

July 14, 2026

Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on June 30, 2026. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

No council conflict of interest with any agenda items.

The minutes of the June 9, 2026, Council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Councilmember Susan Beley reported that since the sale of the Old Times Building has gone through, the drainage issue for the library needs to be addressed. We need to get bids for the construction for that. The library is hosting an artist open house on July 3rd from 10-1. Summer Reading is going well. The library board approved the budget and have decided to go with Fisher's Technology for a new copy machine.

Tree Board: Councilmember Vicki Paddock reported the Tree Board has not met and are working on a date for the next meeting.

Recreation: Councilmember Charley Bennett reported the Recreation Committee had a meeting scheduled but they did not have a quorum, so no meeting was held.

Ordinance: Councilmember Frank Brouillette reported there was no Ordinance Committee meeting this week.

Wetlands Trail: No meeting/No committee yet

OLD BUSINESS:

Cody Nelson: Cody was not in attendance

2nd Reading Ordinance 03-2026 Title 16 Leases: Mayor Runner asked if the Council had any changes for Title 16 Leases. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 03-2026 Title 16 Leases. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lauri Ward-Wheatland County Weed Coordinator: Lauri Ward, the new County Weed Supervisor, reported to the Council that the city received a grant from the Weed District. She also gave the city some chemicals. The county was gifted some Canada Thistle Bugs that were put out down by the Fishing Access site. She also had the Salt Cedar Detection Dogs in the area, and they did find Salt Cedar up and downstream from the Fishing Access site. Laurie is working on a grant from Montana FWP that covers a 5-year period to clean up the weed problems along the river. Laurie also reported the Central Montana Regional Water Authority pipeline is very weedy. The contractor of the pipeline should have a plan of abatement for the weeds. Councilmember Susan Beley asked Lauri if she had seen the spurge along Antelope Creek. Laurie said she would check it out.

Jonathon Weaver-Jawbone Dam: Jonathon Weaver from Great West Engineering was here to report on the Jawbone Dam repairs and costs. Great West had a \$75,000 grant to develop the plan for repairing the Jawbone Dam pipe. He also reported to the Council that we received a \$30,000 grant for the repairs. When Jonathon was here last time, he stated all the city would owe is \$2500 for writing the grant. Now Great West wants \$9000 (\$4000 for Grant Administration and \$5000 for Bidding and Construction Administration) Council questioned Jonathon about the work that has been done, and why the city owes more money. After much discussion, Councilmember Susan Beley moved to pay the Great West Engineering bill from the 26-27 budget. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve New Library Board Trustee: Mayor Runner let the Council know that Katie Loose is no longer on the Library Board, and the board would like the Council approval to appoint Aubrey Miller to the Library Board. Councilmember Vicki Paddock moved to approve Aubrey Miller as the new Library Board Trustee. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Light Pole Banners for Central: Clerk Anita Leach reported she is getting prices for new banners for the light poles on Central Avenue. She and Public Works Director Bob Schuchard are recommending getting cloth banners, all one color so they don't show dirt, and getting shorter ones. Councilmember Vicki Paddock moved to table this until Anita can get prices for new banners and check with the Chamber to see if they have any funds to help pay for them. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Signs for Park Areas: Mayor Runner explained that since our park rules say no alcohol in the playground, baseball fields and track area, we should have signs stating this. We also need signs that say Fire Extinguishers needed when using gas/charcoal grills. After much discussion, it was decided to postpone this until the July 28th meeting. Councilmember John Billadeau moved to postpone this item until the July 28th meeting. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bulk Water at Night: Mayor Runner said Julie Berg asked that this item be on the agenda. He explained that a lot of the people buying bulk water buy extra so they can pick it up when they have time (evenings and weekends). We are charging .03/gallon for bulk water and it costs us .00175/gallon. We are working on a lot of things here at the city, and bulk water is one of them, but it is lower on the priority list.

Street Closure-Moose: Mayor Runner reported the Moose asked to close the street for the BBQ cookoff on the 4th of July. Council gave unofficial approval and this is the official approval. Councilmember Frank Brouillette approved letting the Moose close the street next to them for the BBQ Cookoff. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New EDUs and Rates: Mayor Runner reported that after going through accounts and getting them in the correct categories, we can lower the rates we thought we were going to have to raise by \$8. Because we are changing the rates, we need to have a public hearing. The public hearing will be July 28th at 6:30pm in the library. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to approve having the public hearing July 28th at 6:30pm. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

West End Lots: Mayor Runner and City Attorney Brent Brooks had a conference call with Sandra Whitney about the West End Lots. Sandra told Jack and Brent, that she has a brother that is deceased. He has a wife and two children. She has a brother and sister-in-law that are both deceased and have four children, one of which would be very hard to track down. Sandra said because of family dynamics, she and one niece would vote for removing the park designation and the rest of the family would vote against it because she voted for it. Mrs. Whitney also had

concerns that if the family did vote for it, but want compensation for the sale. Because of these issues, Mayor Runner feels it would be better to forgo selling the lots and have the Recreation committee decide what to do with them. Councilmembers Susan Beley and Charley Bennett both want to give the lots back to the family. This would not remove the deed restrictions. Councilmember Vicki Paddock moved to keep it as a park. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Three council voted yes, one voted no, and one abstained. Motion passed by majority.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported the crosswalks by the school have been painted, they just need to put up the signs. There was a service break on the James Swanson rental. The service line goes through the neighbors property, and the neighbor does not want them digging on their property. Bob said they have the home temped off a fire hydrant and will work on getting a new service tapped. They are going to patch E Ave before the 4th of July.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: Clerk Treasurer Anita Leach reported the City had gotten a donation for the Fischer Park flowers. And she has been working on the EDUs with the Mayor.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Runner wanted to let council know that Bob in Public Works, Tina in the Library, and Anita in the City Office are doing a great job. He couldn't do the job without them. Mayor Runner is attending the Municipal Summit in Columbus July 9th. He reminded the Council that they are beneficial training for operating the Council. Mayor Runner also reminded the Council about the invoices from A & R that are for late fees. A & R insists that we should pay them. This item will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Amy Deitchler of Great West Engineering is working on a \$50,000 grant to write our Capital Improvement Plan. She sent over four documents for Mayor Runner to sign. He explained to her, that everything concerning money needs to be approved by council. He gave Amy the council schedule and she will make sure information is sent in time to be added to meeting agendas. Council agreed to the grant and this item will be on the next agenda to get approved.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY: City Attorney Brent Brooks has several misdemeanor cases. There was a change of plea in a DUI case last week. He also commented that the Sheriff's office is losing four deputies so they will be short-handed for a short time. Brent also said he is meticulously going through the Civic Plus report and it is taking time.

REPORT OF WCSO: No one in attendance

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Bids for Library gutter/drainage, CIP grant approval, Laurie Ward-FWP Grant approval, A&R Invoices

CLAIMS: Councilmember Susan Beley made a motion to approve claims, 22856-22878. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm

Council Members Present: Susan Beley, Charley Bennett, Vicki Paddock, Frank Brouillette, John Billadeau

Council Members Absent: Kyle Lawson

City Office: Mayor Jack Runner, City Clerk-Treasurer Anita Leach, Public Works Director Bob Schuchard, City Attorney Brent Brooks

Public Present: Charlotte Runner, Tina Peterson, Laurie Ward, Dane Elwood, Jonathon Weaver

Jack Runner, Mayor

Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer