

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held January 12, 2016 at 7:00pm opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the December 8, 2015 meeting were approved as correct.

Council members Paul Otten, Ron Teig and John Anderson were sworn in by the mayor.

Lauri Teig, representative for the Wheatland Chamber of Commerce, addressed the council. A DEQ grant has been awarded to continue the clean-up of the Chevron property (Smart property) which the Chamber of Commerce owns. The grant is requesting in-kind contributions of 200 cubic yards of gravel, an area to place the contaminated soil that will be removed and removal and disposal of the concrete islands still on the property. The city would allow the contaminated soil to be placed at the landfill property along with the disposed concrete. Two hundred cubic yards of gravel would be a rather large expense. Jeff questioned if the Chamber has funds to pay for that portion. Lauri stated she would check. Action for this item will be placed on the next city council meeting agenda.

Tiffany Lyden of the MT DNRC Floodplain mapping program was in attendance to give a presentation on the floodplain mapping project that will include Harlowton. Russ Anderson, project manager from Morrison-Maierle also presented information regarding their role in the project as engineers. We are to expect “working maps” in May or June of 2016.

Information had been received from both the city attorney, Jon Hesse and MMIA the city’s insurance carrier regarding fireworks sales within the city limits. Jon Hesse indicated that there should be no issues with repealing this code. MMIA insurance specifically excludes fireworks coverage; however as long as the fireworks stands are not actually on city property there shouldn’t be any issues. The city council was asked to make a decision on if fireworks will be allowed to be sold within the city limits. Ron Teig made the motion to amend the city code 9.28.010 to allow for the sale of fireworks within the city of Harlowton’s limits. Bob Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The city clerk will proceed with the process to amend/repeal this code.

Jeff Sell and Kathie Newland will be participating in a call with bond council representative Courtney Ellis of Dorsey Whitney to continue with the process of changing the city’s water and sewer rates.

Resolution 2016-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT PROGRAM PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION AND THE OBLIGATION OF MATCHING FUNDS was read. This resolution is pertaining to our water phase IV project. Jeff stated that the city is applying for RRGL grant of \$5,000, TSEP grant of \$7,500 and the city would have to provide \$2,500. Discussion was held. Bob Jones made the motion to approve resolution 2016-01. Jim Kalitowski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff asked if the council members would like to reconsider how their annual compensation for being city council members was calculated. Information was provided on how the payment is currently calculated. No action was taken.

Ian Reed reported that the current city street sander was purchased prior to 1998 and was worn out and the motor was failing again. A new street sander was ordered. If the weather cooperates the crew will be trimming trees. The crew has also been doing the winter maintenance on the equipment.

Bob Jones had questions regarding the frozen sewer lagoons. Ian stated that the bacteria does increase when frozen; however the ponds are aerated so that helps. In the spring when it warms up they will have to watch carefully to keep the bacteria at acceptable limits. Bob Jones also had questions regarding the power bills for the wells. Ian stated one of the wells has been shut off for over a month now and he is awaiting the power bill to see the difference.

Jim Kalitowski had questions regarding the phase IV water project. He was wondering if there would be other options for the main water line rather than going down the main highway. Ian stated that he and the engineers will review all options prior to making final decisions.

Ron Teig, representing the Harlowton Rodeo Group asked if camping fees could be waived for the July 4th rodeo activities. Jeff stated that camping fees would not be waived.

Ron Teig also asked about the millings pile by the park. Jeff stated that is the county's milling pile; however the city does use some of it. Hopefully this spring a larger portion will get used up.

The next city council meeting will be held on January 26, 2016 at 7:00pm in the city hall. Bob Jones will be gone.

John Anderson made a motion to pay the bills, checks #20123-20150 from the December 4, 2015 through January 8, 2016 claims. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 8:27pm.

Council Members Present:

John Anderson, Bob Jones, Jim Kalitowski, Paul Otten, Ron Teig

Employees Present:

Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk