

Harlowton City Council Minutes
June 12, 2018
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held June 12, 2018 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the May 22, 2018 council meeting were approved as written.

Dane Elwood requested his public comment to be held at the end of the meeting as it felt the conversation would be quite lengthy.

Joe Brouillette also requested his public comment be held at the end of the meeting for the same reason.

Brianne Davis voiced concern about the Harlowton swimming pool's financial status. She informed the council that a group of concerned parents were going to be doing some fund raising events to benefit the pool. She also expressed concern regarding the pool not opening until late June, being closed on Sunday and Monday, and that there may only be one session of swimming lessons rather than two as in the recent past. Paul Otten commented that there is a lot of clean-up work left to do at the pool and that there are some paint issues with the bottom of the pool that need to be resolved before the pool can be filled. Brianne asked if volunteers could assist with the clean-up process. Charley Bennett asked if a pressure washer could be used on the stainless steel part of the pool. Kathie commented that if a pressure washer is used, due to MT labor laws, only people 18 years old or more could do that work. Brianne hoped that with there being 6 lifeguards on staff that being open on Monday's could be considered.

There was no update on the urban deer hunt.

There was no report on the library.

Paul reported for the street and alley committee. He commented that he and Ian are working on specifications for sidewalk construction requirements. The DOT standards are very detailed and perhaps too much for standard city sidewalks. Charley Bennett asked about the new sidewalk being installed on A Ave SW by Christianson Construction and why did the sidewalk not go all the way to the park steps (steps that lead from A Ave SW to the Chief Joseph Park). As Ian was not in attendance it is not known why. Questions arose about the C Ave sidewalk construction from a few years ago. Those were built with DOT specifications as partial funding came from CTEP. After sidewalk specifications are clarified, Paul will speak with Mr. Gentry about his request for guidance in installing the sidewalk in front of his home.

Holly Lode did not attend the council meeting to discuss chickens in city limits.

Susan Beley presented a draft Wheatland County Wind Impact grant application in benefit of the Harlowton Swimming Pool. Jim Kalitowski asked her to put a heading on the grant application. Susan commented that she will be getting letters of support from children who use the pool and submitting those with the grant application. John asked if there has to be matching funds for the wind impact grants. Susan replied no. Charley asked if this was an ongoing annual grant. Susan replied no. City resident in attendance, Dane Elwood, asked if 60% of the attendance at the pool is city residents, it would seem fair that the county should provide for 40% of the expenses. Susan commented that the city could request more from the county

or possibly a mill request. John Anderson made the motion to allow Susan Beley to write the Wheatland County Wind Impact grant application on behalf of the City of Harlowton. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Paul Otten presented the Firehall agreement. Paul, Ian and Kathie had attended the June 6th commissioner meeting and presented them with a draft agreement. The commissioners were all in favor. Charley Bennett made the motion to accept the firehall agreement with Wheatland County. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Extended public comment period: Joe Brouillette had concerns about there being so many council meeting cancellations during 2017. He cited the attendance of the council members and was concerned that some of them had missed even more meetings and yet were still paid the flat \$800 per year. Paul explained that some of the meeting were cancelled due to lack of agenda items. Joe wondered why the council was not working on the ordinances as those have been a concern for a long time. Paul explained that the city needs guidance from the city attorney and as of yet we have not gotten that guidance. Paul told Joe, the council would take his concerns under advice for the future.

Dane Elwood had concerns about the procedure used during a complaint regarding the city's decay ordinance. He had received a notice on one of his rental properties and was concerned that a proper investigation, notification and follow-up were not used as defined by the ordinance. He also had a concern that the notice was sent to him and not the renter and felt there needed to be an appeal process built into the ordinance. Dane would like to see a specified process in place and followed. Dane agreed to speak with his renter about the decay issue. Ron Teig made the motion to withdraw the notice sent to Dane. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Charley Bennett asked about the complaint against Todd Keller for overgrown grass/weeds in his yard. Kathie informed him that Jill (Todd's wife) had been talked to about the issue.

John asked about the damage caused by the city plowing on a constituent's driveway. Paul requested John to contact Ian to give him the details.

Charley Bennett asked when the Chief Joseph Park was going to be open again. Paul commented as soon as it was dry and safe to use the roads.

Ian was not in attendance to provide a report.

Next council meeting will be June 26, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton Public Library. The public hearing regarding street maintenance and street light assessments will be at 6:00pm prior to the council meeting.

Frank Brouillette questioned purchasing flowers from non-local vendors. Kathie said she would discuss this with Gay McIntyre. Charley made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21452-21492 from May 19, 2018 through June 8, 2018. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Council Members Present:
John Anderson, Charley Bennett, Frank Brouillette,
Jim Kalitowski, Ron Teig

Council Members Absent:
Rob Elwood

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk