

Harlowton City Council Minutes
June 28, 2016
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held June 28, 2016 at 7:00pm opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the June 14, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Jeff Sell updated the council on the city owned property leases. All grazing/recreational leases are done. There is one commercial lease that has not been submitted as the council previously stated it needed to be paid up to date before a renewal was offered. Jeff will talk with the lessee about this.

Jeff gave the council an update on the phase III water project. As the accepted bid was approximately \$350,000 below engineers' estimates, the city has requested from the funding agencies to expand this phase five more blocks (approximately 2000 feet more). Phil Wilsman asked if these additional five blocks were already engineered. It was noted that only one block has been engineered but the additional four will be engineered at little to no cost to the city. Old water lines are being left in place so temporary water lines will not need to be used. The sub-contractors will give the property owners the option of replacing their personal water lines at the property owner's expense.

Phil Wilsman asked about the explosive gases that were previously detected in the area of town where he lives. Once NWEnergy came to test there were no dangerous levels of gases found.

There were no committee reports.

Ian Reed informed the council that Jeff Bornong has looked at the solar system on the library and quoted \$1,200 to get it working again. The council would like Ian to research how long it would take to payoff that kind of investment in energy savings.

Jeff asked if the council had any response for the letter that the Times Clarion had submitted to them and the city. There were no comments from the council.

Bryan Tomlinson made the motion to approve purchase of the Chief Joseph Park that has the picture of Chief Joseph on it (sample attached to minutes). Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff informed the council that a representative from the Department of Military will be at the Wheatland County Courthouse commissioners' office on July 8, 2016 at 11:00 to discuss the closing of the armory and disposition possibilities of the armory building. Jeff emphasized the importance of not letting yet another building in our community go vacant and un-maintained. Jeff requested council members to attend if at all possible. The howitzer on display in front of the armory was to be moved to Terry, MT. Previous National Guard members had asked Jeff to intervene if possible. Jeff was able to communicate with the National Guard and the howitzer is to remain at the armory in Harlowton.

Jeff asked for a volunteer to judge the July 4 BBQ cook-off. Ron Teig said he would consider it.

Ian Reed reported that the city crew has been working on the water project and preparing for the July 4 activities. A hydrant broke in the Chief Joseph Park so that was getting worked on. James Swanson has submitted his resignation so ads for a replacement have been put out. The council requested that the playground area be roped off during the rodeo activities.

Bryan Tomlinson requested a letter be sent to Spectra Energy stating the value of the donated topsoil for the Chief Joseph Park Playground upgrade.

The next city council meeting will be held on July 12, 2016 at 7:00pm in the city hall. The DNRC will be here to report on the tree survey done about two years ago. They have requested tree board members to be in attendance. The public hearing on the utility rate changes will be on July 12, 2016.

Ron Teig made a motion to pay the bills, checks #20400-20409 from the June 11, 2016 through June 24, 2016 claims. Paul Otten seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

John Anderson made the motion to attach the Times Clarion letter to the June 14, 2016 minutes as requested in the letter. Bob Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:46 pm.

Council Members Present:

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

Employees Present:

Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk