

Harlowton City Council Minutes
September 27, 2016
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held September 27, 2016 at 7:00 pm opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the September 13, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Ian Reed and Jeff Sell gave an update on the progress of the phase III water project. Progress is still slow. Two of the contractors have fallen further behind (approximately 3 weeks total behind) while the other two are on schedule. The goal is to have the projects completed enough so that some of the streets will be paved by cold weather. Council member Bob Jones questioned why there are two fire hydrants on some corners. It was explained that until the old water lines are taken off line the hydrants need to remain in place. After new water lines are active the old hydrants will be removed. Council member Jim Kalitowski asked about the curb stops on Division Street not being level with the ground. It was explained that the curb stops are flexible and can be leveled to the ground once asphalt is laid. Council members questioned if the asphalt company could come and do the streets that already have the pipe laid. Ian explained that each time the asphalt comes to town they will charge a mobilization fee. At the weekly construction meeting they will be discussing this possibility.

Jeff updated the council on the decay ordinance. He has contacted John Hesse via email about the concerns the council has. The council has requested that John Hesse come to a council meeting to explain in person what is going on.

According to the county assessor the city had until September 15, 2016 to submit any changes to assessed street lights maintenance fees. More research will be done to make sure there still isn't time to submit the increased fees.

John Anderson provided a library committee report. Sanford Moore is now on the library board. The South Central Library Federation meeting was hosted here on September 17, 2016. There were 28 members in attendance. The adult reading room has been completed. Funds were granted from the Charles M Bair Family trust for this remodel. Central Lumber donated carpet, pad and installation for the room. Sandy Nelson has resigned as the evening library aid. This position is paid for by the school through a grant. Carli Schuchard is the new evening aid.

Jeff reported that with restructuring the plans for asphaltting the streets in the phase III water project it may be possible to asphalt up to 6 other blocks at only an additional \$9,000 to \$15,000. Asphalt prep-work on the streets effected by the water project is to be completed by the contractor. Asphalt prep-work on the additional 6 blocks would be the responsibility of the city. Curb stops were able to be put in without any damage to the rock retaining walls. There is an unfinished hole by the carwash that Ian still needs to fill with millings.

Resolution 2016-19 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

2015-2016 was read. Paul Otten made the motion to accept resolution 2016-19. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian reported on the west end well. Nash Electric had worked on the pump but it won't build more than 50 pounds of pressure. There is either a hole in the pipe or the pump is bad. Phase III SRF funds could be used to fix the pump; however, the lending agency is currently requiring the project to go to three contractors for bid. The engineers are petitioning the lender to allow the city to just have the pump pulled to figure out what is wrong without going through the bidding process. A leading hydrologist looked at the well figures and determined that most likely when the south well was put back on line it drew down the west well.

Council member Paul Otten asked if the hole at the old Chevron station had been dealt with. Ian stated that the hole had been pumped and the city filled it in.

Jeff stated the DEQ had held an open house at the library to discuss the clean-up projects going on in Harlowton. About 18 people attended the open house.

The Wheatland County Chamber of Commerce Chevron clean-up project had been put out to bid. There were no bidders so it will be put out to bid again at a later date.

The Roundhouse clean-up project will go to bid later this year. The DEQ is currently going through the process of approving the proposed land-farm area.

The Chief Joseph Park Playground upgrade is continuing. The Charles M Bair Family challenge grant of \$20,000 has been met and funds were recently requested from US Bank for that. An additional \$6,000 to \$9,000 still needs to be raised.

The next city council meeting will be held on October 11 at 7:00pm in the city hall.

Paul Otten asked if the contractor who built the fence at the playground area had been paid as there are some issues with the gate and some fence posts. He has been paid and Ian will meet with the contractor to get the concerns taken care of. John Anderson made a motion to pay the bills, checks #20546-20557 from the September 10, 2016 through September 23, 2016 claims. Bob Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Council Members Present:

John Anderson, Bob Jones, Jim Kalitowski, Paul Otten

Employees Present:

Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk