

Harlowton City Council Minutes  
December 22, 2020  
Library Conference Room

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held December 22, 2020 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the December 8, 2020 council meeting were approved as written.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Council member Jim Kalitowski informed the Council that a bill had been passed by Congress recently that would positively impact the water quality of the City of Harlowton. These improvements would come in 2022. Discussion ensued between Jim, Mayor Paul Otten and Times-Clarion reporter Dan Edwards about these changes.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Paul Otten updated the council on Biegel's Bar ownership transfer. Unfortunately the loose ends would not be tied up by the end of the year as hoped with the ownership transfer.

Regarding the City Ordinance for a Chief Joseph Park stay-limit, Council Member and Ordinance Committee Chair Rob Elwood requested that he discuss it during his report.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner reported that the Library did not have a meeting this week. No news to report.

Council member Rob Elwood reported that the Ordinance Committee met this week. The Committee went over the first draft of the Chief Joseph Stay-Limit Ordinance. The Committee will present it at the next Council meeting on 1/12/2021 for the first reading. Jim asked about where people would be able to camp. Rob stated that a color-coded map would be placed in the park. The map will illustrate where the designated areas for tent, RV and overflow parking would be. A discussion ensued between Rob and Council member Ron Teig about a 14 day versus 16 day stay limit.

Rob also stated that he would be submitting his letter of resignation to the Council. He is willing to stay on until a replacement is found. Discussion ensued regarding Community members who might be interested in taking his place on the Council.

Council member Charley Bennett gave his report on the pool. He stated that prepping for next year had begun. Deliveries are coming in of the items ordered for the pool (signs, timecard machine, cameras and chairs). Thompson Pool has ordered the heaters.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that there was no new news on the Tree Board.

Council member Ron Teig stated that there was no new news for the Wetlands Rail Trail. Paul stated that the Project Concept Engineer had emailed him regarding potential hookups in the proposed RV area. Paul let the Engineer know that due to the Floodplains map, it wasn't possible to set up RV hookups for water/sewer. A discussion ensued within the Council regarding what the new Floodplain zones would be for Antelope Creek versus the Musselshell River area.

## NEW BUSINESS

1) Discussion took place regarding a pay raise for the City Judge, Richard Egebakken as well as his Clerk, Susan Beley. Both City Employees had not had a raise in all the years they had been employed. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco presented the numbers of what had been allocated from the FY 2020-2021 Budget for their paychecks versus how much they really made. There is enough money allocated to give each of them a \$50/month raise until June 2021. Paul asked that a \$50/month per paycheck be added until June 2021. At that time, with a new Budget for FY 2021-2022 being drawn up, an evaluation would be made again for their pay. Council member Frank Brouillette made a motion that the \$50/month pay raise be approved. Rob seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

2) On behalf of the Pool Hiring Committee, Rob stated that the interviews had to be postponed until after the New Year due to personal reasons. The interviews would be rescheduled for the week of January 4<sup>th</sup>.

## PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report. The City Shop's bathroom is in the process of getting a "facelift". Stump grinding had been going on as well as odds and ends throughout town. Due to high winds, mostly office work and bathroom remodeling was the primary focus. Bob stated that sediment had turned water brown so hydrants had been flushed to clear it out. Rob asked about A Ave sidewalk repairs. Discussion ensued regarding owner responsibilities. Bob stated that the broken curb in front of the Kiwanis building was the responsibility of the City. A discussion took place regarding how the curb was damaged. It is believed that a grader hit it.

## MAYOR REPORT

Paul informed the Council that MMIA had sent out an email regarding the Legalization of Marijuana in Montana and how that would affect employee drug testing. A discussion ensued regarding how this applies. Paul stated that HR would need to draw up something but that we would wait for MMIA to state how to handle it before making any changes/demands.

## ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be January 12, 2021 at 7:00pm. At the meeting the first reading of the Chief Joseph Park Stay-Limit Ordinance would be reviewed.

## CLAIMS

Council member Frank made a motion for the claims from December 7<sup>th</sup> through December 18<sup>th</sup> to be approved for payment. Ron seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously by council.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett (via phone), Rob Elwood, Jim Kalitowski, Jack Runner, Frank Brouillette, Ron Teig

City Office: Mayor Paul Otten, City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco, Public Works Director Bob Schuchard

Public Present: Dan Edwards, Times-Clarion reporter

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Paul Otten, Mayor

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Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer