

October 10, 2023
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on October 10, 2023. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the September 26, 2023 Council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

TJ Tupker asked the Council if it could address trailers and campers parked on City streets. He stated it could cause a problem for snow removal or a fire truck getting through. Mayor Paul Otten agrees that it is a problem and Public Works Director, Bob Schuchard, mentioned the need to include campers with slide-outs protruding into the streets. Attorney Brent Brooks will look at the Billings ordinance regarding trailers and campers for suggestions on how the City can address the issue. There was discussion about where the campers could be parked to get them off the streets and possible fees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Council Member Johnny Cooney III stated that the Library is getting some new furniture next week.

Ordinance: Mayor Paul Otten stated nothing new.

Pool: Council Member Charley Bennett stated the pool house is shut down for winter. Charley also mentioned that the Kawanis wants to put a gazebo with a couple picnic tables between the pool house and the Youth Center.

Tree Board: The Public Works Director Bob Schuchard had nothing new to report.

Wetlands Rail Trail: Councilmember Ron Teig absent.

UPDATE ON DECAY ORDINANCE COMPLAINTS:

Mayor Otten asked Deputies Tim McKenna and Kevin Froese if the Sheriff's Office has received the new 10-day stickers for junk vehicles. They will follow up with their purchaser in the office for an update.

UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ITEMS:

1. Burroughs Real Estate Purchase. Attorney Brent Brooks has forwarded the signed Resolution 2023-06 and the signed Purchase Agreement to Mr. Burroughs attorney. He also spoke with Sweetgrass Title and they stated as soon as we get Mr. Burroughs signature, Resolution and Purchase Agreement along with the Certificate of Survey sent to them, we can start working on the Title Commitment.
2. Denny Eikenhorst Solid Waste Fee. Attorney Brooks has asked for an itemized bill to show the exact amount owed for solid waste fees and will relay that information to Mr. Eikenhorst.

3. Question about liability for Myrna Mysse's booster pump. Per Schuchard, prior to the water tower, the psi for water pressure was so low a booster pump was needed; however, it is no longer needed and Councilmember Brouillette stated the city is not liable for anything from the curb stop into the home and will talk with her to discuss her options.

4. Banner Replacement. Public Works Director Schuchard stated we need to replace 11 banners and the cloth ones seem to hold up the best. The cost would be around \$1100. Councilmember Alli Jones will ask the Chamber of Commerce to share half of the cost with the city.

5. Culvert placement in Jawbone Creek, in the flats, to prevent basement flooding. Councilmember Charley Bennett talked about a couple residents in the flats that continue to get flooding. Mayor Otten talked with Cheryl Miller, and she told him to contact Fish and Game. There was discussion about laws and protection and different options such as cleaning the ditches, adding culverts, or a lining. Schuchard mentioned Phase 6 Water Project, in 2024, will replace that water main which may cause additional flooding. Mayor Otten will talk with Craig Martin about a lining to see if that would help before incurring the expense of a culvert. Councilmember Johnny Cooney III said no matter what you do to the water on top of the soil, it will still follow the path of least resistance underground. One solution suggested is for the residents to add a barrel in the basement with sump pump as these homes were built in a flood plain.

6. Interlocal Agreement for new Hospital. Attorney Brooks worked with Nathan Bilyeu to get a finalized Interlocal Agreement with all the incorporated changes requested by the City. Councilmember Alli Jones motioned to adopt the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the New Hospital and Councilmember Kathleen Schreiber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Attorney Brooks mentioned we received the Petition for Annexation and will discuss it at a Public Hearing on October 24, 2023 along with a Resolution.

7. Library Staff Wages. City Council and Library Board member, Johnny Cooney III said it was discussed at the Library Board meeting to increase wages for all Library staff not just the full-time employee. This wage increase will be retro paid back to July 1, 2023. Councilmember Brouillette motioned to adopt the wage increase and Councilmember Schreiber 2nd the motion. The motion passes unanimously. There will need to be a budget amendment for this wage increase.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. There will be a Public Hearing on the Annexation of the New Hospital on October 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:

Bob Schuchard reported there is 1 street left to pave from the water project - 5th ST NW. If the weather permits, they are hoping to repave C Ave in the flats. There was discussion about a couple of sewers that need to be fixed by Curt Wood before winter sets in and he will talk with him and his boss to make sure these are fixed as they are problems caused due to the construction project. There are also some issues with property access that will need addressed. Schuchard reported they are continuing with tree trimming and tree removal. He also mentioned the increased time and cost of testing the new water source as this was not the expectation relayed to the City prior to the new water project completion. The sewer jetter is finished and ready to be picked up in Great Falls. The grader's parts are in, although the work was to be done by June 15th per Wojtowick, the work has yet to be started

which will put the city in a bind for snow removal. TJ Tupker asked about a tree on the west side of the Catholic Church. Schuchard stated the boulevard is city property but because the power line runs through the trees, Northwest Energy will need to trim them.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER:

City Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Johnson had nothing new to report.

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor Paul Otten stated the first water bill came in from Central Montana Water for about ½ month it was \$16,863 so we are looking at between \$32,000 and \$35,000 per month. The base rate for the water is \$12,915.36 per month. Deputy Clerk Deshawnda Carver gave a breakdown of the water billing.

0-2,568,000 gallons- \$1.25 per thousand

2,568,001 to 4,815,000- \$1.50 per thousand

4,815,001 or more- \$2.00 per thousand

The Mayor mentioned the Ribbon Cutting for the City of Harlowton and CMRWA October 18, 2023 from 12:00 to 1:30. Lunch and Refreshments will be served by the Kiwanis.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Public Hearing for Annexation of the New Hospital into the City prior to the City Council Meeting.

CLAIMS:

Frank Brouillette made a motion to accept the claims. Kathleen Schreiber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13P.M.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett, Johnny Cooney III, Frank Brouillette, Kathleen Schreiber, Allison Jones

Council Members Absent: Ron Teig

City Office: Mayor Paul Otten, City Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Johnson, Deputy Clerk Deshawnda Carver, Public Works Director Bob Schuchard, City Attorney Brent Brooks

Public Present: TJ Tupker, Tim McKenna, Kevin Froese, JR Billadeau


Paul Otten, Mayor


Debbie Johnson, City Clerk-Treasurer

