

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
June 15, 2026**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Mayor Ethan J. Barnes. Mayor Barnes asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance; Councilmember Dr. Tony Berry offered the invocation. Recorder-Treasurer Willow Birdsall called the council roll: Berry, Clay-Thomas, Hester, Kauffman, Smith, and Taylor-excused. Quorum was established with five of six councilmembers present. Mayor Barnes and R-T Birdsall were present as well.

Minutes from the May 11, 2026 Regular Business Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Smith to approve the minutes from the May 11, 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 Smith made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Clay-Thomas 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 Birdsall offered a report regarding city financials. R-T Birdsall reported the city's expenses are in line with the budget. Mayor Barnes added that the city's sales tax revenues were increasing with the summer tourism season beginning.

Fire Department: Captain Jason Creasey presented the HVFD report due to Chief Josh Moore tending to other business this evening. The run report for year-to-date calls were 225 thru the end of May 2026—46 calls ahead of last year's numbers for this time in the year. Captain Creasey offered that the HVFD was consistently busy with all categories of calls for service, as provided in the breakdown of the run report.

Police Department: Interim Police Chief Michael Himschoot reported that the Hardy Police Department had been busy. He reported that the HPD completed an ACIC compliance assessment and passed the first time through. Unfortunately, the HPD responded to a fatal motor vehicle accident in the city recently. IPC Himschoot reported that he had encouraged officers to increase their traffic patrol in the city.

Public Works Department: Mayor Barnes reported that the Public Works Department had been working hard recently brush hogging and clearing traffic rights-of-way, had fixed water leaks, repaired a bench at Thompson Park, sprayed for weeds, and had been working on repairs at the wastewater treatment facility center.

Planning and Zoning Commission: Mayor Barnes reported that there was no P & Z meeting earlier in the evening.

Sharp County Regional Airport Commission: Mayor reported the commission met on June 3, 2026, and provided that the airport was continuing work on the large hanger door and had serviced their fire extinguishers. Mayor also reported the EAA Chapter 1718 would be hosting an airport day on June 20, 2026 with planes on

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City of Hardy, Arkansas
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display, a car show, and invited the public to attend. Mayor also reported that the taxiway project was continuing, and an amateur radio group had requested to install an antenna at CVK.

Tri-County Solid Waste Disposal Authority: Mayor reported the authority met May 20, 2026. Mayor reported that Sharp County would continue with inmate assistance at the recycling center. Mayor reported the next meeting would be held on June 23, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Fulton County Courthouse.

Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC): Chairman Treat reported the HAPC had updated the tax reporting form with new instructions for remitters. He also reported that the gravel parking lot at the Civic Center had been used for multiple events, the restroom updates at the Civic Center were continuing, and the completion of the Kenneth & Mary King Pocket Park was near. Chairman Treat reported that the Kenneth & Mary King Pocket Park Dedication would be held on Independence Day along with the America250 Celebration. Chairman Treat also reported that the mural restoration project should be starting soon. 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 Kenneth & Mary King Pocket Park Stage in downtown Hardy on July 4, 2026. Chairman Treat concluded that all dates had been scheduled for Music on Main for 2026.

Mayor's Report: Mayor reported that the City Hall offices would be closed on Friday, June 19, 2026, to observe the Independence Day Holiday. Mayor highlighted that Music on Main had been a wonderful success so far into the season, and thanked Councilmember Kauffman for her role in helping fill the park with people and musicians. Mayor Barnes encouraged everyone to thank John Norberg and Rob Smith for their ongoing beautification work at Thompson Park. Mayor provided that the FEMA Public Assistance projects were continuing in the processes. Mayor also reported the 2024 Water/Sewer Department audit deadline was in early July (later extended into August) and that he had met with the accounting firm who was preparing the report and assured council it would be submitted in time.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Mayor Barnes presented Proclamation 2026-02 Honoring Scouting America and Kia Kima Scout Reservation. Mayor Barnes shared history of Kia Kima provided by the Hardy History Association. Kia Kima representatives addressed council sharing information of their roles and personal experiences at Kia Kima and of the Hardy community. Councilmember Berry made a motion to read Proclamation 2026-02. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion to read. Mayor Barnes called for voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to read passed. Mayor Barnes read Proclamation 2026-02. Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve Proclamation 2026-02. Councilmember Hester seconded the motion to approve. Mayor Barnes called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and Proclamation 2026-02 passed. Mayor Barnes signed copies of Proclamation 2026-02 for the Kia Kima representation and photos were taken to commemorate the special occasion of celebrating 115 years of scouting since 1910.

Mayor Barnes provided information about America's 250th in Hardy. Mayor offered that on July 4, 2026, there would be the dedication of the new Kenneth and Mary King Pocket Park on Main Street in downtown Hardy. This dedication would also feature America's Ultimate Block Party in Hardy with three musical acts throughout the day, sponsored by the HAPC. HAPC Chairman John Treat invited everyone to attend the Block Party and the dedication of the Kenneth and Mary King Pocket Park. Mayor Barnes presented a letter from Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders along with a special Arkansas Flag to celebrate America's 250th Birthday in Hardy. Mayor displayed the gifted flag to the city and provided that the flag would be flown at Thompson Park after the dedication on July 4.

Mayor Barnes discussed the Police Department under the final item of new business for the evening. Mayor reiterated that the ACIC compliance assessment that was recently completed on the Police Department had great results and that he was proud of the leadership in the HPD for passing the compliance check the first time around. Mayor Barnes discussed with council that Michael Himschoot has been leading the department as Interim Police Chief since June of 2025 and how he has served the City well in this capacity. As a result of good leadership and service to the city since May of 2019, Mayor announced Michael Himschoot as the Chief of Police for the City of Hardy as of June 15, 2026. Mayor Barnes asked council if anyone wanted to make a motion to overturn his decision—no motion was made. The crowd applauded the confirmation, Councilmember Berry provided that this was a good choice. Councilmember Smith thanked Chief Himschoot for his service to the public. Mayor Barnes asked Chief Himschoot to join him at the front of the room and publicly take the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor. Mayor Barnes administrated the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor to Chief Himschoot. Mayor thanked Chief Himschoot for his service to the city and congratulated him on the confirmation.

Citizen Commentary: None

Adjournment:

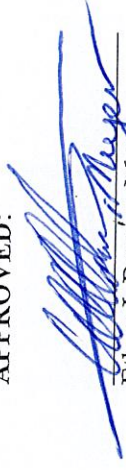
Councilmember Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Kauffman seconded the motion to adjourn. Mayor called for a voice vote—the ayes were in favor and the motion to adjourn the meeting passed. The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Willow R. Birdsell
Recorder-Treasurer

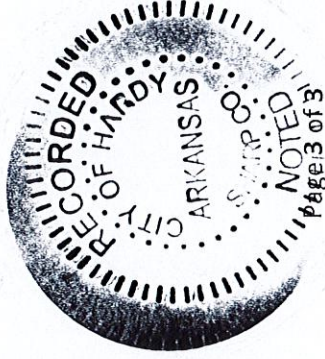
PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF August, 2026.

APPROVED:


Ethan J. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:


Willow R. Birdsell
Recorder-Treasurer



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