Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

February 8, 2022

Harlowton City Hall

6:00PM

**Minutes:** Minutes from the January 25, 2022 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment:** None

**Updates on Previous Meeting Agenda Points:** Committee continues to discuss Decay Ordinance. Jack inquired as to whether this is a brand-new ordinance or a “revamping” of the old document. Frank and Paul stated that this is a brand-new ordinance as the previous one was not enforceable. Paul stated that Karen had read through other cities’ ordinances and used similar language. Paul also discussed that the City of Roundup has a designated enforcement officer that deals solely with the compliance of Roundup’s ordinances. Frank stated that he would like to see the Council Members take on the duty of doing initial investigations of compliance, providing picture evidence and compiling reasons for incompliance, then presenting that evidence to Council before involving Law Enforcement. The committee jointly agreed that the Decay Ordinance looked good; however, they would need to proofread/correct spelling errors, wording, etc. before presenting for public comment. Due to the fact that Karen was absent from the meeting, the committee was not able to move forward with this ordinance. Allison had brought up the issue of stray cats around town and whether or not that would fall into Health and Safety Hazards within the Decay Ordinance. Phil Wilsman was on hand to update the committee on an existing “cat/property cleanup issue” in town. Phil stated that the house in question was set to be cleaned out and hopefully sold this summer. Phil stated he was anxious for an enforceable ordinance to be enacted to help clean the city up. Phil also discussed the properties that are owned by Wheatland County and wondered if they were exempt from ordinances as he was concerned about the condition and cleanliness of some of that property. Paul stated that the County was “basically” immune to the policies of the City Ordinances. The committee also agreed that the public would be able to comment before any final ordinance is enacted.

**New Business:** Deputy Clerk Alanna Berg stated that City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco was in the midst of discussing grants available for the codification of our ordinances. She was looking into possible grant funding for that process. The committee agreed that they would like to go through the existing ordinances to determine which were most important in order to prioritize based on funding. The committee wondered if Lara and/or Alanna could scan the current ordinance book into the computer and provide them with a digitized version of the book so they could review it at their convenience. Paul stated that when Alanna and Lara had some free time, they could work on that if they chose.

**Items on the next Meeting’s agenda include:** Allison was curious if the committee could come up with somewhat of a “town motto” to encourage residents to comply with new Decay Ordinances. This suggestion can be discussed in the future, as the ordinance continues through the phases of enacting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57PM

Committee Members present: Frank Brouillette, Allison Jones, Jack Runner

Committee Members absent: None

City: Paul Otten, Alanna Berg, Bob Schuchard

City absent: Lara Brisco, Karen Hammel

Sheriff’s Office: None

Public Present: Phil Wilsman

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Frank Brouillette, Ordinance Chairman Alanna Berg, Deputy Clerk