

City of Hardy, Arkansas

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Mayor: Ernie Rose
Recorder/Treasurer: Greg Bess
Alderman: Bob Gilliland, Herbert Wise
Penny Allen, Bruce Thurow
Sue Taylor, Mark Gordon

Regular Meeting, Hardy City Council

May 5, 2020
6:00 o'clock P.M.

Mayor Ernie Rose called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM Tuesday May 5, 2020 at the Hardy Civic Center, 301 Main Street, Hardy Arkansas 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. There were 5 of 6 council members present constituting a quorum.

R/T Bess noted that the minutes of May 5, 2020 were available for approval in the Agenda Packet and stated for the record, that there was no meeting in April 2020 due to the quarantine restrictions of the Covid-19 Corona Virus. Councilman Gordon made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of May 5th as amended. Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote:

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

Absent:

Vote nay:

The motion to accept the minutes as amended of regular meeting of May 5th was approved with **5 yeas – 0 Nays – Absent**

REPORTS

Mayor Rose recognized Hardy Advertising and Promotion Commission (HAPC) Secretary Bruce Thurow to provide a report of the HAPC. Mr. Thurow stated there was no report due to meeting cancellations with the Covid-19 pandemic.

R/T Bess stated the agenda packet contained draft financials through March including a year over year comparison of 2019 – 2020. He stated that as of yet the city was not seeing any pandemic impacts but that the data was very preliminary. He stated that his expectations the city may see as much as a 25% reduction in revenue. He stated that the Mayor has the authority to NOT spend money such that spending reductions can be accomplished immediately at his direction to his department heads. He stated that the city's recent efforts to accept credit card payments had been very timely given the distancing and quarantine restrictions in the state.

Mayor Rose recognized Public Safety Director Tamara Taylor to discuss the Police activities. Fire Chief Austin Rose provided a report on the Fire Department. He stated that the Fire Department had completed the repairs on the new Fire Rescue Truck, but the cost was higher than expected. After some discussion, Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve \$13,000 be added to vehicle maintenance line item in the 2020 budget for Public Safety using funds from Act 833 funding to cover

the cost of repairs. Councilman Gilliland seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a roll call vote:

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

Vote Nay:

Absent:

The motion to approve \$13,000 be added to vehicle maintenance line item of the 2020 budget for Public Safety using funds from Act 833 to cover the cost of repairs was approved with **5 yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent.**

Chief Rose stated that the Fire section would start putting company logo's on fire vehicles to recognize those that provide funds or products to the department. He then stated that the HVAC for the Church Street Fire Station was no longer working and found to be unfixable. He presented the council with quotes from several vendors to replace the equipment. After some discussion, Councilwoman Thurow made a motion to approve \$3,500 for new HVAC at the Fire House to the Repair/Maintenance Buildings line item using funds from the Fire Capital Improvement Reserve Checking Account.

Mayor Rose called for a roll call vote:

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

Vote Nay:

Absent:

The motion to approve \$3,500 for new HVAC at the Fire House to the Repair/Maintenance Buildings line item using funds from the Fire Capital Improvement Reserve Checking Account was approved with **5 yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent.**

Superintendent Gilbreath stated that the parks were being reopened and he had nothing further to report at this time. The Building Inspector was not present and will report next meeting.

Councilman Thurow made a motion to accept Councilman Matthew Coggins resignation from City Council. Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote:

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

Vote Nay:

Absent:

The motion to accept Councilman Matthew Coggins resignation from City Council was approved with **5 yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent.**

R/T Bess stated for the record that Mr. Coggins had presented his letter of resignation dated March 8th to the Mayor at the Hardy Planning and Zoning Meeting of March 10th. His letter stated that his last day of service would be March 24th. Following receipt of that letter, Mayor Rose requested that an ad requesting solicitations to fill that vacancy be placed in our publication of record. Mr. Bess stated that an ad was run in the Spring River Chronicle and the Villager Journal for two consecutive weeks prior to this May 5th meeting.

Mayor Rose stated that to qualify for the council position, the person had to be a citizen of Hardy living in Ward Two Position Two. He stated that he had had Mr. Herbert Wise request to be considered. An open request was made to the public at large to determine if anyone else in the

audience wished to be considered for the position. Following some discussion of Mr. Wise's qualifications, Councilman Gilliland made a motion to place Mr. Herbert Wise on the Hardy City Council representing Ward 2 Position 2. Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a roll call vote:

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

Vote Nay:

Absent:

The motion place Mr. Herbert Wise on the Hardy City Council representing Ward 2 Position 2. Councilwoman Allen seconded the motion was approved with **5 yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent**.

Following the vote, Mayor Rose administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Wise and he was seated at the council table to begin his serve.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Rose requested that R/T Bess read ordinance 2020-2 an ordinance allowing the sale of liquor by the drink in the City of Hardy. Following the reading of the ordinance, Councilman Gilliland made a motion to accept the second reading of Ordinance 2020-2 as read. Councilman Gordon seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a roll call vote:

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

Vote Nay:

Absent:

The motion to approve Ordinance 2020-2 as read in the second public reading was approved with **6 yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent**

R/T Bess stated that he had placed the minutes of the Planning and Zoning meeting of March 10th in the agenda packet for commission review and that he expected to get those minutes approved at the next scheduled P&Z meeting in June.

NEW BUSINESS

R/T Bess presented a letter to council dated May 5, 2020 documenting a list of the documents that the office of Recorder/Treasurer wished to retire and dispose of per state law. He read the letter and discussed the process to determine the items being requested destroyed. Following some discussion, Councilman Gilliland made a motion to approve the retirement and destruction of documents as presented. Councilman Gordon seconded the motion. Mayor Rose called for a voice vote:

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

Vote Nay:

Absent:

The motion to approve the retirement and destruction of documents as presented was approved with **6 yeas – 0 Nays – 0 Absent**

R/T Bess stated that the 2019 General Fund, A&P and Street Records had been picked up by Legislative Audit and are under annual audit review. He stated that he had not delivered the records for the Hardy Water Works and was awaiting until the Legislative Audit was a bit further along as

some of the records concerning the Water Tank construction of 2019 were also subject to their audit review.

R/T Bess suggested that the Mayor address his efforts to control spending in lieu of a budget change with anticipated revenue loss due to social distancing. Mayor Rose stated that he had requested that all discretionary spending be approved by him and that he has stopped any overtime work and non-essential activities until such time as we can assess the impact due to Covid-19.

Mayor Rose opened a discussion from the floor concerning how to conduct a virtual meeting if needed in the future. Following discussion, it was decided to continue to conduct the meetings in person using distancing and mask guidelines at the Civic Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Pat Black addressed the council concerning several events at the RV camper park. He stated that participants were observing strict social distancing protocols.

ADJOURN

Mayor Rose declared the meeting adjourned at 7: 16 PM. The next regular meeting of the Hardy City Council is scheduled for June 2, 2020 at 6:00PM in Hardy Civic Center (Observing Covid-19 Distancing Guidelines), 301 E. Main in Hardy, Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Bess, Recorder/Treasurer

PASSED and APPROVED THIS 2nd DAY OF June, 2020

APPROVED:


Ernie Rose, Mayor

ATTEST:



Greg Bess, Recorder/Treasurer

