

Harlowton City Council Minutes
July 25, 2017
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held July 25, 2017 opened at 7:12 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the June 27, 2017 council meeting were approved as written. Minutes of the June 27, 2017 public needs assessment hearing were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Jeff Sell reported that he would be working on letters to the property owners who currently receive city utility services but are not annexed into the city. He needs to verify the property owners list with Ian. Jeff will get a letter to the Department of Military Affairs regarding the now vacant National Guard Armory building regarding annexation. The Department of Military affairs is currently in negotiations for a trade of property for the armory building. They would know within 90 days if that trade will go through. If the trade does not go through the Department of Military affairs is considering giving the property to Wheatland County and the City of Harlowton jointly. Stipulations within the Montana Code Annotated regarding public transfer of property are vague as to the allowed use of the property.

Jeff asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the completed fiscal year 2016 City audit performed by Strom & Associates. There were two findings related to negative cash that will take a few more years to resolve.

Jeff reported that William Morse has quitclaim deeded the 6 lots described as: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Block 15, Graves 3rd Addition, to the City of Harlowton. These lots were of little tax value. Work needed to be done on the collapsed sidewalk across those properties. Jim Kalitowski made the motion to accept the donation of the mentioned properties. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian Reed reported that the lift station pump had been repaired and is working. The lagoon permit from DEQ has been granted. There are numerous requirements that Ian will be working on. He commented that the E.coli limits will be impossible to maintain. A water leak testing company has quoted \$1,400 to come in and do a comprehensive leak test for 3 blocks of Central Avenue where properties are still bringing in water into their basements. Ian maintained that the city isn't pumping any additional water so feels that the water in basements is not coming from a water main but rather from a ground water source. However to be able to document the City's efforts, Ian requests that the company come in to do a more comprehensive test to determine if there are any city water leaks in that area. Council consensus was to have the company come in to perform the testing. DEQ and Pioneer Technical have been in town testing the fuel plume wells. There is one testing "hotter" than it ever has and is in danger of possible contaminating the Thompson well. Test results should be in within one week.

Jeff reported that Great West Engineering still wanted to start the phase IV water project this fall by putting the project out to bid in August and starting construction later in the fall. Jeff has told them no as the phase III project has finally been completed. City streets, sidewalks and boulevards had been ripped

up for one year due to that phase. The project will go out to bid in January 2018 with construction commencing in the spring of 2018.

John Anderson reported that the library has had a meeting. Restitution has been paid for the last break-in. Police are requesting the city get the bars on the back window of the library as soon as possible. Ian will check with Jack to see if they are ready to install.

The next city council meeting is scheduled on August 8, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall.

Paul Otten made a motion to pay the claims, checks #20992-21012 from June 24, 2017 through July 7, 2017. Bryan Tomlinson seconded the motion. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

John Anderson made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21013-21039 from July 8, 2017 through July 21, 2017. Paul Otten seconded the motion. John Anderson asked about the Jim's Electric invoice. That was for the lift pump rebuild. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Paul Otten asked if cold mix could be spread with the dura-patcher. Ian stated the compound used to bind the cold mix would bind up the machine so it isn't used. Paul asked if the leak in the pool had been discovered. Ian hasn't been able to contact Kay (Pool Manager) so is unsure if the pool is still leaking the same amount of water.

Jim Kalitowski asked if the increase in gas tax had gone into effect yet. Jeff stated he believed it went into effect July 1.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Council Members Present:

Jim Kalitowski, Paul Otten, John Anderson, Bryan Tomlinson

Council Members Absent:

Ron Teig, Bob Jones

Employee Present:

Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk