

A public hearing held June 26, 2018, for the purpose of discussing proposed Resolution 2018-06 and Resolution 2018-07 with intent to raise city assessments for street lighting and street maintenance opened at 6:00pm.

Mayor Paul Otten read proposed resolution 2018-06 A RESOLUTION LEVYING ASSESSMENT OF COSTS OF MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL POWER FOR HARLOWTON STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT TO DEFRAY THE COSTS. Resident Susan Beley asked what the expected revenue would be with raising the rates to \$62.00. Kathie said there are currently 531 properties that would be assessed. Susan said that would be about \$32,922 in revenue per year. Resident Dane Elwood asked about the resolution stating both residential and commercial property. Paul confirmed that is what the resolution states. The rate increase would be \$20.00, from \$42 to \$62 per property. Susan Beley asked about the Christmas lights being on for all hours and a long time during the seasons. It was explained those lights are separately metered and are not part of the street lighting district. The city is still trying to obtain contracts from NWEnergy so identify specifically the lights that are in our lighting district. Charley Bennett asked if there was any word on converting to LED lights. Paul had not heard back from NWEnergy on this. There was no further discussion on this proposed resolution.

Paul read proposed resolution 2018-07 A RESOLUTION LEVYING ASSESSMENT OF COSTS OF MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT FOR HARLOWTON STREET MAINTENANCE DISTRICT TO DEFRAY THE COSTS. Dane Elwood asked about the resolution stating equal per lot. Paul stated the resolution states equal assessment option. Frank Brouillette stated the rate increase would be from \$48 to \$90. Paul explained that the city hopes to be collecting enough revenue to start paving portions of the city's streets. Susan Beley asked what is defined as a street. Ron and Frank both indicated it depends on the street in question. Dane was wondering who gets to decide the need for street repair. Ian stated the street and ally committee would discuss the needs. Rob indicated the street and alley committee would provide direction as there are many variables to consider in the decision. Some considerations would be if the street could be patched versus completely rebuilding and the traffic flow on the questioned street. Susan asked if the plan was then to start gathering the assessed fees so that a loan could be taken out to do larger sections at a time. Paul indicated that was what the city was considering. Ian also commented that if the timing of a street improvement / paving was coordinated with when an asphalt contractor was in the area for other projects (such as water main replacements) the costs could be significantly lower per block. Dane questioned where the money would be borrowed from for such projects. Ian indicated that the state fund would be one option. Dane commented that the Credit Union also has funds available to borrow. Joe Brouillette asked if the money would go to the general fund for snow removal. Rob commented that this increase is intended for street improvement purposes and he would not be in support of using it for snow removal. Rob would support being aggressive about street maintenance and improvement if the assessment rates increased. Joe questioned where would the money for snow removal come from if it was another bad snow year. Rob suggested that if the snow removal budget is expended in a year then the city needs to consider altering what gets plowed. Susan Beley

suggested that in years past during excessive snow, the city did not plow as thoroughly as it did this last season. She suggested that perhaps the city should stop plowing so much. Rob continued with the street and ally committee will prioritize the order of repairs as this could be an emotional issue for residents. Some streets are in really rough shape. Charley asked if streets could be just repaved or would some have to be rebuilt. Ian indicated it would have to be a case by case basis with professional input – the asphalt contractors are usually educated and experienced with this. Ian discussed that Central Avenue is a street in fairly good condition and it has been chip sealed regularly. The gutter/dip going across Central by the Oasis Bar is quite large and rough. Ian mentioned that freezing/thawing causes quite a bit of damage. Jim Kalitowski asked about D Avenue. Ian indicated that streets that had been torn up during water main projects would probably be able to be fixed with water main project money rather than street maintenance money. Charley asked about placing millings on the streets. Ian indicated again that this would depend on the street and its usage.

Dan Edwards asked when the proposed increased would show up on taxpayers statements. Kathie indicated that if the resolutions to increase assessments passed, the increases would show up on the city tax payers' next property tax statement in November.

The vote to approve, amend, or decline the resolutions will be presented at the July 10, 2018 regularly scheduled Harlowton City Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.

Council Members Present: John Anderson (arrived 6:28), Charley Bennett, Frank Brouillette, Rob Elwood, Jim Kalitowski, Ron Teig

Employees Present: Ian Reed

Residents Present: Susan Beley, Dane Elwood, Joe Brouillette, Dan Edwards

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk