

Harlowton City Council Minutes
June 14, 2016
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held June 14, 2016 at 7:00pm opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the May 24, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

Residents Phil and Linda Wilsman were questioning if business licenses were on the agenda again. Jeff Sell stated it was something the council wanted to pursue further but was not on the agenda for this meeting. Linda questioned why the council wanted business licensing. Councilmember Paul Otten said the council hoped that business licenses would help keep questionable door to door sales people from harassing community members. Phil Wilsman suggested looking at the City of Columbus' "peddler's boycott" ordinance. Michael DeBorde said that he would be working on cleaning up his lease property (the old dump). Joe Brouillette questioned a comment published in the Times Clarion. Jeff Sell said they would have to ask Shelli Randles if they could listen to her recorded copy of the council meeting to see if the statement posted in the newspaper was accurate. Larry Steubin commented that he felt the business licensing was going to get approved through the "back door".

Jeff Sell updated the council on the progress of the city owned property leases. All grazing/recreational leases have been returned. There are a few more commercial leases not completed.

There are six decay ordinance violations in progress. Jeff Sell spoke with attorney John Hesse about how we can proceed in processing the decay violations.

There were no committee reports.

Ian Reed presented the 4-H club's plans for a 12x 12 playhouse to be built at the Chief Joseph Park playground. Bob Jones made the motion to approve the presented playhouse plans. Discussion about building materials, foundations and building codes were held. Bob Jones amended his motion to approval of building the presented plans with the exception that there were to be no windows or doors installed and that the club needed to check if there were building permits necessary before construction began. Bryan Tomlinson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2016-13 RESOLUTION OF INTENTION OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA TO DECREASE RATES FOR THE USERS OF THE CITY'S SEWER SYSTEM was read. John Anderson made the motion to approve resolution 2016-13 as read. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2016-14 RESOLUTION OF INTENTION OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA TO INCREASE RATES FOR THE USERS OF THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM was read. Paul Otten made the motion to approve resolution 2016-14 as read. Bob Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff reported that Snowy Mountain Development Corporation was working with Steve Olson, owner of Biegel's Bar, and the City on a process to donate the property to the city and to utilize Brownsfield grant money to clean up the property.

Jeff reported that he had been in contact with HRDC regarding administering a "utility share" program for the city of Harlowton. This program would allow for donations to be used to pay on resident's city utility bills. Jeff is waiting to hear back from the area HRDC representative.

New rates for the Chief Joseph Park camping sites were discussed. Paul Otten made the motion to charge MT State off-season camping rates affective July 1, 2016. These rates currently are 12.00 for tent, 14.00 for campsite without electricity, and 20.00 for campsite with electricity. The MT state off-season rates will be reviewed each January and Chief Joseph Park rates will be adjusted yearly to coincide. Rates for Chief Joseph Park for future years will be effective January through December. Bryan Tomlinson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Four sign designs for the Chief Joseph Park were presented. Suggestion were made for changes. New designs will be presented at the next council meeting.

Ian Reed reported that the south well pump is working and flushing and testing will need to be done before it can be put back on line. Phase 3 water project construction will start this week. Construction is to be done within 105 days. The cost of fixing the south well problems will be included in the SRF loan. Council members questioned the sidewalk in front of the old Beley Ford station. Owner Ward Beley is aware and will be in town soon so that a plan can be discussed for fixing the sidewalk issue. Paul Otten asked about the “No U Turn” signs that used to be on Central. Signs were taken down by approval of the council due to painting of the poles. The city does have a “No U Turn” ordinance but most of the driving issues are “J Turns” not “U Turns” so law enforcement could not enforce the issue. Jeff gave an update on the park playground fund raising project. The grant for the playground equipment that Mandie Reed applied for through the fish wildlife and parks agency has been approved for \$24,000. Bryan commented that the topsoil donation from Spectra Energy for the playground area has been approved. The city will have to organize getting the product hauled. Electricity is costing less at the lagoon since the timers were installed on the lagoon blowers.

Lauri Teig reported that DEQ and TetriTech are still working on the clean-up phase of the old Chevron station. Lauri asked if the council would approve allowing the use of the city landfill area as a “farming” area to dump water that is filling a dangerous hole on the Chevron Property. Jeff Sell suggested asking Pioneer Tech to pump out the hole and dispose of its contents.

The next city council meeting will be held on June 28, 2016 at 7:00pm in the city hall.

Bryan Tomlinson made a motion to pay the bills, checks #20366-20395 from the May 21, 2016 through June 10, 2016 claims. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 8:57 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