

Harlowton City Council Minutes
April 23, 2019
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held April 23, 2019 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the April 9, 2019 council meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

There was no library report.

Rob Elwood reported that the first reading of ordinance 2-2019 regarding snow removal would be held at this meeting. Resolution 2019-03 regarding snow removal guidelines will also be presented.

Jessica McKeever asked information regarding bonuses for lifeguards in the form of purchasing their high school activity tickets. Kathie Newland explained to her the Montana wage laws regarding employee bonuses. Jessica reported that she hopes to have the pool fully staffed with lifeguards and that pool preparation for the season will begin soon. Ian reported that he had purchased door lock sets for the pool that will all be keyed the same. The pool cover is still on and the pool has not yet been pumped out.

Drew Galahan from the Harlowton Music Project was not able to attend the meeting but provided information regarding requesting street closures and variance to the open container codes for the three summer music festival dates for 2019. Charley Bennett made the motion to allow street closure for Central Avenue from First Street N to First Street S and to allow open-container alcohol in the same area for June 22, 2019, August 10, 2019 and September 7, 2019. Rob Elwood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

First reading of Ordinance 2-2019 ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, AMENDING CHAPTER 9.16 OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON MUNICIPAL CODES CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS, TO ADD SECTIONS TO ADDRESS PARKING ON CITY STREETS WHEN SNOW ACCUMULATION EXCEEDS TWO INCHES, TO PROVIDE FOR PERIODIC RESOLUTIONS BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR SNOW REMOVAL GUIDELINES, AND TO PROHIBIT THE PLACEMENT OF SNOW OR ICE ON PUBLIC STREETS AND OTHER PLACES was performed. One correction to the first reading of the ordinance was noted. Page 2 under section 9.16.070 (1) was changed to read "CENTRAL AVENUE: Only parallel parking is allowed between Third Street N and Second Street SE". Discussion regarding how elderly or fixed income residents would comply with the ordinance was held. Ordinance committee members feel that neighbors, youth and other residents will assist those in need. Charley Bennett asked about RVs/trailers being parked on the streets and causing snow plowing issues. Paul informed him if the vehicles were legally licensed then the city cannot force owners to not park on the street. Rob Elwood made the motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2-2019 as corrected. Charley Bennett seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2019-03 A RESOLUTION APPROVING SNOW REMOVAL AND SANDING GUIDELINES WITHIN THE CITY OF HARLOWTON was read. Two corrections to the resolution were noted. Priority Order (4) was changed to read “Central Avenue from Third Street N to Second Street SE. (Windrowed)” and Special Considerations: (1) was changed to read “CENTRAL AVENUE: Please Parallel Park between Third Street N and Second Street SE”. Rob Elwood made the motion to pass Resolution 2019-03 with the two corrections noted. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathie presented the results from the 2019 audit RFP scoring done at the last council meeting. Council consensus was to award the 2019 audit services to Tripp and Associates based on the scores.

Kathie presented the third quarter fiscal year 2019 financial statements.

Rob Elwood asked about the progress of checking the city street lights against the map that had been provided by NWEnergy. Paul informed the council that he was still confirming the locations and wattages of the lights. Rob discussed how it may be important to get this information confirmed and proceed with negotiations with NWEnergy as NWEnergy is again under scrutiny regarding their billing practices for street lights.

Ian reported that the culvert on 4th St NE (south of Hillcrest school) was installed but the culvert has become dislodged due to heavy rain/water issues. He is unsure at this time how they will go about fixing it.

A meeting on April 22, 2019 with Fish Wildlife and Parks, Upper Musselshell Conservation District and other various attendees was held to discuss the city’s involvement in the rail bed breach west of town (near the Klock ranch). Upon inspection it was noted that there is very little water going north through the breach and that the majority of flooding issues on the north side of the rail bed is due to a broken headgate operated by both John Lammers and Harry Klock. A two year permit has been granted to the city to do repair work to the rail bed and allow for a cut over back to the river east of the current breach area to allow potential flood waters to return to the river. The MT FWP representative indicated he didn’t see any flooding danger to town due to this minor rail bed breach. Ian recommends that the city budget accordingly so this project can be taken care of quickly. Charley Bennett asked if the county was going to assist with costs as this river issue affects county residents as much if not more than city residents. Paul had spoken with Wheatland County Commissioner Adam Jones who was in attendance at the meeting and requested that support be provided by the county. Ian indicated that this situation doesn’t affect public health, is not a mitigation effort and therefore finding grant funding will be difficult.

Rob Elwood mentioned that the pavement on Highway 12 where the water main break happened has gotten pretty bad. Ian indicated that supplies had come in for the temporary repair but he will need council members to flag while the patch is made. It will only be patched as this area will be getting redone with the phase 4 water project.

Proper paper work has been completed so the new city pickup will be getting picked up in Bozeman either Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

Paul informed the council that there is available education for elected officials on May 7-9, 2019 at the Montana Municipal Institute held in conjunction with the Clerk Institute. If any of the council members were wanting to attend they were to get in contact with Kathie to get registered.

Next council meeting will be May 14, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall. Ian requested paving of A Avenue be on the agenda.

Frank Brouillette made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21911-#21926, from April 6, 2019 through April 19, 2019. Charley Bennett seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

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

Council Member Absent: John Anderson, Ron Teig

Employees Present: Ian Reed, Jesica McKeever (left after her report)

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk