

September 22, 2026
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on September 8, 2026. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Runner asked if any Councilmember had a conflict with any item on the agenda. Councilmember Kyle Lawson said he should not be voting on the library fascia bids.

Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to accept the minutes of the August 25, 2026 Council meeting as written. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Councilmember Susan Beley reported the book sale starts Friday. Back to school programing has started, like the Legos, High School Hour and things like that. Community Connect Day is September 28th. All the free partners will be there and programs. She also recommended the Utility Share application be there, Anita and Tina both commented that the City had signed up to have a table at Community Connect Day.

Tree Board: Mayor Runner reported there is a tree board meeting at City Hall on September 22nd at 3pm.

Recreation: Councilmember Charley Bennett reported the pool is drained down and waiting for Thompson Pool to come winterize it. Councilmember Susan Beley asked if Judith Gap and Ryegate Schools came and used the pool after school started. Councilmember Bennett said they had.

Ordinance: Councilmember Frank Brouillette reported they are still moving at a snail's pace. There has been a lot of discussion on the way the ordinances are labeled. He said there is a work session scheduled for Saturday at 1pm.

Railyard/Roundhouse: Mayor Runner said we are still working on that committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Peak Water System: Mayor Runner let Council know they had a copy of the Peak Water System contract for the lift station in their packet for July 2026-June 2027. He asked if Council wanted to continue with them. Councilmember Frank Brouillette asked Public Works Director Bob Schuchard if the past contract worked as we hoped it would. Bob said it did. He said they have parts sitting on site. He makes a phone call, and they come to fix the pumps. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to renew to contract with Peak Water Systems. Councilmember Susan Beley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Peccia Design Loan: Mayor Runner explained the Design Loan is only going to be for \$172,000 compared to the \$266,000 originally talked about. We will have another meeting with them on September 22nd. The DEQ requires the City to post that we are going out for a loan and what it is for. The letter that must be published in the paper does not sound like the project has been postponed. We are not doing this project; we just have to do the loan for this design. The question was asked if we could put a disclaimer on the notice that explains we are not going out for bid.

Library Fascia and Capping South wall of Library: Mayor Runner told the Council we have three bids for this project, and the bids are low enough that we don't have to advertise it. Councilmember Frank Brouillette said the J Contracting bid says the prices are good for 15 days, but there is no date on the bid. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to accept the bid of J Contracting, as long as he honors the prices on his bid. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed with five yes and one abstaining.

Four Corners Recycling: Dave from Four Corners Recycling attended the council meeting to explain the fees the City is paying for recycling. In a past meeting, the smaller bins the city owned were removed because they were too small. Four Corners Recycling was going to store them for the city. It was later revealed they had been placed in Yellowstone. We do own one of the recycling bins now in place. If we bought a second one it would be at least \$13,000. Dave said he can bring two bins to Harlowton in the winter when he pulls all the bins from Yellowstone Park. Dave said he is not going to charge the city a rental fee for the bins; he also adjusted the prices he is charging for each pull.

Per the sheets Dave handed out, currently the city gets charged .08/pound for plastics, we receive no credit for plastic. We are charged .03/pound for ONP(old newspaper). We receive .005/pound credit for ONP. We are not charged for mixed cans, and receive .06/pound credit on cans. There was much discussion about what are the best things to recycle and what cost there would be to bring a cardboard compactor in. A cardboard compactor would cost the city \$3000 per year as well as having to pour a pad and install electricity to run the compactor. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to pay the \$500 bin maintenance fee. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

County Plans for Making Lots Available for Sale: Mayor Runner explained the County has a rock quarry behind the old hospital. The county is working on the property, making it in to lots to sell. Mayor Runner said they are not getting rid of any streets.

Triangle Telephone Capital Credits: Mayor Runner explained to council that the city received capital credit letters for each of the phone lines the city has. After some discussion, Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to not cash in the Capital Credits. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Utility Share Application: Mayor Runner explained to Council they need to go over the Utility Share application. In the past, the applicants received \$50 off their water bill in the winter, and it ran from November through April. It started when Jeff Sell was Mayor. Councilmember Susan Beley feels it should go back to how it was in the beginning and be available all year. She also feels the criteria should be reevaluated. If you are on budget billing, winter doesn't matter. Water bills are higher in the summer. She feels it shouldn't be tied to the power bill. She had examples of being laid off, medical issues, and other reasons a person would be encountering hardship. Councilmember Frank Brouillette would like to have at the next meeting this item be a discussion and action. Council also needs to come up with ways to fund this program. Councilmember Brouillette is working on a fundraiser to benefit the Utility Share Program.

Tree Hazard Report Form: Mayor Runner asked Council to look at the Tree Hazard Report Form in their packets. It is a form residents can fill out if they feel a city tree is a hazard and needs care. It also helps the Public Works crew to know if there are trees they need to go evaluate. Councilmember Vicki Paddock would like to let the Tree Board look at this form. Council feels that they can look at it and make suggestions if they feel any are necessary. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to approve the Tree Hazard Report Form. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MUCFA Grant Opportunities: Mayor Runner explained there are grant opportunities through MUCFA that the Tree Board can apply for. He would like council approval to do that. Councilmember Vicki Paddock moved to allow Mayor Runner to apply for grant funding through MUCFA. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Contesting July and August Utility Bills, Milwaukee Depot Museum and Jawbone Creek Country Club: Mayor Runner reported that both the Milwaukee Depot Museum and Jawbone Creek Country Club feel they shouldn't have to pay both July and August utility bills since the decision to restart charging both entities wasn't made until August. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to have both pay their August utility bills and all bills going forward. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed with four yes and two abstaining.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported they have been working at the lagoon treating the ponds. Chip is still out on medical. He is about halfway through that. Councilmember Susan Beley asked if there were any bids on the pickup they are selling. Bob stated there have been no bids.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: City Clerk-Treasurer Anita Leach reported she applied for the Arbor Day grant. Harlowton has been a Tree City USA member for 37 years. She also told Council the city is going to have a table at the Community Connect Day if any of them would like to come be part of that.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Jack Runner reported we have finished our audit. We then need to have three months of Cash reconciliation into the state, and they will release our funds. We were denied the CDBG grant which was for the CIP. There is a meeting with the DEQ, Snowy MT Development, City County Preservation Committee and the City on September 23rd at 11am at

City Hall. The discussion will be on the future of the railyard/roundhouse area. He also mentioned that Anita is attending Black Mountain training on October 26-28th. We will need some help with the council meeting that falls on those days. Library Director Tina Peterson volunteered to take notes during the meeting.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY: City Attorney Brent Brooks reported he has some change of pleas. He explained that the judge has been using the surcharges she is required to charge to pay the full amount of restitution. He has also tried to contact the Civic Plus attorney.

REPORT OF WCSO: None

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: 9/22 vote on Design Publication for loan requirements, Utility Share Application discussion/action, Public Works pickup sale-open bids

CLAIMS:

Councilmember Frank Brouillette made a motion to approve claims, 22863, 23000-23020. Councilmember John Billadeua seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.

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

Council Members Absent: None

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

Public Present: Charlotte Runner, Dane Elwood, Tina Peterson, Julie Berg

Jack Runner, Mayor

Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer