

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on June 8, 2021. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the May 25, 2021 Council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Jim Kalitowski gave an update on the Rural Development water project. The project is \$14 million and bids would start in January. The first phase would be from Garniel to Harlowton. The second phase would be from Harlowton to Round Up. Discussion took place regarding the chlorine injection site.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1) No news from SMDC regarding the City property formally known as Biegel's Bar.
- 2) The concrete picnic tables would have to be put on the back burner due to unexpected costs. The lawn mower had broken and been replaced, costing \$5400.00. Mayor Paul Otten stated that he would like to get a bid on sod for the park before the funds from the Sprinkler bank account could be spent on the concrete picnic tables. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that the concrete pads for the tables would be \$300 each. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the tables as well as who would do the sod.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner stated that the Library had no new news since the last Council Meeting.

Ordinance Committee chair Frank Brouillette stated that the committee discussed a floodplain ordinance and the online survey regarding the stray cat problem. Sixty-five people took the survey and only 3 thought there was no stray cat problem. The committee also started a discussion about RV parking and storage on residential streets.

Council member Charley Bennett gave an update on the pool. The pool had been filled, the diving board had been installed and the heater was on. Friday, June 11th would be the first day to open. The slide would not be installed until there could be water circulating without using the hose. Using city water was diluting and wasting the chemicals. There had been a "break in" of kids skate boarding in the empty pool last week. Bob saw them while repairing the culvert and told them to leave. It was unknown who they were.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report on the Tree Board. Thirteen trees had been planted with the help of 13 people from the wind farm. It took one hour to complete.

Ron Teig stated that there was nothing new to report on the Wetlands Rail Trail.

NEW BUSINESS

1) City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco gave a report on the FY 2021 Budget vs Actuals and where the funds were going into the negative. Ron suggested that money could be moved around within the funds. Lara recalled that the Auditor, Sharon Tripp, had mentioned that too. Lara asked for any suggestions and pointed out areas in the report that money was not being used (i.e. her Clerk's Institute would not be meeting in Bozeman this year due to COVID so the funds allocated were still available.) Paul suggested that they remain there for the following year's use. Lara would look more into options and give another report at the 6/22/21 Council meeting.

2) Paul asked Council if the RV storage on City property lease should remain active and was there anything that needed to be changed? It was agreed that the program should continue and possibly be advertised on Facebook to remind people of their options.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report. Dan Lode is not paying sewer on the Mill land he had purchased. He is currently shipping water in. Discussion took place regarding him being annexed into the City. Charley stated that he believed Dan would be willing to pay sewer. Bob stated that Dan had expressed interested in attending a City Council meeting but had yet to come. Charley stated that he would bring it up again to Dan when Dan came to the Train Museum to do some work.

Bob stated that when the City owned land leases had recently expired, the lessees had not kept up on the noxious weed removal. At this point the leases had expired and it was unknown if the City could do anything to charge the previous lessees for the removal of the weeds. Todd Schock was willing to clear the weeds at \$75/hour but it would not include the cost of the chemicals. Also, the current City budget for weed removal does not include the cost of spraying these properties. It was suggested that Todd and Kelsey Miller, the Wheatland County Weed District Director, attend the next Council meeting to discuss these issues.

The street by head start was being patched, but Bob suggested that the asphalt not be poured until after Phase 5 of the Water Upgrade project next year. Otherwise, it would be torn up again. Bob stated that the boiler at the pool was working well.

The water pump on the backhoe was broken and Paxton was currently working on it.

Discussion ensued regarding the skid steerer, and options of lease-to-own on machinery and the costs.

MAYOR REPORT

Paul gave his report. The DNRC Floodplain meeting had occurred last Thursday. The last disaster mitigation meeting had occurred recently. Daphne will send a report to Randy Cameron. A meeting would occur the following day, June 9, with Dick Anderson construction to update on the Sewer Upgrade project. There would also be a meeting for the RD Water project. Discussion took place regarding the sludge removal at the Sewer Project and who would be doing it (Pace or Dick Anderson Construction?)

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be June 22, 2021

at 7:00pm. Concrete picnic tables and sod would be discussed further.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion to pay claims from May 24th through June 4th. Ron seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

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

Council not present: none

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

Public Present: none

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer