

Harlowton City Council Minutes
February 12, 2019
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, led by council president Rob Elwood, held February 12, 2019 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the January 22, 2019 council meeting were approved as written.

Mayor Paul Otten was not in attendance as he was in Helena for the MMIA Executive Forum and legislative luncheon.

There was no public comment.

As Mayor Otten was not present, there was no update on the MT DoT Speed Limit change request. Kathie updated the council that a response had been received from Zach Kirkemo but a rebuttal had not been prepared yet.

There was no library committee report.

Rob Elwood reported for the Ordinance Committee. The committee met immediately prior to the council meeting. The second reading of Ordinance 1-2019 pertaining to regulation and control of dogs will be read at the February 26, 2019 council meeting. There have been a few community comments regarding the “stiffness” of the penalties associated with this ordinance. The ordinance committee continues to work on Title 10 pertaining to traffic regulation and parking.

Sealed bids for the surplus equipment (Resolution 2019-01) were open. One was received from Paxton Wojtowick (Wojtowoick Motors) for the Chevy pickup \$100.00 was bid, for the Ford pickup \$50.00 was bid. As both bids were acceptable to Ian Reed, Frank Brouillette made the motion to accept Paxton Wojtowick’s bid of \$100.00 for the Chevy pickup and \$50.00 for the Ford pickup. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed 4 ayes, Rob Elwood abstained as he was running the meeting.

The ordinance regarding snow removal was not presented but discussion regarding how this ordinance would be written up ensued. Karen Hammel advised that portions of the proposed snow removal guidelines be put into ordinance while other portions are just information for the community to be aware of. She will draft an ordinance to address this.

The Wheatland County Chamber of Commerce has asked the city to set the dates for the City Wide Clean-Up. John Anderson made the motion to have the Harlowton City Wide Clean-Up days on May 17-May 18, 2019. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed 4 ayes, Rob Elwood abstained as he was running the meeting. Discussion regarding the prices to be charged for clean-up days ensued. John Anderson made the motion to keep the clean-up day prices

the same as 2018. Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 ayes, Rob Elwood abstained as he was running the meeting.

Two claims for Leadership 44/53 offered through MSU Wheatland County Extension were not included in the claims for the period. Council was asked if there were any objections to the city paying for Frank Brouillette and Paul Otten to attend this training. There were no objections from the council.

Ian reported that he and Bob Schuchard would be attending MT Rural Waters Conference on February 20-22, 2019 barring any major snow events.

The MT DoT has provided the city with a copy of a contract signed by former mayor Jeff Sell and former clerk-treasurer Jayme Colby in 2014 that states the city is responsible for snow removal on the sidewalks that abut the highway through town. Discussion ensued about getting abutting properties to keep the sidewalk cleared as many students walk along this route to get to school. Council asked that the city crew do their best effort to get these sidewalks cleared through the 2019 winter. The new snow removal ordinance that Karen Hammel is preparing will address the situation.

Ian has received an estimate to asphalt three blocks of A Ave SW/NW (from the highway south to the end of the street) from Precision Paving out of Lewistown. The quote to do the asphalt project all at once was for \$95,200.00. This would be for 2/3rds of the street as 1/3 of the street had been relayed during the recent water main upgrade. Precision Paving also recommended dealing with curb and gutters on the west side of the street. Without curb and gutter the asphalt will fail much quicker. A very rough estimate of \$25,000.00 for curb and gutter on the west side of these three blocks was given. Also the company could do sidewalk repair. Ian asked the council to consider options for all of these projects as our current ordinances do not clearly lay out who is responsible for all of the costs – the abutting property owner or the city.

John Anderson asked how testifying at the legislature for the city's projects went for Ian and Paul. Ian indicated he thought all of the bills had passed. Rob Elwood indicated he has listened to the testimony on line and thought Ian did a very good job. Ian informed the council that Lauri Teig testified for the roundhouse clean-up project on February 4, 2019 and had also done a very nice job.

Next council meeting will be February 26, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall. Snow removal ordinance will be presented. Discussion about A Avenue SW/NW paving, sidewalks and curb and gutter will be held.

Rob asked if the council had read the Billings Gazette newspaper editorial regarding Northwestern Energy and the City of Billings discussions about LED street lights and the class action lawsuit against Northwestern Energy regarding their improper methods of accounting regarding street lights. Rob Elwood will provide Karen Hammel with the article so she can research if the City of Harlowton needs to be part of a claim against Northwestern Energy regarding the same type of situation. Kathie informed the council that a map of Harlowton's street lights has been provided by Northwestern Energy so we can finally see if our monthly street light bill matches up with the number of lights on the map.

Jim Kalitowski made a motion to pay the claims and to include the two additional claims pertaining the Leadership 44/53, checks #21811- 21837, from January 19, 2019 through February 8, 2019. John

Anderson seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. Motion passed 4 ayes, Rob Elwood abstained as he was running the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Council Members Present: John Anderson, Charley Bennett (via phone), Frank Brouillette, Rob Elwood, Jim Kalitowski

Council Members Absent: Ron Teig

Employees Present: Ian Reed

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk

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