

Harlowton City Council Minutes
October 22, 2019
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held October 22, 2019 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the October 8, 2019 council meeting were approved as written. Minutes of the October 8, 2019 closed session were approved as written.

Charley Bennett needed clarification on the financial information Kathie provided to him regarding the pool savings account. Information provided was savings money still available to spend whether donor restricted or available for general spending. Kathie informed Charley if he wanted the information on where the Wind Impact Grant money was spent, she had provided all of those details to Jesica McKeever and he should get with her to go over the details.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Otten updated the council on Biegel's Bar ownership transfer. Paul has continued to try to contact Steve Olson via calling and texting but has not heard back yet on a timeline for when Mr. Olson would possibly have his personal effects removed from the building. Paul recommended a title search be done before a quit claim is completed to make sure there is a clear title on the building.

Ian informed the council that construction costs for extending city utility services toward Bryan Tomlinson's property (Van Cleve Addition Block 12 Lots 1-9 and 16-24) would be available from Great West Engineering at the phase 4 pre-construction meeting which should be scheduled for sometime early November 2019.

Bryan Tomlinson has sold the property that the city needs easement through to extend 6th Street NE through to the "Old Gap Highway". Once the property ownership change has been completed the city could work with the new owner to get this completed. Ian had received a new survey quote for this property in the amount of \$3,500.

Rob Elwood informed the council that he had a discussion with Absaroka Power regarding the city owned industrial lots and their possible use for housing during the construction of the energy project. While Absaroka doesn't directly set up "man-camps" they requested information on the industrial lots to pass along to a subcontractor they work with that may be interested.

Paul had talked with Esther Fischer regarding a decision on the FFA sign proposals for Fischer Park. Ron and Esther Fischer had not made a decision yet. Rob Elwood asked who would be making the decision for which sign to use. Paul informed him that the Fischer Park contract would be discussed during his Mayor's Report.

There was no library report.

Rob Elwood updated the council on the ordinance committee's progress. Ordinances 3-2019 through 8-2019 become effective October 24, 2019. The "decay" ordinance is being reviewed. Rob's goal is that

the new ordinance will be readable and enforceable. The committee is also continuing to discuss water and sewer ordinances.

There was no Tree Board report.

Ian provided an update for the Rail Trail Committee. The clean-up for the rail yard that was to start this fall has been complicated by discovery of significant asbestos contamination in the soil. Pioneer Technical is not comfortable with using Brad Miller's land farm for this soil due to the asbestos contamination. A possible solution is to use the old dump as a permanent depository for this contaminated soil. Frank Brouillette asked if the old dump could then be used by others for contamination remediation such as a facility in Great Falls does. Ian indicated that the DEQ usually does a one-time use permit but would check into it. The asbestos contaminated soil could be covered over with soil and the land could be used again as long as the soil was not dug up or disturbed. Pioneer Technical is continuing to assess the situation

Charley Bennett reported for the pool committee. Jesi McKeever will contact the company that had fixed the skimmer leaks and see if they could continue to work on the other leaks through the winter. Charley reported that the Kiwanis meeting that was held on October 14, 2019 had gone well. Bryan Tomlinson had indicated the company he works for (Enbridge) would likely donate toward the pool project. Charley said there was another meeting scheduled for November 4, 2019. Jesi was obtaining a quote from a local contractor for a non-slip flooring solution for the showers. Charley asked about ADA compliance for wheelchair access in the shower building. Ian said in the park playground project, 5 feet of unobstructed space was needed for wheelchair turning and access. Kathie indicated ADA compliance is complicated and offering smaller mobility devices is usually not an acceptable solution to ADA compliance. Ian indicated if significant changes are made then building inspections would have to happen and the city may lose its current "grand-fathered" status as to not complying with certain requirements. Ian indicated that he is still waiting for a quote on the handicapped parking space for the pool.

There was no new business.

Rob Elwood reported that the A Avenue paving job turned out nice and the current cement work being done to the sidewalks is also being done well.

Ian Reed reported that the Pritchard Well was down due to a variable speed drive needing replacing. The west end of town will lose water quality but the water supply will be ok. An electrician will be working on the fixes needed.

He also reported that the lagoon variable speed drive was out. Again an electrician will be working on the fixes in addition to simplifying the control panel.

The crew has been working on repairing a water line behind the forest service building. They are attempting to pull a new line through the old line. The owner of the forest service building (Ron Fischer) said there has been water leaking into that building for a long time; however, the crew has not been able to locate the source of the water and all digging attempts to locate it have turned up with dry holes (no water around the pipes).

Ian reported that the phase 4 pre-construction meeting will be held sometime the week of November 4, 2019 but a date has not been set. There is still some paperwork that Do-All Construction needs to return before a date can be set.

Ian reported that about 12 boards on the fence at the Fischer Park (E57B Train Engine) had been vandalized and broken. Deputy Christopher Gentile reported that the sheriff's office is working on a lead they received regarding the damage.

Ian reported that the playground equipment recently purchased has been installed at Chief Joseph Park. Ian reported that the contractor for the library roof (Sprague) indicated they could possibly come in November to do the roof; however, with the weather being so unpredictable (temperature and wind) they may not be able to do the project this fall. The temperature needs to be 40 degrees and rising in order for the roofing product to be effective. If the library roof continues to have leaks, Sprague offered to come up and do another patching job to get it through to spring.

Paul Otten asked the council to review the copy of the City Park lease (Fischer Park) and report back if anything was found in the lease that indicated the Fischer's have the reserved right to approve any additions or changes made at the Fischer Park. Rob Elwood and Charley Bennett both indicated they had already read the lease document and did not find anything indicating the Fischer's had the explicit right to approve or disapprove changes.

Paul presented a request for a donation to the Hardin Bulldog Pride Marching Band that will be representing Montana in the 2020 Independence Day Parade in Washington DC. Council agreed to a \$100 donation.

Paul presented the 2019 invoice for continued financial support of the Musselshell River gaging stations from the Musselshell Watershed Coalition (administered by the Petroleum County Conservation District). Council agreed to pay the \$125.00. Both of these items will be included in the next council meeting claims approval list.

Paul informed the council that a community resident had called city hall to complain about a piece of the old bowling alley blowing off and hitting her car parked on the street. Paul researched ownership of the building and found it to be in the name of MaryAnn Wilcox, with a beneficiary deed to Steve Olson. The city is not responsible for damage caused by privately owned buildings.

Next council meeting will be November 12, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall. Rob asked Charley to have a report from the Kiwanis meetings regarding the pool available for the next meeting.

Rob asked about the status of the holiday street decorating. It was reported that Susan Beley (representative for the Federated Church) had ordered the large swag and a few lighted ornaments that would be delivered for this season. Ian indicated that banners for the remaining brackets had also been ordered and would arrive in time for this season.

Discussion regarding the claim to Thompson Pools for the pool pump impeller was held. Charley said he did not want that part ordered as a whole new energy efficient pump had been quoted at less than \$3,500. Paul Otten questioned what an energy efficient pump meant. Frank Brouillette stated that a decision needed to be made about the direction of the pool project so that it could be up and running for the 2020 season.

Discussion regarding Four Corners Recycling was held. Charley Bennett will contact Republic Services to see if they do recycling in Harlowton.

Rob Elwood made a motion to pay the claims excluding the claim to Thompson Pools, checks #22169-22183, from October 5, 2019 through October 18, 2019. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

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

Council Members Absent: John Anderson, Ron Teig

Employees Present: Ian Reed

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk

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