

Harlowton City Council Minutes
April 14, 2015
Harlowton Public Library Conference Room

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held April 14, 2015 opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the March 24, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

The city of Harlowton will be sponsoring the annual “Spring Clean-Up Day” on May 8 and 9, 2015. The transfer station will be open from 8:00am to 4:00pm on those days. Jeff asked for council members to volunteer some time on one of the two days to help staff the transfer station. Jeff reported the Chamber of Commerce was wondering if they could do something to support the event. Council members felt anything that they could do would be beneficial.

Wheatland Memorial Healthcare has asked the city of patch some potholes in NW Prichard Street that runs behind the hospital. After Jeff discussed this with the administration of the hospital he clarified to them that the street actually runs into and under the ambulance barn and not to the north of it. The city will repair the pothole that is east of the ambulance entrance but is not responsible for any of the other areas they were requesting repaired. Jeff asked the council for permission to pursue getting a legal document written up regarding closing the street without giving up easement to the city utilities that run through that area. All were in agreement.

Jeff explained to the council that when a resident leaves the area for vacation or “snow birding” and if they have their water shut off that they are charged the base rate for utility services and when they return they are charged an additional \$50.00 to turn their water back on. Bob Jones made the motion that there be no charge to turn residents’ water back on for those who shut off their water service while on vacation. Joe Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff needed clarification on how the free dump passes were going to work. Council discussed the options and decided that if a resident’s utility bill was paid in full at any time during the regular transfer station season (April through October) they are eligible to receive one free pass to the dump with grass, leaves and/or branches. This pass is non-transferrable and only one per utility account will be issued. Resident must pick up their pass at the city office.

Jeff Sell re-appointed Sam Griffith and Frank Hutton to a three year term (2015-2017) for the Urban Supervisor positions for the Upper Musselshell Conservation District.

Bob Jones gave a report on the last meeting of the Government Study Commission. The public comment survey had been reviewed and they are hoping to receive more back before tallying results. Committee members will be interviewing certain city officials for input and feedback. The next meeting is April 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Harlowton City Library Conference room.

Ian was not able to attend the meeting. Jeff reported that the Jawbone Creek dams had been inspected. There is some damage to an inlet pipe that will need to be fixed. Water pools below the dam and the freezing water is damaging a concrete culvert. There is some additional tree removal that will need to be done as well. Jeff reported that according to the 1980 agreement with the DNRC the city is

responsible for the maintenance and upkeep. Jeff is doing more research to see if the city can do a permissive levy or if it will need to be a voted levy. He and Ian will figure out an estimated budget for this maintenance. A DEQ required flow meter needs to be installed between the lagoon and lift station. In order to do this the lagoon levels need to be lowered. The pump on the Thompson well has failed. Historically this pump has only been lasting approximately 7-8 years. The cost of the last pump was just under \$20,000 in 2007. It will probably cost around \$30,000 to get an appropriate pump for the Thompson well. The city crew will be doing street patching. The durapatcher needed fixing before they could start.

Richard Knudson will be installing the new front desk at the city office on Wednesday April 15. Funds for this desk came from the Callant Family Foundation. Staff will begin collecting information and items for a surplus sale.

Council packets will now be ready after 3:00 Fridays prior to council meetings. Kathie will email the packets to those who provided their email addresses. All others are to pick up their packets at the city office.

John Anderson reported the library will receive more money from the Callant Family Foundation to re-do the exterior front of the library building. Siding and tin samples were available for the council to view. John reported that if there was enough money from the Callant grants they will also be installing a handicapped automatic door opener on the back door of the library. The library hopes to install a “log cabin” looking wall in the front children’s area. A Lego club is getting started. Kathleen and Debbie attending the state library convention in Bozeman. There has been good community usage of the library. Jeff would like a few council members to attend the June county commissioner’s meeting with him to encourage the county to increase their yearly financial support of the library.

Joe Brouillette requested information on the lighting district for the next meeting.

The next city council meeting will be April 28, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Library conference room.

Ron Teig made a motion to pay the bills, checks #19662-19688. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Members Present:

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

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk