

Harlowton City Council Minutes
November 22, 2016
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held November 22, 2016 at 7:00 pm opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the November 8, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Ian gave an update on the progress of the phase III water project and paving of streets. 1st Street paving is done. Paving is done for the season. Any paving left to do will be dealt with in the spring. Chip sealing is the city's responsibility. Cracks in paving have been noted and will be fixed in the spring. Cracks are mainly due to compaction issues. Last water line tie in will be next Monday. There is approximately 1 ½ weeks of clean up and concrete work left. About 10 yards of concrete were poured today. There is one service line left to do by the high school. There was an accident on F Avenue reportedly due to a hole not being adequately coned by the water construction crew. The driver of the vehicle was injured. Battle Ridge Builders is responsible per the contract. Thompson well chlorine storage building is getting built. This is also part of the current water project funding.

Jeff updated the council on the decay/nuisance ordinance. Upon review of city minutes it would appear that the order of events were as follows: July 2006, Dane Elwood supplied a written suggestion to what the committee he was chairperson for recommended as far as a decay ordinance; August 2006 Dane gave a verbal report on the conversation he had with Hesse about the changes Hesse recommended; January 2007 the decay ordinance was voted upon and approved by the city council; February 2007 the second reading of the decay ordinance was voted upon and approved by the city council. In a letter from Hesse dated May 2011, Hesse referenced the city's decay ordinance at least twice. In that letter there is no indication of not being able to enforce the decay ordinance. Jeff will have another attorney review the current decay ordinance for a second opinion on enforceability.

The City has not contacted Ashley Taylor, FWP wildlife biologist, to attend a future council meeting. She will be contacted to set up a time when she can come to further explain the processes for an urban deer hunt.

John reported that he had not been able to attend the last library board meeting but had heard there is still issues with break-ins and theft of money.

There was no new business to discuss.

Ian reported that the west end well pump has not been pulled yet, so that well is still off line. Mahurin is expected to be able to do the job within the next couple weeks.

The new Christmas fixtures provided by the Chamber of Commerce have been installed on Central Avenue. The new bucket truck was used for the work. Tuesday December 6 is the lighting of the E57B train. The rest of the decorations will be ready by then.

There has been repeated vandalism in the Chief Joseph Park. Ian has filed a report with the Wheatland County Sheriff's office. The rest rooms in the park are now closed for the season due to this vandalism.

There are three properties with inappropriate water hook ups. Letters will be written to each property owner to inform them of the violation and ask for a plan of correction to be submitted to the council. The clean up on “Bob’s Chevron” property is complete. A piece of city-owned property on highway 191 is being used for the land-farming of the contaminated soil.

The clean up by the skimmer is progressing. Rail cars and a tank have been dug up. Contaminated water is being soaked into booms. The project will shut down due to weather soon. As this project has been started it is expected to continue to be funded until complete. Ian will request the contractors of this project to post “danger” or “no trespassing” signs to attempt to keep the sight safe from unsuspecting on-lookers. The two structures located down in the area will eventually need to be removed or demolished. Steve Olson, owner of Biegel’s Bar, has conditionally donated the burned building and land to the city. This is conditional upon the city receiving funding to clean up the lot at no expense to the taxpayers. Snowy Mountain Development is working on the funding for this project. One dumpster will be removed from the park during the winter season.

The next city council meeting will be held on December 13 at 7:00pm in the city hall. This will be the only meeting in December.

John asked about the Hesse claim pertaining to attending the city council meeting. Jeff reported that the contract states Hesse will not charge for mileage. This charge is for Hesse’s time. Bryan Tomlinson made a motion to pay the claims, checks #20640-20653 from November 5 through November 18, 2016. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Council Members Present:

John Anderson, Bob Jones, Jim Kalitowski, Paul Otten, Ron Teig, Bryan Tomlinson

Employee Present:

Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk