

City Council Meeting
June 14, 2022
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on June 14, 2022. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marilyn Fake was present to give her testimony regarding the help she received from the City with getting connected to state grant programs. Marilyn's sewer line collapsed and City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco helped her get connected with Senator Tester's office and HRDC to receive grant funds to cover the cost of her repairs/replacements. Fisk Contracting had helped fix the issue and she was able to receive \$10,000.00 fairly quickly from HRDC to cover the costs. Marilyn felt the need to spread the word so that other people in the community may benefit from these programs. Marilyn stated that older people can become intimidated by online forms and collecting the proper documents to qualify for these program funds. She would like to spread the word that she would be willing to help. She stated that when Senator Tester's office comes back to town she would like to be present so that she could facilitate. Kelsey Miller was present to discuss the Cooperative Weed Agreement document that had been created last year to cover the plan for this year's noxious weed removal around town. She stated that the City had budgeted \$9600.00 for the spraying but that was probably too much. She applied for grant funds to cover half of the cost. The following day (June 15, 2022) Kelsey would be meeting with City Public Works Director Bob Schuchard and Todd Schock to discuss the noxious weed removal around the City. She requested to be on the next Council meeting agenda (6/28/22) to get her plans approved.

Susan Beley was present to give her opinion on the E57B flower garden planting. She was concerned that the previous volunteers were no longer being used. Lara explained that Darlene Bacon and Wendy Elwood had never expressed interest in helping and that Irene Erickson was still involved. She explained that there had been issues with Gay McIntyre overspending the budget for the area last year by almost \$500 without any approval and could give no receipts. Lara had let Gay know this wasn't ok. Larry Callant had got involved and let Gay know that if she was requesting \$1500, she would need to give him an itemized list, which she never did. Because of the lack of communication and transparency on Gay's part, she was thanked for her past help via a letter approved by the Mayor but was told that the City would be handling the purchasing of flowers from here on out. Susan did not seem to be aware of these details and asked why the Council was not handling this decision. She then left the meeting. (This ongoing issue will be posted in the 6/28/22 agenda for the Council to discuss.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner stated that the bylaws were being updated at the most recent Board meeting. The summer reading program had started.

Ordinance Committee Chair Frank Brouillette gave a report. Title 11 was still being discussed.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. The cover had been replaced and the old one sold to a local for \$10. The concrete car stops were installed at the top of the parking lot area. The chemical machine was working and the camera voltage was updated. The new toilet was installed.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that the trees would be planted soon.

Council member Ron Teig that there was nothing new to report on the Wetland Rail Trail. Bob stated that he would begin the land farming soon.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Mariah Holt and Shawna Eagleton had submitted a request to hang signs around town advertising the Harlo Farmers Market during the summer. Council member Kathleen Schreiber made a motion to approve the request. Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Harlo Music Project Pt 1 (6/25/22) and Pt 2 (8/13/22) were requesting street closures on Central Ave. Charley made a motion to approve this. Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Discussion took place regarding the City property formally known as Biegels Bar. Mayor Paul Otten asked for ideas of what to do next. He stated that the fair market value of the land according to local Realtor Julie Woodard was around \$6000. Frank made a motion to post an ad in the Times Clarion advertising the land for sale. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Discussion took place regarding Charley's idea to use a portion of the ARPA funds for tablets for the Council to use for their packets as well as a TV and camera for any presentations or zoom calls. Charley passed around documents with the prices of each item. It would be around \$2200 for 9 tablets (detachable keyboards would be extra). Discussion took place regarding how useful and/or necessary each item would be. The Council felt that the TV and camera would not be necessary because they could just go to the Library to use theirs. Charley stated that it would be nice to not have to rely on the Library.
Frank made a motion to purchase the tablets with removal keyboards. Council member Allison Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) The discussion of the annexation of the Sportmans property would be tabled until the 6/28/22 meeting due to lack of information. There would be necessary documents to be signed by the property owner.
- 6) The Verizon phone plan for the Public Works Department weekend/emergency phone line was discussed. Lara's research showed that the cost would be around \$150 for the phone and the plan would be \$40/month. If auto pay was set up, the cost would go down \$5 every 3-6 months until it reached a minimum of \$25/month. Frank made a motion to purchase the phone and line. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 7) Lara presented a document being required by MMIA insurance for liability coverage for the Library. The document stated that the Library was part of the City and that their

handbook as well as hiring/firing etc... was in compliance with the City's guidelines. Lara stated that the Library had already approved the document at the previous night's board meeting. Kathleen made a motion to approve the document. Jack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob made a report. The Thompson Well had been acting up. The water was softer due to the imbalance of chemicals.

The sewer project Engineers (RPA) had been requesting locates in order to start their engineering. A beaver was destroying trees at the park.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco gave her report. Jeff Samuelson from the Graves suggested that a enclosed bulletin board be installed at Chief Joseph Park for local business to post phone numbers/addresses/hours of operation/menus for campers. He had offered to pay a fee but Paul stated the City would not be charging for this. Lara stated that the cost of the bulletin board on Amazon was around \$350. Discussion took place regarding the board by the bathrooms by the Rodeo fairgrounds and whether or not that board was maintained anymore. Lara asked Allison if she could give a list of businesses (from the Chamber) to reach out to for advertising. Paul also suggested posting the chamber's website on the board.

Lara stated that she was concerned about the concrete at the skate park and how it could be dangerous and a liability to the City. She suggested the equipment be removed and a sign posted advising skaters of the unsafe conditions. She is currently apply for grant funding to fix the area. It was decided to not bring attention to the area.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Paul Otten Gave a report. The "Clean up days" in May was not profitable. Around \$2600 was lost after the cost of the wages and pick up of the containers. Paul and Bob had discussed spreading out these days throughout the summer to cut down on the pick up costs. Discussion took place regarding the cost of recycling metal. Bob stated that the Public Works Department needs another employee to help. He suggested asking for another mill.

Dwayne from Do All was approached regarding putting a bid of Phase 5 of the water project. He said he wouldn't bid because the project was starting too late in the summer. Bob expressed his concern regarding the water and sewer project time frames conflicting—that that water project could not carry over into next summer. Paul stated that bids for the water project would open June 30th with a pre-bid meeting on 6/23/22.

Tom Hayden would be looking into re-starting his subdivision project. Discussion took place regarding the issues that stopped the project before. Paul stated that certain steps weren't followed last time and that things jumped ahead. Paul stated that Page Dringman in Big Timber was busy right now due to the Yellowstone flooding.

Discussion took place regarding the issue with the floodplain board dispute. Paul stated that DNRC stood by the Morrison Maierle simulation but we were waiting for Senator Tester's office to get back to us about the situation.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Discussion of Annexation of Sportmans property into Harlowton.

- Discussion and approval of Cooperative Weed Agreement document with Kelsey Miller, Wheatland County Noxious Weed Coordinator

The next council meeting will be June 28, 2022 at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion to pass the claims from May 23, 2022 through June 10, 2022. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Council Members Present: Allison Jones, Charley Bennett, Jack Runner, Kathleen Schreiber, Frank Brouillette, Ron Teig

Council Members Absent: none

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

Public Present: Kelsey Miller, Christie Mitchell, Susan Beley, Marilyn Fake, Tina Peterson, Dan Edwards (Times Clarion)

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer