

Harlowton City Council Minutes
July 26, 2016
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held July 26, 2016 at 7:00 pm opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the July 12, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

Resident Joe Brouillette commented that half of the electric hook ups in Chief Joseph Park campground were not working during the 4th of July. Ian stated that half of the electric hook ups get taken off line as the power supply to the park cannot handle the large RV's/campers with air conditioning. When the weather cools down they put the power back to all the units.

Ian updated the council on the Phase III water project. There will be some big shut downs of water service as the construction crews make progress through the project. There has been only one major water line break so far which resulted in water being shut off on the west end of town for about five hours.

Jeff reported on the "utility share" program to assist low-income residents in paying for a portion of their water bill. HRDC District 6 could identify eligible residents through the LIEAP program they already administer. Money to pay for this assistance would have to be raised, for example, through other resident donations. A message could be put on utility bill cards explaining the program and asking for donations. Bryan Tomlinson made the motion to proceed with implementing a "utility share" program for the residents of Harlowton with HRDC providing the information on LIEAP eligible resident. Paul Otten seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Administrative setup of the program will take some time but it is hoped that the city could implement this program by August.

John Anderson gave a committee report on the library. Cataloging of the books is going well, with approximately 10,500 done so far. The library staff appreciate having the library closed on Thursday mornings to accomplish this task. The 2016-2017 library budget has been submitted to the city.

The DNRC representative was not able to attend the council meeting to report on the tree survey.

The TSEP/DNRC Phase IV preliminary engineering reports funds request was discussed. Council members were asked to sign the required forms for the funding agencies.

Nancy Widdicombe has resigned from the library board. The library board accepted her resignation.

The preliminary 2016-2017 city budget will be on the next council meeting agenda with the final budget approval meeting to be the last council meeting in August.

TSEP/CDBG has approved an amendment to the current scope of work to complete an additional 2,000 feet of water line during the phase III water project. Also, due to the meter reader project coming under budget an additional 300 feet of water line replacement can be done. The WRDA grant will be finalized within the next week.

Jeff reiterated if the home owners want to replace their personal water service lines they may choose to do so at their own expense, and that is an agreement the home owner would make with the contractor completely outside of the scope of work they are doing for the city. It would save the homeowner money to do it as the phase III water line replacement project goes past their property. Resident Joe Brouillette wondered how this would save money for the home owner. Jeff stated as the contractor is already on site there would not be the cost of getting equipment there to do the job. Council asked if all new valves were also being installed during this phase of the project. Ian explained all new valves are being installed at the curb stops.

Ian reported that the new Chief Joseph Park sign has been installed on the highway. Additional ones will be ordered for the overhead entrances and the camping kiosk. Ian reported the county is laying millings on Wheatland Avenue so the city had raised manholes. The County had also placed millings on the road by the elevator and behind the fairgrounds. Ian reported that the “rodenator” has been successfully being used in the park.

Council member Bryan Tomlinson had heard of complaints of horses being in the camping area during last weekend’s Schuchard roping event.

Paul Otten asked if the decay ordinance enforcement issues that Attorney Hesse had brought up were resolved yet. Jeff said he would work on getting that resolved and it would be on the next city council agenda.

Jeff reported on the City receiving the Callant Family Foundation donation.

The next city council meeting will be held on August 9, 2016 at 7:00pm in the city hall. Mayor Jeff Sell will have recommendations for a new library board member. The Decay Ordinance enforcement issues will be discussed.

Ron Teig made a motion to pay the bills, checks #20446-20459 from the July 8, 2016 through July 22, 2016 claims. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 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