

Harlowton City Council Minutes  
December 13, 2016  
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held December 13, 2016 at 7:00 pm opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the November 22, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Ashley Taylor, FWP Wildlife Biologist presented information regarding an urban deer hunt for Harlowton. There are a few options the city can consider to help reduce the in-town deer population. Discussion ensued. Mayor Jeff Sell commented that he is not in support of rifle hunting within city limits. He also reported that Sheriff Dave Jones was also not in support of rifle hunting within city limits. Ashley will provide the city with an updated map showing possible areas to hunt. City council will reassess and continue to have further discussion regarding an urban deer hunt.

Josh Stoychoff, DNRC presented the 2014 City of Harlowton Public Tree Inventory. Trees have been identified that should be removed. Ian Reed will review the report and confer with Stoychoff on the process to proceed.

An update on the progress of the phase III water project and paving of streets was given. The construction project is done for the year. All water mains were installed satisfactorily. Concrete and blacktop issues identified will be addressed in the spring. The Contractor is aware of the issues. Clean up of construction areas will continue in the spring.

Jeff updated the council on the decay/nuisance ordinance. He has been unable to obtain a second opinion on the enforceability of the current decay/nuisance ordinance but will continue to pursue it.

Jeff asked the city council to support an increase in the MT Gas Tax. An article from the Billings Gazette regarding MT's gas tax was provided to the council. Discussion ensued. Jim Kalitowski made the motion to support the MT Infrastructure Coalition in its efforts to increase the gas tax while keeping those funds allocated to funding highway and bridge construction and maintenance, and supporting the highway patrol while keeping the gas tax funds out of the state's general fund. Paul Otten seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff reported that Dane Elwood has submitted his resignation from the library board.

The first quarter fiscal year 2017 financial statements were reviewed.

Ian reported that the roundhouse clean-up project had been shut down due to cold weather but will be back in action Monday. The West end well is still not functional. Mahurin will come when the weather is better next week to pull the pump. The mixer in the water tower has been wired in and is functional.

Paul Otten questioned the sewer issue at the American Legion. The city's insurance company is aware of the issue and a claim has been filed. It was noted that only one property opted to have their lead service

line replaced during this phase of the water line replacement project. This is a property that Bill Jones recently purchased from Oistads.

The next city council meeting will be held on January 10, 2017 at 7:00pm in the city hall. The urban deer hunt will be on the next agenda.

Jeff reported that the city is now accepting debit/credit cards per multiple requests from customers.

Ron Teig made a motion to pay the claims, checks #20658-20714 from November 18 through December 9, 2016. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Council Members Present:

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

Employee Present:

Ian Reed

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Jeff Sell, Mayor

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Kathie Newland, Clerk