

August 11, 2026
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on July 28, 2026. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Susan Beley moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2026, Council meeting as written. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA: Councilmember Frank Brouillette said he is working with Poky Smokey to do a fundraiser for the Utility Share program. It is in the beginning stages, and he will keep everyone informed. Councilmember Susan Beley stated she asked for the naming of the Railyard area, something like Satake Village. Dane Elwood asked for the air conditioner to be shut off so he can hear.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Councilmember Susan Beley reported there is a raptor program on August 4th. There is a new telescope, kind of high end, to check out. There were 1320 June browsers, 603 adult checkouts, 328 children's checkouts, and 269 that came in to use the computer, get information and/or tech support. Cody Nelson asked if anyone heard back from the state on the Emergency Action Plan. Councilmember Beley said it was approved.

Tree Board: Councilmember Vicki Paddock reported the Tree Board met yesterday for a kind of long meeting. They worked on goals, community engagement and decided to meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 3pm.

Recreation: Councilmember Charley Bennett reported the pool is working well and the pickleball court is being used now. No one showed for the second meeting of the recreation committee meeting. Dane Elwood said he would like to hear how the pickleball court is being run, if there is a charge to play, who is making decisions, and what expenses the City is incurring. He stated it is a beautiful court. Councilmember Susan Beley said there is a party going on down there now and feels alcohol should be addressed there.

Ordinance: Councilmember Frank Brouillette reported the ordinance committee has not met, but will be meeting before the next Council meeting.

Roundhouse/Railyard: Mayor Runner reported they are going to start the asbestos abatement and petroleum removal very soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cody Nelson: Cody Nelson, DES Coordinator reported the county is at D1 drought levels and has been for 27 weeks. The projected outlook is to be at D4 by the end of August. Cody asked the Council if they would be interested in doing something as small as community outreach or trying to get some grants to actually help clean up some properties. Cody will come back and talk to the Council as an agenda item on the August 25th meeting.

Signs for the Park: Mayor Runner reported that we need to make alterations to the ordinances to make these enforceable. He would like to push this off the August 25th meeting to give the Ordinance Committee time to talk about enforcement. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to postpone deciding on the signs at the park until August 25th. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Banners for the Street Light Poles: Clerk Anita Leach reported she is working on finding pricing for banners. She talked to Cody Nelson about funding from the Chamber. After discussion, Councilmember Susan Beley moved to postpone this until November 10th. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Library Gutter Bids: Mayor Runner was waiting to talk to Jimbo Fisk. Councilmember Susan Beley talked to him. He requested that whatever we did, just make sure it can be driven on. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to ask for bids for Library Gutter drainage bids and get an easement from Jimbo. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2026-18 Water & Sewer Rate Change (Replacing Resolution 2026-15):

Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to accept Resolution 2026-18. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MOU with County for Fire Services: Mayor Runner explained that the MOU says the county will pay for electricity and telephone. The city pays for the water and snow removal. Mayor Runner asked that the Council postpone this until the first meeting in August until the MOU can be updated. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to postpone approving the MOU until it can be updated until the August 11th meeting. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MOUs with the County: Mayor Runner let the Council and community know that we have MOUs with the Sheriffs office, City Court, and the planning board.

Changing Representation on CMRWA Board: Mayor Runner said there has been some question on the City's representation on the CMRWA. He explained that the city has two votes on the Central Montana Rural Water Association. In December, Paul Otten asked to stay on the water board, and the council approved. Jim Kalitowski and Jeff Sell are also on the board. Jim Kalitowski is the presiding officer and cannot vote. Jeff Sell represents the city as well, and the sitting Mayor is a member of the board. Councilmember Vicki Paddock moved to have Jeff Sell and the sitting mayor as the only voting members for the city. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Local Government Center Governance Package: Mayor Runner explained that the Montana State University Local Government Center has changed how they are scheduling. They developed some packages, one of which three smaller cities can go in on it together. Mayor Runner said Roundup would like to split with us and Melstone. Mayor Runner asked the Council if they were interested in going in with Ryegate and Judith Gap because they are similar to us. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to ask Judith Gap and Ryegate to co-op on the MSU Government package with Harlowton and revisit this at the August 11th Council meeting. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Montana League of Cities and Towns Fiscal Year Contract: Mayor Runner explained that MLCT Financial Services will help with any financial issues we have throughout the year. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to renew the contract with MLCT. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Permission for the Depot to send a Rep to the League Conference in October: Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to remove the item from the agenda since they no longer want to send anyone. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported they finished up the waterline for James Swanson and got rid of the speed bump on Central. They are working on road repair from the rain that washed out several streets. He also reported they are working on tree trimming.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: Clerk-Treasurer Anita Leach reported the Audit was last week from Monday through Thursday. The auditor was happy with how things went. The AFR is done and available to look at in the office if anyone would like to.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Jack Runner reported he is still working on the repairs for the Jawbone Dam and finishing the design issues for sewer project. The annual reviews are almost done. Mayor Runner presented the annual report for EDUs to Central Montana Water and that was approved.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY: City Attorney Brent Brooks said he is on the last two chapters of the 32-page memo from Civic Plus. He has three trials coming up and one probation revocation.

REPORT OF WCSO: None

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Naming of Railyard Area (Satake Village), Local Government Center Package with Judith Gap and Ryegate, Interlocal Fire Agreement and Resolution, Public Works Vehicle Sale

Items for August 25th Meeting: Cody Nelson-Action Item, Signs at Park, Open Library Gutter/Drainage bids

Items for November 10th Meeting: Banners for Street Light Poles

CLAIMS:

Councilmember Frank Brouillette made a motion to approve claims, 22926-22941. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm

Council Members Present: Susan Beley, Kyle Lawson, Charley Bennett, Vicki Paddock, Frank Brouillette

Council Members Absent: John Billadeau

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

Public Present: Charlotte Runner, Cody Nelson, Laurie Ward, Dane Elwood, Rebecca Buelke

Jack Runner, Mayor

Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer