Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

March 9, 2021

Harlowton City Library Conference Room

6:00PM

**Minutes:** Minutes from the February 23, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment. Stephen Stewart was present for the Ordinance Committee Meeting. He stated that he was there because he was worried that fire pits would be banned. Committee chairman Frank Brouillette stated that that would not happen. He gave Stephen a copy of the proposed Fire Pit Ordinance draft to review. Stephen read the draft and agreed that it was good.

**Updates on Previous Meeting Agenda Points:** None

**New Business:**

1) A continued discussion regarding Fire Pits within City limits took place. The Committee reviewed the draft of the proposed ordinance. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that the fire pits at the campgrounds at Chief Joseph Park are 36”. Page 2, Section IIIE2d should be changed to from 30” to 36” for maximum width of the fire pit. Committee member Jack Runner asked if the Fire Department would be inspecting the fire pits. He asked how the requirements would be enforced. Frank stated that probably only if a neighbor complained.

The time limit for when a fire pit could be used was discussed. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco asked Bob if there was a time limit currently at Chief Joseph Park for when a fire pit could be used. Bob said there wasn’t. Mayor Paul Otten stated that perhaps a time restriction of 12am should be given to the park fire pits. Discussion ensued regarding time limits at the park on fire pits. Frank stated that it should be looked into further about County “burn ban” time limits. Jack suggested that Chief Joseph Park fire pits be exempt from this ordinance.

Discussed changes will be made to the ordinance draft. The Ordinance will be reviewed once more at the 3/23/21 meeting. The Ordinance Committee will then present the document to the Council for a first reading.

2) A continued discussion took place regarding dog/cat vaccinations, licensing and fines. Jack asked how it could be differentiated between a feral cat and someone’s pet as well as how it could be known if a cat was vaccinated for rabies. Lara will look into her list serve group and report back to the committee regarding how other cities and towns (without an Animal Control Department) handle these situations.

Paul stated that if the Sheriff’s Department won’t enforce these ordinances, it doesn’t really matter if the ordinance exists. Discussion ensued regarding new residents getting their pets vaccinated and licensed as well as what a “reasonable amount of time” to do so would be.

Jack asked if there would be two fines associated with violation of the ordinance—one for not being vaccinated and one for not being licensed. Frank suggested that people be given a warning who “didn’t know” but after that, a fine should be given. Bob asked if a certain amount of time should be given for them to take care of it. Frank stated that he didn’t want the Sheriff’s department to have more work. Jack stated that there is a log at the Sheriff’s department for keeping track of things but it usually isn’t filled out. Paul stated that the contract that the City pays the Sheriff’s department for includes the Sheriff’s department upholding the City’s ordinances. Discussion ensued regarding offenses and fines associated with them. Jack suggested that a Deputy should attend a future meeting to give more input.

3) Chapter 16 of the Ordinance Handbook was discussed. Jack made a motion that the chapter be approved as written with the words “Big Timber” being changed to “City of Harlowton”. Frank seconded the motion. Discussion took place regarding annexation of certain properties as well as livestock on those properties.

Items on the next Meeting’s agenda include:
- A second review of the proposed Ordinance for Fire Pits within City Limits.

- Continued review of Ordinances regarding dog licenses/ dog/cat rabies vaccinations/ fines

- Review Chapter 17 of the Ordinance Handbook

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

Committee Members present: Frank Brouillette, Jack Runner

Committee Members absent: Allison Jones

City: Paul Otten, Lara Brisco, Bob Schuchard

Sheriff’s Office: none

Public Present: Steve Stewart

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Frank Brouillette, Ordinance Chairman Lara Brisco, City Clerk-Treasurer