

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on April 27, 2021. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the April 13, 2021 Council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

TJ Tupker presented his issue to the council. He has a tree on City property that is impeding him from safely pulling out of his driveway. He asked that the City remove the tree. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that he would come by and look at the tree.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) Mayor Paul Otten notified the Council that SMDC had a board meeting which he and Bob attended. The meeting included discussion of the plans for the property previously known as Biegels Bar, which the City now owns. Paul stated that in 2 to 2 ½ months a contractor would be able to start movement on the property.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner reported that the Library had a very successful fundraiser, with \$3340.00 raised at the burger/hot dog dinner. The Library would need to raise \$5000 to match the funds from the Washington Grant. Also, a lot of books had been ordered recently.

Council member Jack Runner gave an update on the Ordinance Committee (as Frank Brouillette was absent). The Committee had continued to work on revisions to the Fire Pit Ordinance.

Council member Charley Bennett gave an update on the pool. He called Thompson Pools and the heaters were in transit but a delivery date was still unknown. Dave Lode had been working on the siding for the pool house and was almost done. The water would be drained soon so that the new pool employees could clean the pool. Charley and City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco presented to the Council an idea to fundraise for the pool entrance fees so that it would be "free" to the public. Also, they suggested having people come to City Hall to register and pay for swim lessons so that pool employees could just focus on helping the swimmers.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report on the Tree Board. No new news since the last meeting. Thirteen trees had been ordered but planting dates had not been set yet.

Ron Teig gave a report on the Wetlands Rail Trail. During DEQ's recent work at the Roundhouse site, not as much asbestos had been found as expected. DEQ had wrapped up their work until fall. Wind had created a lot of problems when they lined the truck beds.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Lara presented an amendment to the Employee Policy Manual to the Council. It was necessary to add in a specific part regarding resignation/termination/retirement and sick and vacation payout. Upon the end of employment with the City, a regular worker is entitled to ¼ sick pay

payout and 100% vacation paid out. Ron made a motion to pass the amendment. Jack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Discussion took place regarding the lease between the City and Mike DeBorde. The City had terminated the lease but Mike requested that the City extend it one more year to allow him time to get his property off the premise. Charley made a motion to extend the lease one year. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Resolution 2021-02 was presented to the Council. The resolution is for the street abandonment of E Ave North of Gordon St. Discussion took place regarding surveying the land. Council member Allison Jones made a motion to pass Resolution 2021-02. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4) In January *Republic* waste management had raised the rates on the transfer station. They stated that if we raised our rates by 3%, it would cover the changing costs. A discussion took place regarding Republic's route for pickup. Charley made a motion to pass the rate increase at the transfer station. Allison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report. The Public Works Department had been painting rails, patching streets and put in horseshoe pits at the park. They had been repairing fencing at the landfill. Someone drove a side by side through and dumped their garbage.

Bob gave an update on the beaver issue by the Roundhouse area. A Government Trapper was consulted and said that he believes the beavers that built the dam have already left the area.

Sarah Edney had been sent a letter from the City requesting that she move her vehicles off the City's property by the basketball court. The City had received no response and the vehicles are still there.

MAYOR REPORT

Paul gave a report regarding the Inter-local Agreement for the floodplains. Page Dringman would be working with the City/County and would bill the County for her services. The County would bill the City for their portion. A meeting would take place on 5/5/21 regarding FEMA and the floodplain map. Discussion took place regarding the flood in the 1950s.

At this point, Bob remembered something that was not addressed during his report. *Republic* in Lewistown recently reported to him that they currently have a shortage of drivers. Because of this there is a decrease in how many bins can be transported for the transfer station. Bob was concerned because the upcoming clean up days had been scheduled and he felt the bins would fill up quickly. Discussion took place regarding how to handle the situation. Lara would post on Facebook immediately letting the public know of the situation. A possible second clean up weekend could be scheduled with discounted rates. Possible vouchers could be dispersed to those who would be turned away due to limited space.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be May 11, 2021
at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Ron made a motion to pay claims from April 12th to April 23rd. Allison seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett, Ron Teig, Jack Runner, Allison Jones

Council not present: Jim Kalitowski, Frank Brouillette

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

Public Present: Kevin Knudson, TJ Tupker

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer