Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

November 9, 2021

Harlowton City Hall

6:00PM

**Minutes:** Minutes from the October 26, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment:** Committee member Jack Runner stated that the Sheriff’s office had asked if the City has an ordinance prohibiting overnight stays at the parking lot by the playground at Chief Joseph Park. He stated that there were people loitering after bars closed in order to sober up. Committee Chair Frank Brouillette stated that there was no ordinance in place regarding this issue. Mayor Paul Otten stated that perhaps the Sheriff’s Department needed to patrol the area more often at these times. Frank stated that if they don’t park there, they will find somewhere else to park. He also stated that if they were somehow breaking the law, the Sheriff’s Department shouldn’t need an ordinance to cite them. Frank stated that perhaps public feedback on issues such as this would be helpful. The Committee discussed the issue of ordinances not being upheld by the Sheriff’s office. Jack stated that he would discuss this with the Sheriff’s office.

**Business:**

1) Discussion took place regarding the existing Decay Ordinances and what parts are not “enforceable”. The Committee discussed whether it just needed some tweaking of the language to include the format of “Whereas”. The Committee discussed whether or not the ordinance could be enforceable if the wording format changed. The Committee discussed asking City Attorney Karen Hammel to make a list of what needed to be changed to the original ordinance in order to make it enforceable. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco stated that she would ask the listserv what the decay ordinance format in other Cities/Towns looked like.

2) The Committee discussed what would be needed in order to move forward with the Fire Pit Ordinance and presenting it to the Council for a first reading. Jack stated that the Committee was waiting to hear back from Karen regarding the language of what a definition of “burn barrel” was. Lara stated that she would look back in the minutes and see where the Committee left off in the conversation. She would try to get this information from Karen for the next meeting.

The Committee discussed setting up a special Public Comment meeting with the community regarding issues of long-term RV/vehicle parking on City streets and issues with snow plowing. The meeting would also discuss the issue of stray cats and what the community’s ideas were for solving these issues.

Items on the next Meeting’s agenda include:
Continued discussion of the Decay Ordinance

Continued discussion of the extended RV parking on residential streets.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

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

Committee Members absent: none

City: Paul Otten, Lara Brisco, Bob Schuchard

Sheriff’s Office: none

Public Present: none

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Frank Brouillette , Committee Chair Lara Brisco, City Clerk-Treasurer