

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held February 23, 2016 at 7:00pm opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the February 9, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

Council member Paul Otten reported on the findings of inspecting the leased properties within his ward. Council approved the recommendation of improving about ½ miles of fence to 5 wire with stays and a gate for \$1600 and thus increasing the minimum bid on the property currently leased by Shirley Schuchard. Old jack-leg fencing around the city owned property leased by Gary Olson has fallen to disrepair. Weed control was hard to determine at this time of year and it was recommended that the city council do a better job of enforcing the written leases as pertaining to weed maintenance. Jim Kalitowski reported on leased properties within his ward. He questioned the appropriate use of city owned properties and if there was anything written in the leases about use of the property.

Jeff reported that the city had started an internal search for information on city owned properties that would be leased. This will be a lengthy process.

One city property lease is currently past due. It was suggested by the city council that unpaid leases should not be renewed.

Jeff Sell reported to Bryan Tomlinson that as far as the city's research could find there is no current easement to continue 6<sup>th</sup> St NE out to the county road through the property recently purchased by Tomlinsons. Bryan requested that the city set up an easement for utility right of ways to prevent future confusion.

Sealed packages from three prospective engineering firms were opened and distributed to the council members for review. Packages were received from Territorial Landworks Inc of Missoula, Robert Peccia and Associates of Helena and Great West Engineering of Helena. Each council member is to review the information provided and be prepared at the next council meeting to score and rank each proposal.

Resolution 2016-05 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS OF THE STATE OF MONTANA SHORT TERM INVESTMENT POOL (STIP) AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO was presented. Ron Teig made the motion to accept resolution 2016-05 as presented. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2016-06 A RESOLUTION FOR BUDGETARY AUTHORITY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT was read. John Anderson made the motion to accept resolution 2016-06. Bryan Tomlinson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2016-07 A RESOLUTION FOR BUDGETARY AUTHORITY FOR TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT PROGRAM GRANT was read. Bob Jones made the motion to accept resolution 2016-07. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff reported that the process of re-building the city's cash reserves, which is required by lending institutions, for the water and sewer funds would take 15.3 and 4.8 years respective. Those figures are based on the city's current charge rate structure and fiscal year 2015-2016 water and sewer budgets. When phase III of the water project is implemented, bond council will be reviewing and updating the rate structures to ensure that we meet the loan requirements.

Ian was recently awarded the Montana Rural Water Systems Manager of the Year award. The council congratulated Ian on this accomplishment.

Ian Reed provided information that the DEQ is going to require de-sludging of lagoons. This will be a costly maintenance fee and it was suggested that a fee could be charged to users of the system to help pay for this. Ian recently attended a Snowy Mountain Development meeting. He provided the council with a flier regarding business workshops being provided by SMDC. He also provided copies of the MT report card on infrastructure. Ian and Bob Schuchard attended the MT Rural Waters Convention. Discussion regarding implementing an industrial waste charge for the city was held.

The next city council meeting will be held on March 8, 2016 at 7:00pm in the city hall.

Bryan Tomlinson made a motion to pay the bills, checks #20201-20217 from the February 6, 2016 through February 19, 2016 claims. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 8:31 pm.

Council Members Present:

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

Employees Present:

Ian Reed

---

Jeff Sell, Mayor

---

Kathie Newland, Clerk