

Harlowton City Council Minutes
November 13, 2018
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held November 13, 2018 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the October 23, 2018 council meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Paul Otten informed the council that the city has not heard anything further from the MT Department of Transportation (Zach Kirkemo) regarding changing the speed limits on highway 12. Rob Elwood reported that he has the equipment now to set up his camera system at the coffee shop window to do our own internal research on speeding.

Karen Hammel reported that she has a resolution prepared for annexation of the “industrial park lots” but needs the legal description and survey information to proceed. There will need to be a notice to the public and current leasees about the process. John Anderson asked if it was in our ordinances that property needed to be annexed prior to utility connection. Ian stated that it is not an ordinance but has been city policy for quite a few years.

John Anderson reported that the library board had gotten together to review the draft agreement that was submitted to them for the library. Library representation will get together with Paul and Kathie to discuss changes.

There was nothing to report for the street and alley committee.

Rob Elwood reported for the Ordinance Committee. The committee met immediately prior to the council meeting. The committee is recommending that codes suggested to be repealed without further review be repealed (1.04.030, 1.04.040, 1.04.050, 1.04.080, 1.04.090, 1.04.100, 1.12, 2.36, 2.38, 3.08, 5.36). A first reading of ordinances to repeal without further review will be ready for the November 27, 2018 council meeting. Next ordinances for review are ordinances related to dogs, speed limit and parking.

Barking dog issues on the agenda had been covered during the ordinance committee meeting.

Charley Bennett had asked for input via FaceBook on residents possibly interested in storing unused RVs, trailers, boats, etc. on city industrial lots during winter months in order to keep the streets more cleared off and easier for city staff to plow. Most responses were in favor if the situation if prices were appropriate. Discussion ensued. Council asked Karen Hammel to draft a contract to be used between the city and people using the lots to include: season would be November 1 through May 1, \$25 for the season with penalties if not removed by due date, no living in any vehicles stored down there, vehicles must be licensed and insured. Karen was asked to have a draft ready by the next council meeting.

Paul discussed the purchase of a new truck for the city crew to use. At last council meeting it was discussed and council had decided to wait for a while. However, the quote that Ian received for

approximately 34% off the regular price is only valid until November 26, 2018. Charley Bennett made the motion to proceed with purchasing a Dodge four door, 4-wheel drive, ½ ton pick for \$30,200.00 Rob Elwood seconded the motion. Charley Bennett, Jim Kalitowski, Rob Elwood, Frank Brouillette voted in favor. John Anderson opposed.

Resolution 2018-10 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 was discussed. Jim asked for clarification on the hours currently being worked in the city and library for both Kathie and Debbie Davis. He also asked about the general office assistant listed in the resolution. It was explained that the city does have someone who will come in to cover emergencies, but with the schedule that has been worked out, that person should seldom be needed. Kathie is budgeted for up to 40 hours per week but tries to work around 32, while Debbie continues to be full time with 16 hours at the city and 24 hours at the library. These hours were figured into the budget that was approved in August. Questions also arose regarding how these wages were set. A 3% increase was given to everyone except Kathie who negotiated a higher rate increase. Kathie explained that some cities use pay scales combined with job performance and cost of living increases. John Anderson made the motion to approve Resolution 2018-10 as written. Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian reported that the culvert by Hillcrest had been cleaned up to 40 feet and camera-ed. It is flowing again however not sufficiently enough. The smaller collapsed side will be replaced and the larger diameter culvert will be lined so only a portion of the road will have to be dug up. The park culvert that Ron Teig pointed out at the last council meeting is also collapsed. Ian has not fully inspected the situation yet. Water line parts are in for the rerouting around the playground but staff have not started the project yet. The Musselshell River Assessment Team (RAT) will be in the area to review the river wash out issues pertaining to the railroad right-of-way west of town and in the proposed wetlands project area. They deal with the whole river so the issues identified in Harlowton are comparatively minor. Charley Bennett asked if boulders could be used to help with these areas. Ian indicated that process would need a permit and to get boulders to that area would require building a turn-around for trucks or the trucks would have to back the whole way in. Jim Kalitowski mentioned he had seen the street sweeper had been out cleaning streets.

Paul reported that the city has submitted the pre-application for the Rural Development Community Facilities Grant to hopefully get funding to help pay for the library roof replacement. Paul attended the Upper Musselshell Conservation District meeting. Frank Hutton and Sam Griffith are currently the urban representatives on that board. Their terms expire December 31, 2018 and Paul plans to reappoint them to that board. Paul reminded the council that the MT Main Street-Rural Partners lunch will be on Friday November 16, 2018 at noon at the Loco Creek Grill. The meeting will start at 1:30 in the Harlowton Public Library Conference room. The council was asked if they had any points they would like to discuss regarding the MT Main Street program. Rob Elwood elaborated on the condition of MT Highway 12 west of Harlowton and how its disrepair is dangerous and detrimental to tourist and residents alike.

Next council meeting will be November 27, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall. First reading of ordinances referred to by the Ordinance Committee, resolution for annexation of industrial park lots and a draft “winter parking agreement” will be presented at the next council meeting.

John Anderson had questions regarding the street light and street maintenance assessments. It was explained that more properties would get assessed this year as an accurate listing had been provided to the city by the MT Department of Revenue and the council had approved the equal assessment method on all commercial and residential properties.

Frank Brouillette asked about claims for library snacks. It was explained that the library provides snacks for the children after school and those are paid for by the library's funds.

Frank Brouillette made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21680- 21705 from October 20, 2018 through November 9, 2018. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Council Members Present: John Anderson, Charley Bennett, Frank Brouillette, Rob Elwood, Jim Kalitowski

Council Members Absent: Ron Teig

Employees Present: Ian Reed

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk