

Harlowton City Council Minutes
March 14, 2017
Harlowton City Hall

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

There was no public comment.

John Anderson had not attended the last library board meeting so re-opening the library on Thursday mornings has not been discussed with the rest of the library board yet.

Jeff Sell reported on a meeting with HRDC regarding their program to assist LIAP eligible residents with a one-time benefit (payment) on city water/sewer bills. That program will only benefit renters whose bill is still in their name not the landlords. There were only 17 identified as eligible within Harlowton city limits. The City of Harlowton's Utility Share program has \$1758.92. Letters will go out with the next month utility bills to explain the program and ask for donations.

Kathie Newland reported on the ordinance update. John Hesse has provided a list of ordinances that need to be repealed. Those will be worked on first. David Jones requested he be notified of those being repealed. Jeff Sell requested that David Jones provide the city with a list of recommended changes from the Sheriff's office.

Kathrine Parks, representing the Wheatland County Centennial Committee, requested the city to install buntings on Central Avenue for the centennial celebration. Jeff informed her that as all the buildings are privately owned it would be up to the individual owners to give permission and install the buntings. The city's bucket truck cannot reach over the power lines in order to install on building fronts. The centennial committee would like to hang banners on the poles on central but need to know the size of the banners. Jeff informed her that was an item on the agenda for later in the meeting. The centennial committee is requesting Central Avenue to be closed from the E57B train engine south to 1st St NE on July 3, 2017 from 1:00-3:00pm and July 4, 2017 from 8:00am to 4:00pm for celebration events. Council approved closure. David Jones indicated he did not think there would be a problem with it. The City will provide barricades. Ron Teig will assist in putting them up at required times.

Robert Snyder, owner of 16 N Central requested to have until August 30, 2017 to install his own service line and to have the past bill he owes the city written off. The past bill was due to a city clerical issue. Discussion ensued. Bob Jones made the motion to allow Robert Snyder until August 30 to get his service line installed and if completed by the dead line the city would write off the past due amount. Further discussion was held. Bob Jones amended his motion to allow Robert Snyder until August 1 to get his service line installed and if completed by the dead line the city would write off 100% of the past due bill. Paul Otten seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Sell requested to do further research on annexing certain city owned properties and other properties that currently have city water and/or sewer service yet are not annexed into the city limits. Council approved Jeff's request.

Jeff Sell presented information to the council regarding placing a cap on the employer portion of the city employees' health insurance premiums. Bob Schuchard requested that employees be included in the discussions and decision. No decision was to be made, Jeff Sell was only presenting information.

Ian Reed presented information on brackets to hang banners on the poles on Central Avenue. The cost is \$153 per pole and there are 24 poles total on Central Avenue. There are 16 poles on the four blocks of Central from 3rd Street N to 1st St S. Ron Teig made the motion to purchase brackets for 30" x 60" banners for four blocks of Central Avenue. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The 2nd quarter FY 2017 financial statements were presented. Jeff Sell reviewed the cash report with the council.

Ian reported that he and Bob had attended the Rural Waters meeting. It appears there will be new lead and copper laws soon. Jeff P took his final test last week for his required licenses. The Pritchard well is functional but not on line. They are still waiting for water test results and some additional electrical work to be done. The flushing hydrant for that well is also leaking. Ian attended a Snowy Mountain Development Committee meeting. Biegels Bar was conditionally signed over to the city pending funding for clean-up. It would appear that funds for such projects are not currently available. There was also a project that Lewistown was piloting regarding housing weatherization and upgrades which will now only be funded at a county level rather than a city level.

John Anderson commended the city crew on their efforts of dealing with recent heavy snows.

Jeff Sell reported that Bair Family Foundation and a Callant Family Foundation grants have been applied for. The funding will be for pool repairs, park electrical upgrades and a few other items.

Jeff met with the Wheatland County Commissioners regarding upkeep of the rodeo grounds. The city will do mowing, weed whacking, inspecting after events and light clean up (garbage) duty. The county will pay \$500 per month up to 5 months for the service with the provision that after a couple months they can review the charge to make sure it is covering the city's expenses.

The city's auditors will be performing their audit starting March 15, 2017. Jeff will be out of town Friday March 17 so he asked for council members to be available for the exit interview. Ron Teig volunteered.

Jeff reminded the council he will be out of the country from March 17 through March 26, 2017.

Jeff reminded the three council members that are up for re-election this year that the filing date opens April 6 and the deadline is sometime early June. Jeff reminded the council that his term as mayor is also up on December 2017. He will not be running for mayor again.

Lauri Teig mentioned that Tetra Tech would be doing additional water monitoring at the Chevron site again.

The next city council meeting will be held on March 28, 2017 at 7:00pm in the city hall. City Clean-Up dates will be discussed.

Bob Jones made the motion to approve prior reviewed and accepted claims dated from February 11, 2017 through February 24, 2017, checks #20800-20814. These claims had been previously approved by at least four council members and the mayor. This was due to the cancelled council meeting. Paul Otten seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ron Teig made a motion to pay the claims, checks #20815-20836 from February 25, 2017 through March 10, 2017. Bob Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Roundhouse clean-up is not quite completed. Pioneer expects the project to re-start soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Council Members Present:

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

Council Member Absent:

Bryan Tomlinson

Employee Present:

Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk