Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

March 22, 2022

Harlowton City Hall

6:00PM

**Minutes:** Minutes from the March 22, 2022 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Updates on Previous Meeting Agenda Points:** Committee member Jack Runner asked if the street section of the Big Timber “Rules and Regulations” handbook had been completed. It looked like they had gone through chapter 18 of the handbook and stopped. The Committee discussed sidewalk repair and property owner responsibility. Discussion took place regarding the sidewalk in front of the Wesleyan Church and issues with repair. The Committee discussed the cost of repairs as well as rental of equipment to do repairs. There were concerns with the necessary specifications for the repairs. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that it was hard to uphold owner responsibility for sidewalk repair when the City themselves did not keep up on this for their own sidewalks. The Committee agreed that the street section of the Big Timber “Rules and Regulations” handbook would be discussed at the next meeting on April 12th 2022.

**New Business:**  The Committee continued their discussion of the revised the decay ordinance. City Attorney Karen Hammel had taken into consideration community member Dane Elwood’s letter. A few minor additions had been made to the document since the March 8th meeting. Karen was not currently at the meeting to discuss these changes. The committee decided to take a few minutes to read the new document. Pages 4 and 5 had the additions from Dane’s letter. Committee chair Frank Brouillette asked if the wording “property owner” should have been changed to “responsible party”. Committee member Allison Jones stated that page 5 added lines regarding lessee versus owner and who would be notified. Discussion took place regarding who’s responsible-- the property owner or lessee.

At this time Karen arrived for the meeting. She went through the changes that had been added. On page 4 the suggestion of allowing non-resident property owner to make complaints had been added. Page 5 included making the complaint public. The document must be signed and also include the address. Karen stated that this is public information.

Discussion took place regarding public suggestion of not using the name of the person filing the complaint to prevent issues between neighbors. Different scenarios of retribution were discussed.

Karen stated that the “responsible party” would have to be the property owner. It would be up to the property owner to follow up with who was really responsible, not the City.

Discussion took place regarding a specific residence in town that was currently violating trash collection and heath codes.

The committee discussed whether another public comment meeting would be necessary. Karen stated that it would not be necessary. The committee would like to present the document to the Council at the 4/12/2022 meeting. Karen stated that it would not be for a 1st reading. It would be just to let Council know that they were ready to present the document for a 1st reading. The document legal advertisement would go into the Times-Clarion for two weeks. The first reading would take place at the April 26, 2022 meeting. If no issues were found, the 2nd reading would take place at the 5/10/2022 meeting with the ordinance going into effect 30 days after approval. Karen would have an ordinance format of the document ready by Friday, April 8th.

Discussion took place regarding the Chamber’s city-wide yard sale and the City’s “clean up days”. The committee wanted the ordinance to go into effect prior to these events to give people time to start cleaning up. It was decided that over the summer people would have plenty of time to get their houses/yards in order.

Jack asked Karen if she had had a chance to go talk to Sheriff Misner about the dog ordinances. She stated that she had not yet done so.

**Items on the next Meeting’s agenda:**

The street section of the Big Timber Rules and Regulations book

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Committee Members present: Frank Brouillette, Jack Runner, Allison Jones

Committee Members absent: none

City: Paul Otten, Lara Brisco, Karen Hammel (arrived at 6:18pm), Bob Schuchard

Sheriff’s Office: none

Public Present: none

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Frank Brouillette, Ordinance Chairman Lara Brisco, City Clerk-Treasurer