

Harlowton City Council Minutes
November 14, 2017
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held November 14, 2017 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the October 10, 2017 council meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Jeff reported that DEQ testing shows there is more contamination in the roundhouse area including the area where the oil and sand tower are located. These towers are going to have to be removed. Charley Bennett indicated that Dick Stoltz wanted to preserve those buildings. Jeff indicated to Charley that the Preservation committee will need to move those buildings if they want to preserve them. They cannot be left where they are currently located. Charley will bring the information to the preservation committee. Jeff reported that an additional \$350,000 (approximately) has been granted towards the clean-up efforts of the roundhouse area. Ian stated if the council approves removal of the two buildings DEQ will look for funding to remove them. The decision of removal will need to be made by spring 2018.

Resident Sarah Edney presented information to the council regarding revitalizing the skate board park. Sarah reported there are some granting agencies that may fund such a project. Sarah asked permission from the council to organize an interested group of volunteers to assist her in this project. Council consensus was to approve Sarah organizing volunteers for such a project. Council would need to approve any changes to the park; in addition it was noted that for the skate park to continue to be insured any changes must be made by a licensed engineer.

Regarding the fourth phase of the water upgrade project; the City of Harlowton's policy has been that if a property does not have an active utility connection when the water main project goes by the property, the property will not get connected to the new main line. Jeff and Ian wanted to make sure the council and the public are aware of this policy. Ian indicated it costs anywhere from \$2000 to \$4000 for each connection to the main line during the actual construction phase. If a property owner were to not connect to the main during the construction phase the cost to connect at a later date would be significantly more. The council agreed that the City should notify property owners along Central Avenue of this policy. Central Avenue will only be in the fourth phase of the water project if the City received CDBG grant funds. These funds have not yet been granted to the city for this phase. Council consensus is to offer property owners the option to connect to the main line for \$800 and remain severed (no monthly base rate charged to the account). This fee could be on a payment plan but would have to be paid in full by the time of construction. Office staff would have to do research in order to get property owners addresses in order to mail letters. If CDBG funding is received the office staff will have a letter drafted by February 2018.

Bob Jones inquired if the Merino building separate service line had been installed. Ian indicated it has been installed along with the meter. The past due amount owed has not been paid.

Council inquired if the water issue in the basements of some Central Avenue building has changed. Jeff indicated that as far as he knew there were no water issues remaining; which reinforced that the original

issue was not a city water line leak but must be related to ground water issues. If it were a water main leak there would still be water in basements as the city has not found, replaced or fixed any issues in the area.

Ian reported that the loader is getting repaired as Paxton Wojtowick was able to find replacement parts for a reasonable price. It is hoped that it will be completed within one to three weeks. The city crew will be getting the Christmas lights up soon.

John Anderson reported that the library will be holding a Christmas Open House. The date has not been set yet but perhaps they will schedule it the same day at the Chamber's Christmas Stroll.

Jeff discussed the options of paying extra on the outstanding two sewer loans. The oldest loan has an interest rate of 4.5% and it would be best to put extra payments on that loan. Kathie Newland will give the council some options regarding how much extra could be paid on this loan. Council proceeded to make motion and vote on this subject; however, as this item wasn't on the agenda that motion will be abandoned and re-visited at a future council meeting.

Next council meeting will be November 28, 2017.

Paul Otten made a motion to approve prior reviewed and accepted claims, checks #21164-21172 from October 7, 2017 through October 20, 2017. These claims had been previously approved by at least four council members and the mayor. This was due to cancelled council meeting. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion to accept previously paid claims passed unanimously.

Bob Jones made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21173-21198 from October 21, 2017 through November 10, 2017. Bryan Tomlinson seconded the motion. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Council Members Present:

John Anderson (arrived 7:01), Jim Kalitowski, Paul Otten, Bob Jones, Ron Teig, Bryan Tomlinson

Employee Present:

Ian Reed

Jeff Sell, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk