Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

April 13, 2021

Harlowton City Library Conference Room

6:00PM

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

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

**Updates on Previous Meeting Agenda Points:** Committee member Jack Runner stated that 3 bills had been submitted regarding Recreational Marijuana but there had been no progress. One bill regarded City requirements to allow dispensaries in town in order to receive revenue from the sales. Jack also mentioned that a “less than formal” zoning for dispensaries might be needed.

Jack asked Mayor Paul Otten if there had been any new news regarding the costs for the upcoming election. Paul stated that there was no new information to present. Paul also stated that currently there was no available land for a dispensary to use within the City.

Discussion took place regarding locations of dispensaries currently in Lewistown.

**New Business:**

1) A continued discussion took place regarding dog/cat vaccinations, licensing and fines. The Committee reviewed a document Committee member Allison Jones had typed up. She re-typed the existing ordinances regarding dogs. She stated that page 2, “8.09.190” should say “8.09.090”. Discussion ensued regarding getting the Sheriff’s department to review the updated copy. Paul stated that the section of the ordinance book where this would be should be amended to include the update copy. Jack stated that a few changes should be made but that Under Sheriff Randy Cameron had not seen a lot that needed to be fixed. Jack stated that the document should be reviewed by the Sheriff’s department to make sure it’s approved.

2) Chapter 17 of the Ordinance Handbook was reviewed further. The Committee agreed that those facilities that are currently allowing RV sewage dumping should be contacted. (This includes the Car Wash and private RV camping grounds.) A continued discussion took place regarding how to offset the sewer dumping and any damage being done to the City’s sewer. Paul and community member Steve Stewart discussed the “blue fluid” used in some RV septic tanks and how this can affect the City’s sewer line. Discussion ensued regarding other places people can dump RV sewage at and the costs. Committee Chairman Frank Brouillette stated that the owner of the Car Wash, Jason, should be contacted regarding the sewer concern. Discussion ensued regarding business licenses and the benefits of having them for incoming businesses. Jack stated that Chapter 17 does not specifically talk about RVs. Jack suggested that Chapter 17 be approved and then later on something could be created to specifically address RV dumping.
Discussion ensued regarding other RV sites in town and septic dumping options. It was suggested that the RV Parks throughout the City be consulted regarding their prices for RV dumping.

Paul stated that the Committee should talk to Debra Davis, the City’s Utility Billing Clerk regarding water/sewer rate changes with the seasons. Discussion took place regarding meters and rates. Frank suggested that the Committee come back to the discussion later on. Allison suggested that the conversation be started with people regarding the issue so that they could be made aware. Public Works Director Bob stated that the new UV building going up would change the way the lagoon is treated. Frank suggested that Chapter 17 should be accepted and re-evaluated later, if needed.

Chapter 18 of the Ordinance Book regarding Fire Hydrants was discussed. Discussion took place regarding how hydrants within the City are managed. Jack suggested that the chapter be accepted as written. Bob suggested that privately owned fire hydrants not be approved by the City. He stated that cross contamination would be an issue. Chapter 18 was approved as written with the words “Big Timber” being changed to “Harlowton”.

Jack stated that the remaining pages of the Ordinance book were not in his copy. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco stated that she would make copies for Jack’s book.

Discussion took place regarding campers parked on the City’s residential streets and the inhibition of snow removal. Some residential streets are narrow and snow removal can be difficult if large vehicles are parked on the curb. Discussion took place regarding unlicensed/unregistered campers are in violation of the City. Frank stated that a designated area needs to be assigned for RV/camper storage. Discussion ensued regarding areas within the City were the storage could be. The Armory was suggested. Allison said she would ask the owner of the property.

Items on the next Meeting’s agenda include:
-Re-review of the Ordinance draft regarding fire pits.

-Vehicles/RVs parking on streets (State laws and existing ordinances)

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

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: none

Public Present: Steve Stewart

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Paul Otten, Mayor Lara Brisco, City Clerk-Treasurer