

Harlowton City Council Minutes
March 10, 2015
Harlowton Public Library Conference Room

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held March 10, 2015 opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

A draft of the Rocky Mountain Cookware Access Agreement was reviewed by the council. It was prepared by John Hesse. A motion to adopt the access road easement with a typo correction to the first line (Montan) was made by Jim Kalitowski. Joe Brouillette had an additional question regarding the footage wording. The mayor was able to clarify the meaning. The motion was seconded by Bryan Tomlinson. Motion carried unanimously.

Ian Reed presented proposed changes to the transfer station fee schedule at the February 17 council meeting. Jeff Sell presented information regarding the 2014/2015 budget and actual expenses regarding the landfill. In total the solid waste budget to actual expenditures is on target. Joe Brouillette presented the idea to offer one free pass for the transfer station (landfill dump) for patrons whose utility bills are paid in full at a certain date. This would be to make amends for the increased fee schedule. Discussion ensued. Bob Jones made the motion to accept the proposed 2015 landfill prices with the exception of grass, leaves and tree branches which will be \$5.00 per load. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff presented information regarding the recycling costs for the 2014/2015 year. Due to changing the vendor who provides the services our recycling costs are considerably lower than the previous year.

Bid letting for the C Avenue Sidewalk project opened on February 24, 2015 with 3 bids placed. Great West Engineering reviewed the bids and the MT Department of Transportation concurs with the city on awarding the contract to Christensen Construction for \$102,980.00. The city's portion of this project has already been budgeted in the 2014/2015 budget. Bob Jones questioned if the property owner's had any responsibility to pay for any of this project. The mayor explained that the majority of this project is actually on city property. The mayor mentioned he would be discussing this project with the Harlowton High School administration. As this project could greatly increase the safety for the school children it may be possible that the school could fund a portion of this project. Bryan Tomlinson made the motion to accept the CTEP C Avenue Sidewalk project bid of \$102,980.00 from Christensen Construction. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The mayor noted that this project will start after the end of this school year.

Jeff Sell reported that attorney John Hesse would be working on the annexation regarding the Sportsmens and Corral Motel, the fireworks ordinance and assistance with codification of our ordinances. He was currently behind schedule due to vacation and would keep Jeff updated on these projects.

Jeff reported that our annual financial audit performed by Strom and Associates would begin on March 11, 2015. He invited any council members to attend the entrance interview which is at 2:00.

Ian Reed, city superintendent, reported that the city crew has been working on the automated chlorine change-over systems. They have done work on the dams on the Jawbone Creek Golf Course. Ian has been completing the process to update the permits for the dams and dykes. Jeff reminded the council that the city is required to have funds in place to maintain the dams as evidenced by a contract presented by the DNRC. Ian indicated that the lines will need to be “camera-ed” to find out the condition and indicate any replacement or repairs that will be needed. Bob Jones asked if Ian had been able to research the issue Ed Taylor has brought to the council regarding the tree endangering his private property. Ian indicated he would get this completed. Ian and Bob Schuchard had attended the Rural Waters education offerings in Great Falls last month. Ian said that he and Bob were now up to date on the continued education requirements to keep their certifications. There was a water break on A Avenue on Monday which was repaired quickly. All three city crew staff were attending OSHA training in Lewistown on March 10 and 11, 2015.

Jeff Sell gave a quick update on legislative happenings.

John Anderson gave a report on the library. The ceiling and painting project are done. Thanks to Debbie Davis for preparing the grant requests and her hard work on the project itself. These projects came in under budget so the remaining approximately \$9,000 was going to go toward updating the front of the library building, handicapped door accesses and some computers.

The next government review committee meeting will be on March 16, 2015 in the Library Conference room at 7:00. The committee prepared a survey for the community. Debbie Davis has been requesting residents to fill it out as they come to pay their utility bills.

Ron Teig made a motion to pay the bills, checks #19604-19625. Robert Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Members Present:

John Anderson
Joe Brouillette
Bob Jones
Jim Kalitowski
Ron Teig
Bryan Tomlinson

City Employees Present:

Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk