Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

February 9, 2021

Harlowton City Library Conference Room

6:00PM

**Minutes:** Minutes from the January 26, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved with the condition of a correction requested by Councilmember Jack Runner.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment. Jack asked that at the next Ordinance meeting the subject of fire pit ordinances and dog license/fines/rabies vaccinations ordinances be addressed. Jack also brought up Bryan Tomlinson’s property variances and whether or not it transferred with the sale of the property. Mayor Paul Otten stated that this question was already being addressed by the City Attorney, Karen Hammel.

**Business:** A continued discussion took place regarding the Montana Law for Recreational Marijuana use as well as the opening of Dispensaries within the City limits of Harlowton. Jack read directly from the I-190 “Montana Marijuana Legalization Initiative”. A discussion took place regarding setting up a special election for the City/County to decide the rules/regulation of the Marijuana Dispensaries within City/County limits. Jack suggested that since the applications for dispensaries business licenses in Montana would not be taken until October 1, 2021, perhaps this issue could be tabled until summer. Paul stated that County Clerk-Recorder Mary Miller would be getting back to him regarding the rules of the special election as well as the regular election that would be taking place later in the year for certain Council members and the Mayor. Paul also stated that he was waiting to hear back from the Montana State Revenue Department regarding the monetary numbers of what the dispensaries would bring in to the City/County.

Community member Jennifer Perkins stated that from her experiences living in Colorado, it could take up to 3 years to see any of the revenue and that in the meantime the City/County would have to pay out of pocket for any expenses regarding testing etc…

Wheatland County Sheriff Everett was present at the meeting and gave his experiences and opinions on the topic. He stated that blood drawing for testing was most accurate in these cases for detecting THC and that currently there is no breathalyzer available for testing THC levels.

Committee member Allison Jones suggested that the issue be taken to the County Commissioners to see what they plan on doing to manage Marijuana sales in the County.

Sheriff Misner suggested that the Council wait to present the issue to the City for Public opinion until the City/County Attorneys have had a chance to put together a plan of action.

Allison stated that perhaps it should be looked into how a City in Colorado with a similar population size to Harlowton as well as distance from major Cities has handled the Marijuana sale and dispensary business. Community member Rob Elwood stated that he would look into this and get back to the Committee.

Jack stated that until more research is collected that the topic be put on the back burner. Committee member Frank Brouillette agreed and stated that updates could be made with the coming meetings but that this topic should not monopolize the entire meetings.

A discussion ensued regarding what a “fire pit” is considered in the City. Jack stated that he had only found something stating that the fire pit should have a lid on it but that he would like to look more into this. He had received calls from constituents in his Ward regarding this topic. The topic will be addressed more deeply at the 2/23/2021 Ordinance Committee Meeting.

Chapter 15 of the Ordinance Committee Handbook titled “Water/Wastewater Extensions” was reviewed by the Committee. A discussion took place regarding the points of the chapter. The committee discussed the Peters Inc. property and how the annexation into city water and sewer was handled compared with other properties such as Loco Creek, Corral Motel and Ray’s. A decision was made not to change anything in the chapter, so far. The Committee stopped at Chapter 15, section 20 and will resume the chapter at the 2/23/21 meeting.

Items on the next Meeting’s agenda include:
A review of the Ordinance regarding fire pits in the City limits

A review of the Ordinance regarding dog licenses/ rabies vaccinations/ fines

Continued review of Chapter 15 of the Ordinance Handbook

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

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

Committee Members absent: none

City: Paul Otten, Lara Brisco, Bob Schuchard

Sheriff’s Office: Sheriff Everett Misner

Public Present: Jennifer Perkins, Jeremy Perkins, Rob Elwood (via phone), Dan Edwards of the Times-Clarion Newspaper

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Paul Otten, Mayor Lara Brisco, City Clerk-Treasurer