

Harlowton City Council Minutes
July 11, 2019
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held July 9, 2019 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the June 25, 2019 council meeting were approved as written.

Resolution 2019-07 regarding cancellation of the roundhouse lease was discussed. Attorney Karen Hammel had previously recommended to the mayor that this resolution be passed. The city has not yet received a final report from TetraTech regarding asbestos contamination but the lab results from CA Labs were received on July 8, 2019. There were no motions to accept resolution 2019-07 so the resolution was tabled once again.

There was no library report.

Frank Brouillette reported that the ordinance committee meeting from earlier that evening had been cancelled.

There was no pool report.

There was no tree board report.

Ron Teig reported that the wetlands rail trail third phase of clean-up is still on hold until the land dries up more.

As there was no ordinance committee meeting prior to the council meeting, the first readings of ordinances 3-2019 and 4-2019 did not take place. Paul recommended that when possible, multiple ordinances of similar topics should be passed at the same time to help reduce the costs of posting the required notices in the newspaper.

Ian reported that he, Paul, and Kathie would be having a meeting with Robert Peccia and Associates on July 10, 2019 at 10:00am to discuss the upcoming sewer/lagoon project. Ian expects this project to go to bid in February 2020.

Ian reported that an environmental review regarding the CDBG funds for the water project were holding up the phase 4 bidding process. After discussions with Great West Engineering, the city will bid out the water project in two sections. Section A being the main project along the highway and side streets, while section B will be the work on Central Avenue. The CDBG funds will be for section B and will be bid out at a later date.

Ian reported that there is an issue with the control panel at the Pritchard Well. An electrician will come to figure out what is going on. Until it is fixed the well will not be in use, but as there is not a lot of water demand in the city right now there shouldn't be any concerns.

Charley Bennett reported that he had discussed the benches on the corner of Central and Division (at MidMontana Insurance-Jodi Tierney) with former owner Tom Hayden. Tom indicated that he had those

benches put in a long time ago. Council consensus is to allow Jodi Tierney to have those benches removed if she wishes.

John Anderson asked about the A Place/A Ave SE water main project. Ian indicated he had talked with Great West Engineering and they will start working on engineering the replacement of the water line. Julie Woodard indicated that the Jim Burrows (105 A Ave SE) house had sold to Keeley Wrzesinski. Mr. Wrzesinski is aware that if the city replaces the water main, whether it is on A Ave SE or on A Place, he is responsible for the cost to connect to the water main.

Paul reminded the council that the third (and last) yearly 3% increase in the water rates will go into effect for the July 2019 bills.

There was no update on the status of the Biegel's Bar being bought by a private resident or given to the city. Paul will contact Steve Olson to get an answer.

Travis Schuchard has submitted a request to cancel his lease at the old lagoon. Ian has requested that the lease be re-written to include clear language regarding no blocking the gate or cattle guard so the city crew has uninhibited access to the property. Ian also suggested looking into a "seasonal" lease of the property rather than year-round lease. The lease will be re-written prior to being released for bid.

At this time Mayor Paul Otten closed the regular council meeting (7:30pm) to discuss litigation strategy regarding the potential breach of contract with Peters Inc.

The regular council meeting was reopened at 7:43 pm.

Next council meeting will be July 23, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall.

John Anderson asked about tree planting expenses in the claims. Ian explained that those expense will be paid with Tree Grant funds. John also asked about the detail on the Central Lumber invoice (claim 17112). Ian explained that 800' of line is weed trimmer line.

Frank Brouillette made a motion to pay the claims, checks #22014-22038, from June 22, 2019 through July 5, 2019. Ron Teig seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Council Members Present: John Anderson, Charley Bennett, Frank Brouillette, Jim Kalitowski (arrived 7:40), Ron Teig

Council Members Absent: Rob Elwood

Employees Present: Ian Reed

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk