

Harlowton City Council Minutes
September 12, 2017
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held September 12, 2017 opened at 7:06 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the August 22, 2017 council meeting were approved as written.

Deputy Andrew Graydanus updated the council on the current Blacktail fire in the Crazy Mountains. He asked that everyone remind people that the roads to the area are closed to the general public. There are no evacuation orders in place.

Tiffany Lyden of the DNRC did a presentation on the updated draft floodplain mapping. Also in attendance were Traci Sears and Sterling Sundheim both of DNRC. Current floodplain mapping is from 1981. There are significant changes proposed for areas along Antelope Creek and parts of Harlowton's "Tucker town". Most of these changes are due to having to use data from a 1950's flood along Antelope creek. There is a repeal process involving public review and property owner review for the draft plans. Wheatland County floodplain manager – Paige Dringman will be hosting meetings for the review process. Final floodplain mapping would not be finalized until early 2019. The changes in the floodplain mapping could affect property owners who have federally backed loans. This included mortgages, refinancing, reverse mortgages and the like. Flood insurance would be required for those in the floodplain, which could be costly to the owner.

Ian Reed presented a proposal on behalf of Mandie Reed for placing 8 banners for National 4-H Week on the Central Avenue poles. Banners would be provided by 4-H and they are requesting them to be on the poles by October 1 and remain up until the Christmas decorations go up. The current Wheatland Centennial banners would be spread out over the remaining banner hangers rather than being taken down. This was approved by council consensus.

Resident Joe Brouillette requested to be on the agenda to discuss the issue at the Marino Building with Robert Snyder (see council minutes dated March 14, 2017). Joe was not in attendance at this time. Council discussed that Robert Snyder had not completed the service line work by the deadline given to him (August 1, 2017) and to date the work was still not completed. A letter will be sent to Robert Snyder informing him he needs to get the sidewalk fixed, pay his outstanding past due bill and get the service line installed.

Council discussed the current city attorney situation. Jeff Sell informed the council that Karen Hammel had visited with both the city clerk/treasurer and the city judge and has agreed to give a proposal to the council on becoming the city attorney. She would finish the remainder of the calendar year at the current hourly rate that was given to Jon Hesse and would submit a two-year contract that would include a small hourly rate increase. Paul Otten made the motion to proceed with getting an attorney contract from Karen Hammel. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Deputy Graydanus asked that when a new contract is finalized the sheriff's office would like to also visit with Karen. Jeff Sell will contact Hesse to inform him of the council's decision as well as Hemmel to get a new contract submitted.

Jeff Sell read a letter of protest from residents Ron and Merrilee Swickard regarding Resolution 2017-03 RESOLUTION LEVYING ASSESSMENT OF COSTS OF MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL

POWER FOR HARLOWTON STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT TO DEFRAID THE COSTS. Their letter asked about ownership of lights – private yard lights vs. city street lights – and who was paying for them. NWEnergy cannot provide a list of private yard lights, but a count of street lights had been done previously by a resident and was found to be close to the count that NWEnergy bills the city for. As these issues were addressed and resolved in the past, council felt there was truly no protest. Council member Bryan Tomlinson commented that a resident had contact him as well with similar concerns. Jeff Sell read resolution 2017-03. Bob Jones made the motion to accept resolution 2017-03 as read. Paul Otten seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Bryan Tomlinson asked that research be done on getting grants to update the street lights to LED technology.

Resolution 2017-05 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 was read. Ron Teig made the motion to accept resolution 2017-05 as read. Bryan Tomlinson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resident Joe Brouillette arrived at the council meeting. Jeff informed Joe of what the council had discussed earlier. Ian asked Joe if there was some way from Joe’s side of the building to shut the water off. Ian and Joe will get together to discuss options.

Ian reported that a new electric service had been placed in the park to allow for a sprinkler system to be installed at the new playground area. It will also allow for lights in the pavilion. The city crew has been trimming and removing trees. They have removed approximately 12 of the 50 that have been marked for removal. Street patching has been progressing as well. A new water valve was placed by the post office in order to isolate the line and locate the potential leak. This will allow the crew to shut off just that area rather than three blocks of Central Avenue. Ian reported that the Snowy Mountain Development Corporation has their updated 2017 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy completed. Clerk, Kathie Newland will provide the electronic link to council members and printed copy to any that would like it. Roundup with their coal mine issues, and Petroleum County with their possible shut-down, are currently drawing the most attention from SMDC. Council questioned if the pool had been winterized yet. Ian and Jeff commented that they hadn’t been able to talk to Kay Bornong yet. Ian reported that the gas was shut off and the boiler shut down; but wasn’t sure of the rest of the winterizing.

Bryan Tomlinson made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21091-21116 from August 19, 2017 through September 8, 2017. Paul Otten seconded the motion. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Council Members Present:
Bob Jones, Paul Otten, Ron Teig, Bryan Tomlinson

Council Members Absent:
John Anderson, Jim Kalitowski

Employee Present:
Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk