

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on September 28, 2021. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the September 14, 2021 Council minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) Mayor Paul Otten stated that there was no new news from Snowy Mountain Development Company regarding the City property formerly known as Biegel's Bar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner stated that the Library Committee would be planning a March 2022 fundraiser for the Dennis Washington matching grant. Kathleen Schreiber would be retiring as of 9/30/21. There would be a party that day to celebrate her. Over 900 books were checked out this month. Tina Peterson has been hired as the new Assistant Librarian.

Committee Chair Frank Brouillette stated that they had fixed the Chief Joseph Park stay limit ordinance. They were close on the Floodplain Ordinance. The first reading of the document would be presented to Council at the next meeting.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. The pool floor had been painted. Heaters are here. Sand filters are old and would be replaced using Callant Funds. At that point everything would be 100% new. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco stated that the old boiler had been listed on listserv and Craig's List would no interest so far.

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

Council member Ron Teig gave a report on the Wetlands Rail Trail. Bob stated that DEQ would be back next week to do some more testing.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Paul asked the Council to vote to approve the purchase of new computers for the City Hall using ARPA funds. Frank made a motion to approve the funds to be used to purchase new computers. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Bob presented Townsend Electric documents to the Council to review. The documents included quotes of different options for replacing the alarm dialers in the City shop. Bob is not ready to act yet on the purchase of the system because they are still trying to figure out why the current alarms are going off constantly. He wanted to show the Council in case a vote is needed eventually. Bob likes the third option, which is \$6735.00. There would be more information after the final walk through with Chris from RPA on 10/5. Lara asked if maybe the ARPA funds could be used when they were ready to purchase these items.

The second document from Townsend Electric is regarding replacing the current blower which had burned out. They would have 3 rotating blowers (currently there are two). Bob also wants to wait on a decision regarding this.

3) Lara presented the Council with information regarding the Vehiclesforveterans.org program. Lara had researched the State Health Department program for junk car removal but said the standards for what they would accept was very high. Lara had called the Vehiclesforveterans.org program and asked if they would come to Harlowton. They said yes. Paul stated that this program would not be affiliated with the City and that people would have to reach out and coordinate the removal themselves. They would also need a clear title to present the company. Lara would advertise the program on Facebook.

4) Discussion took place regarding attaching a fee to door hangers. Lara stated that if people are strapped financially, they could set up a payment plan with the City but those who just “forget” need a reason not to forget. Lara also stated that she would advertise the LIEWAP/LIEAP program for those who need financial assistance as well as the Utility Share program. Lara would also re-advertise regarding the ACH/emailed bills options for those who just “forget” to pay their bill. Paul stated that he would check with Karen regarding the legality of charging late fees to delinquent bill paying.

5) The Council continued discussing the Central Montana Water Authority document regarding rates and new water. Council member Jim Kalitowski stated that the project could not continue without the support of Harlowton. Paul stated that people are not participating in public discussions. Times-Clarion reporter Dan Edwards stated that he would be running a story in the newspaper. Paul stated that people need to understand the importance of the matter. Bob stated that a meeting with Joel from Great West Engineering would help to see how money would be saved by having the new water source. Paul stated that a final draft of the document and resolution would be coming soon for the Council to vote on.

6) Lara presented Resolution 2021-07 to continue having an account with STIP (the Montana investment program for Cities) as well as changing the name from Kathie Newland to Lara Brisco. In order to request these things, the STIP program required a Resolution from the Council. Ron made a motion to pass Resolution 2021-07. Charley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7) Paul presented Resolution 2021-08 for the Council to approve. The resolution is to allow the Mayor to submit an application for a CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) grant with the assistance of Craig at Great West Engineering. Frank made a motion to pass the Resolution 2021-08. Jack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob gave a report. The Public Works Department has been cutting trees and removing them. The pot hole patcher had broken and needs to be transported to Great Falls for repairs but the City does not have a way to transport it. Bob proposed that he use his own truck/trailer and the City would pay the fuel costs. The City would also pay a percentage for mileage.

The concrete table order was brought up. Paul said he had ordered them but had no word on their status.

Bob stated that the diving crew had been there this week to clean out the water tank. Two inches of sediment was found on the bottom of the tank. The mixer at the bottom was broken and had been for years. The diver said it might not be necessary to replace it since there had been no problems.

MAYORS REPORT

Paul stated that Mike DeBorde was not happy with the City's starting bid price for the land by his house for sale. Mike does not think the size of the lot is correct nor the Fair Market Value assessment created by Julie Woodard.

Discussion took place regarding the property, ditch and flood concerns.

Mike will also remove all his items from the previously leased property by the end of the month.

Joe Hagl wanted to sub-lease City property that is not part of the proposed Wetland Rail Trail project. The Council would need to agree on a plan.

Discussion took place regarding City land being used as a junk yard (with a privacy fence).

Discussion took place regarding previously leased land and the lack of lessees holding up their end of the agreement.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be October 26, 2021
at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion for the claims from September 13th through September 24th be approved for payment. Jack seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

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

Council Members Absent: none

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

Public Present: Dan Edwards

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer