

Harlowton City Council Minutes
April 12, 2016
Harlowton Public Library Conference Room

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held April 12, 2016 at 7:00pm opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the March 22, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Jeff Sell reported that there are three leases that are not due in 2015. He will have the remainder of the non-commercial leases reviewed and ready to post in the newspaper for public bids soon.

There were no committee reports.

Joel Pilcher of Great West Engineering facilitated the public hearing on phase IV of the city's water project. The purpose of the hearing was to inform the public of the City's proposed phase IV water project improvement plan and to obtain the public's opinion on it. The phase IV water improvement project consists of replacing approximately 3,850 feet of cast iron water distribution pipe. If funds allow, an additional 1,100 feet of pipe would also be replaced. With obtaining the maximum funding described it would increase monthly water rates by \$3.12 per month. Joel described the city's intent to apply for the following grants and loans: Treasure State Endowment Program; Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Renewable Resources; State Revolving Fund; and Community Development Block Grant. Council member Bryan Tomlinson questioned the rate increase of \$3.12. It was clarified that this was an increase in the water base rate only. If maximum funding isn't received the rate increase would be recalculated. City resident Joe Brouillette asked if the potential contamination in the proposed work area could improve the possibilities of obtaining grants. It is thought that it will play a factor in some lending/granting agencies' decisions. Mayor Jeff Sell asked "what could the city do to get our funding package to score better with the DNRC?" Joel explained that wastewater projects tend to rank better than water distribution projects. Also DNRC funding is dependent upon the legislature's decisions and for our phase III project, funding had been decreased so the city did not qualify for DNRC funds. Mayor Jeff Sell also asked about restoring the streets that will be disturbed in phase IV to their prior condition and if the funds were in the budget to do so. Joel Pilcher indicated it was in the budget as a portion of phase IV will be along 2nd St NW which is the highway through town. Council member John Anderson asked if there was a way the MT Department of Transportation could pay for the fixing of the highway after construction. Joel indicated that they would be contacting the MT Department of Transportation to have a conversation about this. Joel Pilcher indicated that public support of the project is very important. Letters from the community in support would be very helpful. The environmental review process was discussed. No comments of significant impact had been received so it had been determined that an environmental impact statement is not necessary.

Resolution 2016-09 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE PHASE IV WATER PROJECT was presented. Ron Teig made the motion to accept resolution 2016-09. Bryan Tomlinson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2016-10 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, TO ADOPT THE FINAL PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT AND ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDED FUNDING SCENARIO FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS was presented. Jim Kalitowski made the motion to accept resolution 2016-10. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2016-11 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, TO AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION RENEWABLE RESOURCE (DNRC-RRGL) GRANT APPLICATION was presented. Ron Teig made the motion to accept resolution 2016-11. Paul Otten seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2016-12 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, ACCEPTING THE FINDINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DETERMINING THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS was presented. Bryan Tomlinson made the motion to accept resolution 2016-12. Bob Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The second reading of ORDINANCE 1-2016 – ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF HARLOWTON REPEALING SECTION 9.28.010 OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON MUNICIPAL CODES ALLOWING FOR THE SALE OF FIREWORKS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS was presented. Ron Teig made the motion to accept the second reading. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Decay ordinance complaints were discussed. Four new reports were submitted to appropriate ward council members for review.

Information from NorthWestern Energy regarding a natural gas franchise was provided. Per city attorney Jon Hesse the requested update to the franchise will have to be in ordinance form.

Jeff Sell reported on the process the city went through to get the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan and 504 complaint procedures in place. Bryan Tomlinson made the motion to accept the ADA Transition plan as presented and to approve the 504 complaint procedures as written. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Sell presented resolution 2016-08 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, DECLARING CERTAIN UNUSED ITEMS AS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT. Discussion on how to proceed with the sale of items ensued. All item on the list were of minimal value so it was decided that a “silent auction” type of sale would be sufficient and appropriate. Ron Teig made the motion to accept resolution 2016-08. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian Reed reported that the city crew had been patching streets. The playground fall protection will be delivered this week and stored at the city shop. Black chain link fencing was previously chosen to surround the playground area. The city is still in need of approximately 150 yards of top soil for the playground area. The council appreciated the location of the street mirror that was placed at the intersection of 2nd Street NW and Central Avenue. Ian reported that NorthWestern Energy now has an area on their website for reporting street lights that aren't working.

Ian, Bob and Jeff inspected the asphalt on portions of D Avenue NE, C Avenue NE and A Avenue NE/SE. The city crew will try to mill up and roll the portions of D Avenue and C Avenue; however, a long term plan will need to be implemented to redo A Avenue from 2nd St NW south. Jeff suggested a 10 year bond could possibly make sense to replace A Avenue rather than continuing to try to patch it. Ian reported that it costs approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000 per block to re-asphalt a road.

Jeff reported that he will provide the council with a proposal on updating the Street Maintenance district and light district rates.

Bryan Tomlinson commented that the electrical update plan for the RV area in Chief Joseph Park had been completed. Lauri Teig will be obtaining quotes on the work and searching for grant money for the project.

The next city council meeting will be held on April 26, 2016 at 7:00pm in the city hall.

Ron Teig made a motion to pay the bills, checks #20271-20294 from the March 19, 2016 through April 8, 2016 claims. Paul Otten seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 in favor. Bryan Tomlinson abstained from approving claim 14629.

Meeting Adjourned 8:06 pm.

Council Members Present:

John Anderson, Bob Jones, Jim Kalitowski, Paul Otten, Ron Teig, Bryan Tomlinson

Employees Present:

Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk