

Harlowton City Council Minutes
February 14, 2017
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held February 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

Joe Brouillette wondered if the city was doing something about the water situation at R Snyder property. Jeff informed him that a letter was going out to Snyder.

Three members of the Harlowton Boy Scouts along with Amy Tupker presented their request to get permission to move the old "Harlowton Chamber of Commerce" sign that is located at the rodeo grounds to an area that won't interfere with the rodeo fence once it gets rebuilt. The troop has gotten permission from the chamber of commerce. The area that they wish to move it to would be city property. Plans for the new sign were presented. All expenses are to be borne by the Boy Scout troop. Bryan made the motion to allow the new sign to be moved to city property. Paul seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Further discussion on the urban deer hunt was held. Council consensus is to not proceed with an urban deer hunt at this time.

Jeff Sell has appointed Gwen Begger to the Harlowton City library board as Dane Elwood had submitted his resignation in December.

Jeff Sell asked John Anderson about the library hours. The original request from the library was to be closed on Thursday mornings in order for the staff to have uninterrupted work time to finish the re-entering of the library books into their bar code system. As that project is now completed the city is requesting that the library be open again on Thursday mornings. John Anderson will bring it to the next library board meeting.

Jeff Sell gave the council an update on the city's "Utility Share" program. \$1,250.00 of private donations have been received for the program. Jeff would like information about this program to go to the public with the next utility bills. HRDC district VI has received grant funds for a similar project and Harlowton, along with Lewistown and Roundup, will be pilot sights for their program. Jeff and Kathie will be meeting with HRDC VI staff on Wednesday 2/15/17 to discuss that program.

Great West Engineering has requested that the city start with the project design for the phase IV water project prior to final grant approval from TSEP. Bob Jones made the motion that if Great West will be responsible for all costs for the project design of the phase IV water project in the event of not securing TSEP funding, for the city to proceed with an early start. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Sell updated the council on the meeting that was held with DEQ regarding the city's sewer lagoon permit issues. The lagoon permit had expired in 2014. The city had pointed out that more stringent DEQ requirements necessary to obtain a new permit would put undue stress and financial hardship on the city.

After meeting with the DEQ it seems that the requirements will be more manageable. The city will need to get an updated engineering report from Peccia and Associate to comply with the DEQ requirements. The time limit now seems to be approximately 2026 to complete this.

The city received a letter from attorney Hesse regarding updating the city's codes and ordinances. He has provided a list of what he feels needs immediate review. He will be providing an additional list of ordinances/codes that the city will be able to repeal. As part of Hesse's letter he stated that upon review, he does not think that it is going to require as much work as he initially thought to clean up the code book. Kathie will proceed with reviewing and starting the process of cleaning up the codes and ordinances.

Ian reported that there have been considerable amount of frozen sewer and water lines with a few breaks. The cold winter has been causing some problems. The west end well is operational but there still needs some electrical work done and a fail-safe to be installed. The pump had gotten burned up but not the motor. The pump was placed 50 feet deeper this time. There has been complaints of water in the basements of buildings located on Central Avenue. A water leak locator came in two times. One small leak was found but it is not the cause of the water in the basements. At this time the city cannot find any leaking water mains or sewers. Ian has been monitoring the water pumping and no additional output – which would indicate a leak – has been noted.

Jeff explained that the state fuel tax increase of .08 has bipartisan support in the legislature at this time. Ian testified at the legislative session in support of the city's phase IV water project TSEP grant. Ron and Lauri Teig testified at the legislative session in support of the Roundhouse DEQ grant.

Lauri Teig, Wheatland County Chamber of Commerce, reported that a grant from the Department of Tourism has been awarded in the amount of \$40,666 for the electrical work in Chief Joseph Park along with a bicycle aid station. The city will need to match \$20,333. The total estimated project costs were \$61,000.00. The plan is to proceed with the project as soon as weather permits. Additional grants are being applied for for the matching funds.

Jeff read a letter from Mandie Reed, MSU Wheatland County Extension agent, stating that the Fish Wildlife and Parks grant contract for the playground project has been officially approved and a contract will be arriving next week. That grant was for \$24,000.00 and the city is to have \$24,000 in matching funds for that grant.

The Wheatland County Chamber of Commerce and the Harlowton Boy Scouts troop will be doing a fundraiser on Saint Patrick's day to benefit the park as well.

The next city council meeting will be held on February 28, 2017 at 7:00pm in the city hall.

Bryan Tomlinson made the motion to approve prior reviewed and accepted claims dated from December 10, 2016 through January 20, 2017. These claims had been previously approved by at least four council members and the mayor. This was due to cancelled council meetings. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bryan Tomlinson made a motion to pay the claims, checks #20774-20795 from January 21, 2017 through February 10, 2017. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff presented an invoice for \$1,000.00 from the MT DNRC regarding the flood plain mapping that was done. Council approved entering into claims for next council meeting approval.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Council Members Present:

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

Employee Present:

Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk