Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

September 28, 2021

Harlowton City Library Conference Room

6:00PM

**Minutes:** Minutes from the August 24, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment:** None

**Business:**

1) Regarding the revised Fire Pit Ordinance, Ordinance Committee member Jack Runner stated that definitions and legality was unclear. There was a discussion regarding the fire pit ordinance versus the City’s currently existing burn ordinance and how to bring them together. City Attorney Karen Hammel stated that the language of the document would cover this. Karen stated that the burn barrels at Loco Creek and Ray’s would be “grandfathered” in. Jack stated that burn barrels had to be designed specifically for doing so and that some people just use regular barrels to burn in. Mayor Paul Otten stated that the Sheriff’s office should be handling such situations. Karen stated that she would research what Montana state law says about industrial burners. Discussion took place regarding what materials should be burned and what should not as well as what is considered residential versus commercial burning.

Karen stated that she would look more into the Montana laws regarding what can and can’t be burned.

2) Discussion took place regarding the Chief Joseph Park stay limit Ordinance and certain vague language. Jack stated that the state limit should be for all of the park and not just the RV area. Karen stated that the second “whereas” referred to this. Reference to “Chapter 16” should be changed to “Chapter 4”. Karen had recently revised the draft to include Jack’s suggested changes. Karen stated that the document would be ready at the next Ordinance meeting for review and would also be ready to be presented to the Council at the next meeting to be voted on.

3) Continued discussion took place regarding issues with long term RV parking on residential streets. Jack stated that non-moveable and non-registered vehicles could be towed according to Montana law. Jack did not see any references in Montana law regarding vehicles blocking views. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that the City currently has an ordinance against this. Bob brought up the issue with homeowners taking up the entire street to park their own vehicles.

Discussion ensued regarding alternative long term parking options such as designed City lots.

It was agreed that the biggest concern is vehicles that make it difficult to plow streets. Discussion took place regarding the current snow plowing route of the City Public Works Department.

Karen suggested that a public meeting should take place to hear the community’s input. Discussion took place regarding how to make the City RV storage lot more secure.

4) Jack asked if the Floodplain ordinance was due to be passed by 10/1. He suggested that the City pass the current DNRC version.

Discussion took place regarding the disaster mitigation documents.

Karen stated that the old floodplain ordinance and DNRC documents must be compared. She stated that the Council could adopt a Resolution to allow an appendix to the current documents regarding the DNRC floodplain ordinance. Paul asked that Karen create this document *before* the next meeting (10/12/21) to review. Karen stated that the document would need to be posted in the newspaper for 2 weeks. Karen stated that she would get the document to the Ordinance Committee prior to the 10/12 meeting so that they may have a chance to review it.

Items on the next Meeting’s agenda include:  
Last review of Chief Joseph Park RV stay-limit ordinance before presenting to Council for vote.

Continued discussion of the inter-local agreement and Floodplain Ordinance documents.

Continued discussion of the revised Fire Pit Ordinance

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

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

Committee Members absent: none

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

Sheriff’s Office: none

Public Present: none

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Frank Brouillette , Committee Chair Lara Brisco, City Clerk-Treasurer