

Mayor: Ernie Rose

Recorder/Treasurer: Greg Bess

Alderman: Bob Gilliland, Mathew Coggins

Penny Allen, Bruce Thurow

Sue Taylor, Mark Gordon

City of Hardy, Arkansas

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Regular Meeting, Hardy City Council

March 3, 2020

6:00 o'clock P.M.

Mayor Ernie Rose called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM Tuesday March 3, 2020 at Hardy City Hall and led all present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country. Councilwoman Penny Allen read the invocation. Recorder/Treasurer Greg Bess called the roll and the following council members answered to their names: Bruce Thurow, Mark Gordon, Bobby Gilliland, Penny Allen, and Sue Taylor. Councilman Mathew Coggins was absent. There were 5 of 6 council members present constituting a quorum. City attorney Phillip Smith was also present.

Councilman Thurow made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of February 4th, the working meeting of February 10th, and the special meeting of February 10, 2020 as amended. Councilwoman Gordon seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote:

Vote Yea: Gordon, Thurow, Allen, Gilliland, and Taylor

Absent: Coggins

Vote nay:

The motion to accept the minutes of regular meeting of February 4th, the working meeting of February 10th, and the special meeting of February 10, 2020 as amended was approved with **5 yeas – 0 Nays – 1 Absent**

The published agenda was amended to add a presentation by Ms. Hazel Whited representing the Sharp County Economic Development Research Team and the announcement of the Arkansas Highway Department Grant as well as discussions on the liquor permit and building permit changes.

Ms. Hazel Whited discussed the work being done by the Sharp County Economic Development Research Team and announced that Sharp County had been recently included in the Northeast Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority. She presented an outline of the work being done by the team and to solicit input from the City of Hardy.

REPORTS

Mayor Rose recognized Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC) Secretary Bruce Thurow to provide a report of the HAPC. Mr. Thurow stated that they would be running regional ads with key partners in key publications that highlight the Spring River Area of Mammoth Springs, Cherokee Village and Hardy. He stated there was a Blues Festival planned for the First Saturday in April, May, and June and that the Mission of Hope was to be the benefactor from the festival. Mr. Thurow stated that HAPC is working on updating the Business Directory and that Monica Shepard was working with the commission to produce the document.

R/T Bess stated the agenda packet contained the 2020 January final financials and if the council had

any questions, they could see him. He stated that the City had opened a new bank account with FNBC to begin receiving Credit Card Payments. He stated that the account would be used as a clearing fund account to receive all credit card payments then funds dispersed to Hardy Water, General, and Street funds periodically. Mr. Bess thanked Ms. Shepard for her work to get the credit card processing started in December 2019 and stated the service was launch in February.

Mayor Rose recognized Director Tamara Taylor to discuss the Department of Public Safety Police Report. Chief Taylor stated the car and police cameras are now in service and are running smoothly. Fire Chief Austin Rose provided a report on the Fire Department. He stated that the Fire Department had obtained a Fire Rescue Truck for \$30,000 but that the generator would need to be repaired for approximately \$7,000 prior to being placed in service.

Mayor Rose stated that Billy Gilbreath, Superintendent of Public Works, was not able to attend the meeting, but that he was working the recovery in the sewer plant due to an incident on or around January 19, 2020. He stated they were investigating the source of the problem but felt something liquid had be introduced into the sewer system.

Mayor Rose stated that the work for the round bathroom facility in Loberg Park was proceeding. He stated that work had been slowed due to an issue with the electrician but that he expected the block work to be done by late March. as planned and that the roof had been installed and the dome to complete the roof has been ordered.

Mayor Rose recognized Building Inspector Danny Etel to discuss building status in the City of Hardy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Rose stated that the Arkansas Highway Department State Aid Street Committee had granted the City of Hardy \$300,000 to pave several streets in Hardy. He requested that R/T Bess read the opening paragraph of the grant letter included in the agenda packet.

Mayor Rose recognized attorney Phil Smith to introduce ordinance 2020-2 an ordinance allowing the sale of liquor by the drink in the City of Hardy. Mr. Smith stated that the ordinance allowed the State ABC Board to grant liquor by the drink permits provided the requestor meet all state regulations. Mayor Rose requested that R/T Bess read Ordinance 2020-2. Following the reading of the ordinance, Councilman Gordon made a motion to accept the Ordinance 2020-2 as read in the first reading. Councilman Gilliland seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a roll call vote:

Vote Yes: Gordon, Gilliland, Taylor, Thurow, Allen

Vote Nay:

Absent: Coggins

The motion to approve Ordinance 2020-2 as read in the first public reading was approved with

5 yeas – 0 Nays – 1 Absent

R/T Bess stated that he had nothing to report on the pocket park investigation.

Councilman Mathew Coggins joined the meeting at 6:53PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Rose discussed the need to have the Planning and Zoning Commission meet regularly during 2020. He requested the council meet as the commission next week and then in that meeting plan a meeting schedule. After some discussion it was decided to meet Monday March 9, 2020 at 5:30PM in City Hall.

R/T Bess introduced the Resolution 2020-D a resolution allowing the Mayor to enter into a loan agreement with FNBC bank to acquire a used Rescue Truck. He stated the General Fund Budget of 2020 had allocated the funds for the purchase via a 4 year loan but that this resolution was needed to allow the Mayor to enter into a loan contract per the bank. Mayor Rose requested that R/T Bess read Resolution 2020-D. Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-D as read. Councilman Gilliland seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a roll call vote:

Vote Yes: Gordon, Gilliland, Taylor, Thurow, Coggins, Allen

Vote Nay:

Absent:

The motion to accept the 2018 Legislative Audit Committee report was approved with **6 yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent.**

R/T Bess stated that with the new credit card processing he would be creating a Credit Card Processing Fund to use for credit card processing. He stated that the City was not, at this point, charging for credit card fees. He requested that the city continue without charging and then review status in June or July. Councilman Thurow questioned if A&P funds could be collected by the city in this way. He also stated that RV Park would utilize the service.

Mayor Rose requested that R/T Bess introduce Ordinance 2020-1 an ordinance to restate the fees associated with residential and commercial building permits. Mr. Bess stated that as this was a change to City Planning and Zoning Law, it would require a public meeting with a public notice in the paper prior to voting. Mayor Rose stated that the proposal would be discussed in the P&Z meeting next Monday, but that the public meeting would be planned for 5:30PM April 7th prior to the regular council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were not comments from the public.

ADJOURN

Mayor Rose declared the meeting adjourned at 7: 19 PM. The next regular meeting of the Hardy City Council is scheduled for April 7, 2020 at 6:00PM in Hardy City Hall at 124 Woodland Hills Road in Hardy, Arkansas.

***NOTE:** Following this this meeting, the Corona Virus (CORVID-19) pandemic sweep the country and all public meetings and gatherings were banned. The meetings of April 7th were cancelled, and all*

further public meetings of the city were cancelled until May 1, 2020. City Hall was put on lockdown and all payment and correspondence was handled by mail, city drop box, or via credit card by phone.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Bess, Recorder/Treasurer

PASSED and APPROVED THIS 5th DAY OF May, 2020

APPROVED:


Ernie Rose, Mayor

ATTEST:


Greg Bess, Recorder/Treasurer