

Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes
May 14, 2019
Harlowton City Hall
6:00pm

Rob Elwood called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Minutes of the April 23, 2019 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Rob Elwood presented a draft copy of Chapter 8.04 pertaining to domestic livestock in city limits. Discussion on definition of domestic versus non-domestic livestock took place. The definition of domestic livestock will be included in the ordinance. There will be no “grandfathering” in on this ordinance, but the public can request a variance to the ordinance from the council; at which point the council can approve or deny the variance request. Rob will discuss commercial bee operations with local residents who currently are involved in such activity. Attorney Karen Hammel will work on an official draft of this ordinance to be presented at the next ordinance committee meeting.

Discussion regarding the city’s current sewer regulation ordinances was held. Kathie indicated that the list of ordinances handed out contained section 7.31 and 7.38 which are not in the official code book at city hall. The sections were included in the table of contents as former attorney Jon Hesse had provided copies of them. Karen Hammel will check her copy of the ordinances/code book to see if these sections need to be repealed. Kathie clarified that sewer rates are set by resolution and are not stipulated in the ordinance itself. Ian would like variable rates based on the sewer system impact to be implemented. For example, RV dumps and rest areas would have a higher rate based on the concentration of waste dumped into the system. Kathie indicated that with the lagoon upgrade happening this year, the city would be required to update their rate structure so changes to the resolution for rates could happen at that time. Discussion regarding requiring residents to connect to the sewer system was held. Currently Chapter 7.16 requires connection to the system within 90 days but this has not been enforced as far as anyone knew. A variance for staying on a private septic system will need to be requested by the homeowner, but the provision will remain in the ordinance. It was discussed to not allow grandfathering as it is really hard to monitor who was grandfathered in during the ordinance process.

Section 7.16.020 pertaining to ordinance #83 will be repealed.

Cost to apply for sewer connection was discussed. Ian indicated that he thought the charge was a base of \$800.00 while Kathie indicated that the office staff tell anyone wishing to connect to the system that they need to talk to Ian for an exact quote.

Kathie will do research into changes required for section 7.040.110 Note 1 pertaining to when shut-offs are done.

Discussion regarding Tucker Town Sewer District was held. It was explained that users in Tucker Town are charged the base sewer rate plus \$2.00; however they use their own water wells and are not metered. Ian felt this was unfair to certain residents within city limits that are

charged for their sewer based on water usage. Further research will need to be done on sewer districts and why Tucker Town Sewer District is being administered by the city rather than the county or district itself.

Kathie asked Karen if an ordinance specifically applying to the variance process is needed or is it covered in a Montana law. Karen will check into the process.

No further review took place.

Next ordinance committee meeting will be June 11, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall. A draft ordinance regarding domestic livestock will be reviewed. Continued discussion on traffic ordinances and sewer ordinances will be held. Second reading of ordinance 2-2019 regarding snow and ice removal will be held at the June 11, 2019 regular city council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Committee Members Present: Frank Brouillette, Rob Elwood

City: Paul Otten, Ian Reed, Kathie Newland, Karen Hammel

Sheriff's Office:

Public Present: Ivy Bacon

Other Council Present: John Anderson (6:35), Charley Bennett (6:30), Jim Kalitowski (6:50), Ron Teig (6:40)

Rob Elwood, Committee Chair

Kathie Newland, Clerk