Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

March 23, 2021

Harlowton City Library Conference Room

6:00PM

**Minutes:** Minutes from the March 9, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved with one exception. Under “New Business” Section 1, Committee Chair Frank Brouillette requested the sentence “Frank stated that this would be necessary to keep people from being loud late at night” be removed. He did not recall saying that.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Updates on Previous Meeting Agenda Points:** There were not updates on past agenda points. The issue of Recreational Marijuana was brought up as well as the concern over how the revenue would be distributed.

**New Business:**

1) A continued discussion regarding Fire Pits within City limits took place. The Committee reviewed the draft of the proposed ordinance that was to be presented to the Council. Wheatland County Under Sheriff Randy Cameron was present for the meeting. He stated that the State laws regarding fire pit use were much more convoluted than the City’s Ordinance being presented. He also stated that violation fines should be attached to the Ordinance so that the Sheriff’s Department can easily enforce the Ordinance. Discussion ensued. It was agreed that specific fines would not be necessary in order for the Sheriff’s Department to uphold the proposed Ordinance.

2) A continued discussion took place regarding dog/cat vaccinations, licensing and fines. Frank asked Randy if the dogs running at large/unlicensed/unvaccinated was currently an issue. Randy said no. Discussion ensued regarding a 2019 Ordinance revision and specific fines for dogs running at large. Randy requested that if any changes were made to these ordinances, that the fines stay the same so that the Sheriff’s Department could uphold them.

Discussion ensued regarding dogs barking incessantly. Frank suggested that a warning be given first to the owner. Randy agreed. Randy stated that it was first a verbal warning, second a written warning then third a fine would be given. Randy suggested that a “fix-it ticket” type enforcement for non-licensed dogs be put in place. Give the owner one week to get the license. Committee member Jack Runner asked Randy what other changes could be made to the Ordinances so that they may be easier to be upheld by the Sheriff’s Department. Randy stated that clear fines attached would be the easiest way for them to be upheld.

Discussion ensued regarding the definition of a misdemeanor.

Jack asked Randy if the Sheriff’s Department does anything to enforce rules with cats. Randy said no.

Discussion ensued regarding vicious dogs. Discussion ensued regarding excessive barking. Frank read the old ordinance regarding this issue. There was not a specific fine stated for excessive barking.

Jack asked if the existing ordinances could be put together. Discussion ensued regarding how to go about doing this.

3) Chapter 17 of the Ordinance Handbook was discussed. Discussion took place regarding what areas of the town are licensed to allow sewage disposal (from RVs). Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that no areas should be allowed to dump sewage without the City’s permission. The Car wash currently allows it but does not have the City’s permission. It was stated that the dumping does not currently throw off the sewer but it could in the future. It was also stated that the blue fluid added to the RV septic tanks was very bad for the City’s sewer system. A high volume of RVs dumping at the Car Wash site would be very bad for the City Sewer.

Jack suggested that permits be created and issued in order for dumping sites to have City permission. Section 8.9.9 of the book was going to be removed but it was discussed that perhaps it should remain in the book to allow the City to charge for the extra sewer use by such businesses as the Car Wash.

Bob stated that RPA, the Engineering company being used by the City for the Wastewater Upgrade project, had suggested that the City do a “test run” with allowing the Car wash to use the City Sewer line for dumping.

Jack stated that more research needed to be done. Frank stated that Jason (the Car Wash owner) and Kathleen Schreiber (another RV park owner in town) should be contacted regarding the issue.

Discussion ensued regarding RV parks and DEQ compliance.   
Chapter 17 will continue to be discussed at the 4/13/2021 meeting as well as Chapter 18.

Items on the next Meeting’s agenda include:  
- Continued review of Ordinances regarding dog licenses/ dog/cat rabies vaccinations/ fines

- Review Chapter 17 and 18 of the Ordinance Handbook

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm

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

Committee Members absent: none

City: Paul Otten, Lara Brisco, Bob Schuchard

Sheriff’s Office: Under Sheriff Randy Cameron

Public Present: Steve Stewart

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