Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

April 27, 2021

Harlowton City Library Conference Room

6:00PM

**Minutes:** Minutes from the April 13, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment:** none

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

**New Business:**

1) A continued review of the Fire Pit Ordinance and revision took place. City Fire Chief Kevin Knudson was present to give his opinion. Kevin stated that he did not think section III. E. 1. d. was necessary (referring to the need for a metal mesh cover on the fire pit). Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that currently the fire pits at Chief Joseph RV Park do not have mesh covers. Bob also stated that if mesh covers were required, 98% of the fire pits in town would have to get one. Discussion ensued regarding mesh screens.

Committee member Allison Jones stated that it was more important that the fires not be 6 feet high than it was to have a mesh screen. Kevin asked if a “burn time” was necessary. Committee member Jack Runner stated that yes, it would be necessary to keep parties at the park down.

Discussion took place regarding fire pit dimension size.

Discussion took place regarding section III. E. 2 a-e.

The committee discussed outdoor chimneys and BBQ grills.

Discussion took place regarding fines for violation of the Fire Pit Ordinance. Kevin stated that if the fire department is needed, the person should definitely be fined. Jack asked if someone’s insurance would cover it. Allison stated that no, if the person was being negligent, the insurance would not cover it. Allison stated that fines should be attached to violations so that the Sheriff’s department can fine someone if they need to. Jack stated that they should leave it up to the Sheriff’s department to decide if they would fine someone. Mayor Paul Otten stated that it should be added to the Ordinance that “If the Sheriff’s department is called and you are in violation, you could be subject to fines.” Paul stated that the fines should be high enough to discourage people from multiple violations. First offense, $75, second offense, $150, third offense $300.

Discussion took place regarding whether section III. E. 2. d. was necessary. The committee decided to leave it.
Discussion took place regarding what is considered a “manufactured burning appliance”. Paul suggested that the section regarding “outdoor burning appliances” be removed from the Ordinance. The committee agreed to remove the references to “outdoor burning appliances” and just focus on fire pits. The committee agreed to remove the words “An Above Ground Recreation Fire Pit” from E. 1.

A revised Ordinance will be reviewed at the next Ordinance, followed by a first reading at the Council Meeting on May 11, 2021.

2) The Committee continued a discussion regarding dog/cat licenses/fines/vaccinations. The Committee agreed to remove the word “Cat” from the original ordinances regarding dogs/cats and create ordinances applying to dogs and cats separately. Bob stated that this must be done at the same time so that the cats are not “dismissed”. The Committee will continue the discussion and how to go about doing this at the next meeting.

Items on the next Meeting’s agenda include:
Continued discussion on dog/cat vaccinations/fines/licensing.

Continued discussion on streets section of Ordinance book

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

Committee Members present: Jack Runner, Allison Jones

Committee Members absent: Frank Brouillette

City: Paul Otten, Lara Brisco, Bob Schuchard

Sheriff’s Office: none

Public Present: Kevin Knudson

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Jack Runner, Committee member Lara Brisco, City Clerk-Treasurer