

Harlowton City Council Minutes
January 9, 2018
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held January 9, 2018 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the December 12, 2017 council meeting were approved as written.

Robert Snyder addressed the council requesting they reconsider their decision to not forgive his past due bill which was decided on at the December 12, 2017 council meeting. Robert explained that the delay was due to the hired plumber being injured and not being able to do the job in a timely fashion. Mayor Paul Otten pointed out that Robert Snyder had from March of 2017 through August 1, 2017 to get the water line issue completed and that was ample time. Further discussion ensued. Council decided to allow Robert Snyder to pay \$50.00 per month on the outstanding balance of \$886.48 until paid. This is in addition to keeping the monthly utility bill current. Clerk, Kathie Newland will get the payment arrangement paperwork out to Robert Snyder.

There was no further public comment.

John Anderson reported that the library had not had a meeting recently.

Resident Rob Elwood has expressed an interest in the vacant ward 1 position. Pursuant to MCA 7-4-4112 the council has 30 days to fill the vacant position. There has been no interest shown by other residents of ward 1. Council will vote to appoint Rob Elwood at the next city council meeting on January 23, 2018.

Discussion about allowing absent council members to participate in council meeting via electronic means was held. Kathie explained that as long as the member on the phone is connected the whole time and participate in the whole meeting there are no issues with allowing this. A resolution covering this issue will be drawn up and presented at the next council meeting.

Council member Charley Bennett submitted a letter requesting permission to be out of town for more than ten consecutive days (pursuant to MCA 7-4-411(5)). Paul explained that Charley was willing to return to Harlowton if there was need as long as he had adequate notice to arrange flights/travel, etc. Ron Teig asked when Charley would be returning to Harlowton. Charley responded around April 1, 2018. Frank Brouillette made the motion to accept Charley Bennet's request to be absent from the city for more than ten consecutive days. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (Charley Bennet abstained vote).

Paul Otten asked for any public comment regarding the city's application to FWP Recreational Trails Program 2018 grant. There was no public comment regarding this grant.

Lauri Teig gave the council an update on the grant writing process. Paul Otten commented that John Lammers had recently contacted the city regarding renewing his lease. Lammers' lease expired in 2016 and at that time he did not renew the lease. City council decided at that time, as Lammers had not renewed his lease, that the property would no longer be available to lease and the existing rail trail could be extended west by approximately 2 miles as grant funding allowed.

Sarah Edney requested that a GoFundMe and PayPal account be set up to accept donations for the rejuvenation of the Harlowton Skateboard Park. Kathie explained that a GoFundMe account costs somewhere around 7% of

the money received and that the remaining donations get transferred to a PayPal account. Those funds could then go directly into the city's restricted savings account. The "campaign organizer" would never have access to the money. Discussion ensued. Council decided that donations for this purpose will be accepted directly at the city hall and there will not be a GoFundMe nor a PayPal account set up at this time. This request could be reconsidered again once a more organized approach to the fund raising is set up, Paul suggested in approximately three months.

The Triangle Communications Right-of-way easement presented by Jason Castillon at the December 12, 2017 council meeting, was discussed. City attorney, Karen Hammel has reviewed the agreement and had no comments or corrections. Ian Reed requested that the last paragraph "*Grantor further agrees that (he)(she)(they) will not situate, locate, build or construct any buildings, structures, or other improvements in, on, over, under or across the Permanent Easement, without the prior written approval of TTC.*" be changed. He will contact Jason directly to see what changes can be made.

Paul reminded the council about the January 23, 2018 public hearing on the Lagoon PER; the February 6, 2018 floodplain meeting; and the February 20, 2018 elected officials training.

Ian Reed reported that with the phase 4 water project funding being undecided it was unclear how the lagoon project would proceed. The lagoon project so far involves de-sludging cell one of the lagoon and a UV disinfection system. Robert Peccia and Associates (RPA) are completing the preliminary engineering report (PER) which identifies the needed work. Snow plowing and repairing equipment has been consuming the crew's time. The street budget will need to be looked at closely to see how the funding is. Ron Teig commended the crew on the excellent job they have been doing. The lift station was recently cleaned. That is a project that should be done every three years or so. PACE did the work.

Next council meeting will be January 23, 2018.

Ron Teig made a motion to approve prior reviewed and accepted claims, checks #21242-21281 from December 9, 2017 through December 22, 2017. These claims had been previously approved by at least four council members and the mayor. This was due to not having a second council meeting in December. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion to accept previously paid claims passed unanimously.

John Anderson made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21282-21297 from December 23, 2017 through January 5, 2018. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Council Members Present:

John Anderson, Frank Brouillette, Jim Kalitowski, Ron Teig, Charley Bennett (via telephone)

Employees Present:

Ian Reed

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk