Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

June 14, 2022

Harlowton City Hall

6:00PM

**Minutes:** Minutes from the May 10, 2022 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment:** none

**Updates on Previous Meeting Agenda Points:** City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco read out loud an email from the Montana State Fire Marshal commending the City on the newly revised Decay Ordinance.

Jack gave a recap of a recent Municipal Summit he had attended. The summit was very informative and Dan Clark had presented. The discussion of recreational marijuana at the summit was useful. Jack learned that if the county had not passed recreation marijuana there would be nothing else to do. A referendum would be needed to get it on the ballot again in November. If this happens, the City would need to prepare for it. Jack stated that he would be getting more information on this soon.

The summit also discussed I-121, a proposed state bill which would cap City revenue received from taxes. Jack stated that it could cut up to 25-50% of the general budget. Mayor Paul Otten stated that any time something advertises lowering taxes, it looks promising to voters. He stated that voters don’t often realize how it will impact their Cities. Lara stated that Kelly Lynch at the Local Government Services would be the one to reach out for more information.

Lara gave Committee member Allison Jones a returned letter she had sent to the address connected to the State Theatre regarding a decay ordinance/safety violation. Lara looked up another address (Daphne Young) and gave it to Allison.

**Business:**  Continued discussion of Title 11 in the Ordinance Book took place. There was discussion of what parts would apply, being that the City doesn’t do building licenses or have a building inspector. City Attorney Karen Hammel stated that it was misleading to call this title “Zoning”. She stated that the City should refer to the revised decay ordinance as needed but that Title 11 is more detailed. Discussion took place regarding who will manage the safety concerns of buildings. Karen suggested that Snowy Mountain Development be called in to assist. Discussion took place regarding who is in charge and what state agency would help regarding managing the safety of buildings. Paul stated that perhaps the state would have a list of private contractors. Jack asked if perhaps the word “zoning” should be changed to a different word in title 11. Karen stated that this could be done since there would be changes to the title anyway. Committee chair Frank Brouillette asked Lara to consult the clerk listserv group regarding how other cities without building inspectors handle similar situations.

Discussion took place regarding how to weed through complaints versus legitimate concerns of citizens. Frank stated that Council members would need to bring these concerns to the meetings. Karen stated that it would be a process. Discussion took place regarding previous concerns and complaints

Charlie Bennett entered the room and was asked how the meeting with the fire Marshall went. He stated that the fire Marshall would be willing to attend a council meeting when he is in town to do things related to the fire department.

**Items on the next Meeting’s agenda:** Big Timber Rules and Regulations Book, continued discussion of Title 11

Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

Committee Members present: Frank Brouillette, Jack Runner, Allison Jones (Council member Charley Bennett)

Committee Members absent: none

City: Paul Otten, Lara Brisco, Bob Schuchard, Karen Hammel

Sheriff’s Office: none

Public Present: (Susan Beley arrived around 5:40)

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