardy, the success of the Residential Spring Clean-up, and thanked Waste Connections for their service to the city. Mayor reported that the FUN Park Grant project was currently with the engineers, and he would provide an update when there was more information available. Mayor discussed an update on the FEMA/ADEM projects, providing that the projects were continuing to move forward again with the reopening of DHS. Mayor also reported that the Music on Main Concert Series would be returning on Memorial Day Weekend to Dr. Thompson Park with The Groove Vault on Saturday and The Natural Disasters on Sunday. Mayor Barnes encouraged everyone to attend the music series made possible by the HAPC.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Citizen Commentary:

Mr. Ronnie Black addressed the council regarding the Royalty Reunion function that was to be held at the Hardy Civic Center on May 30. Mr. Black commented that he is a local pastor and was speaking as a concerned parent regarding the event. Mr. Black commented that he did not want this event to occur in Hardy or affect our local children.

Mr. Wesley Wallace addressed the council and commented on our local community and how things have changed in Hardy. Mr. Wallace commented that he too did not agree with the Royalty Reunion function that was to be held in the Hardy Civic Center on May 30.

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Mr. Chris Warner addressed the council regarding public official conduct. Mr. Warner expressed his concerns regarding the HAPC and the conduct of Commissioner John Treat.

Mr. Ralph Lowe addressed the council regarding Memorial Day. Mr. Lowe provided history about Memorial Day and why the day is observed. Mr. Lowe encouraged everyone to visit a cemetery over the holiday and speak aloud the names of the Veterans on their headstones who gave their lives for all Americans to live free.

Dr. Stephanie Crawford addressed the council regarding the vacancy of the City Attorney and requested a response regarding what the city is doing to fill the position. Mayor Barnes provided that the position has been advertised at various times with no local interest. Mayor Barnes also provided that the Municipal League has a legal defense program that provides guidance to Hardy when needed.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion to adjourn. Mayor called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to adjourn the meeting passed. The meeting was declared adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Willow R. Birdsell
Recorder-Treasurer

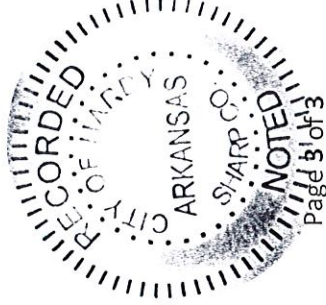
ATTEST:


Willow R. Birdsell
Recorder-Treasurer

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 15th DAY OF June, 2026.

APPROVED:


Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor



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