

March 14, 2023
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on March 14, 2023. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the February 28, 2023 Council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner stated that there was nothing new to report.

The Ordinance committee did not meet.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. The pool house had been painted and the epoxy would be put in soon. Dean Sorenson would come and start the ceiling as soon as the floors were done. When Stronghold (the epoxy company) is in town to do the flooring they will come look at the library basement. Paul stated that he would like to talk to them when they come to look at the basement.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that there was nothing new to report for the Tree Board.

Council member Ron Teig stated that There was nothing new to report for the Wetland Rail Trail.

UPDATE ON PAST AGENDA TOPICS

Council members were asked to give updates on Decay Ordinance-related complaints from the community. Frank stated that the ordinance needed to be followed and the Sheriff's Office should not be involved. The process was moving along and there was good news. The building would be given back to Tom Hayden. When Tom took back possession, he would handle the situation as soon as possible and clean up.

UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ITEMS

Paul restated that Stronghold would come and take a look at the basement of the library when they were in town to do the epoxy at the pool.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Discussion took place regarding the Shock property sewer issues. The renter had broken through ground while shoveling snow and found a septic tank. Discussion took place regarding how to move forward. Frank asked if the renter would quit paying on sewer. Frank stated it was not the responsibility of the City and that the septic tank would be grandfathered in. Frank also stated that because it was not the City's fault, there would be no back reimbursement for past sewer bill payments. The Council was in agreement

to discontinue the sewer charges on the account, effective immediately.

- 2) Pool Manager interviews will take place Thursday. There would also be four returning lifeguards. Advertisements were placed in the newspaper and on Facebook for new lifeguards. So far there had been no applications turned in.
- 3) Discussion took place regarding the tree board savings account at the tri-county Federal Credit Union. Lara stated that there had been issues with funds needing to be transferred between the City's tree board account at the credit union and the other accounts at Citizens Bank. She asked why they were separated. It was discussed and decided that the account was needed when the City had a loan for the truck. Since the truck is paid off, the account would no longer be necessary. Discussion took place regarding fees and for non-activity and minimum balances to keep the account open at the credit union. The Council would take a vote at the 3/28 meeting to close the account.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob gave his report. Chip had passed his exam for the water certification. Bob presented photos of Diane Jones's backyard. There is a drain that goes under the yard back by the well house and the dirt around the pipe was eroding. Discussion took place regarding the equipment that would be needed for fixing the problem as well as excavating and replacement of pipe. Discussion took place regarding whether it was the owner's problem or the City's, being as the pipe is on private property. Bob stated that the issues had probably been going on for 20 to 30 years. Allison stated that they had not found the issue on the property until January 2023. Discussion took place regarding how to fix it. Bob stated that driving, concrete, timber and piling would be an estimated \$20,000-\$30,000 to fix. Bob also stated rerouting the drain to the skate park would be an option. Discussion took place regarding the City property lines versus the Jones property lines.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Lara Gave her report. New Deputy Clerk Deshawnda and incoming Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Johnson were doing great. Lara and Debbie were currently in the process of training.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Paul Otten gave a report. Council member Jack Runner had given a letter of resignation as of May 28 due to moving. Paul stated that Jack would need to be replaced. Discussion took place of where his ward is and possible candidates.

Paul stated that the survey had been completed for the Burroughs/City land sale. It will go on the 3/28/23 agenda for signing and closeout. Discussion of survey costs versus profit took place. Paul stated that the original survey cost was \$13,130 with a 60% discount of \$7878.50, bringing the balance due to a total of \$5252.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be Tuesday March 28,2023 at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Ron made a motion to pass the claims from 19976 through 20005. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM

Council Members Present: Ron Teig, Charley Bennett (via teams), Jack Runner, Kathleen Schreiber, Allison Jones. Frank Brouillette

Council Members Absent: none

City Office: Mayor Paul Otten, City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco, Deputy Clerk Deshawnda Carver, incoming Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Johnson, Public Works Director Bob Schuchard, City Attorney Brent Brooks (via teams)

Public Present: Rob Elwood, Kristi Lode, Don Lode

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer