

Harlowton City Council Minutes
February 27, 2018
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held February 27, 2018 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the February 13, 2018 council meeting were approved as written. Minutes of the February 13, 2018 public meeting discussing the preliminary engineering report for the potentially upcoming sewer project were approved as written.

Drew Galahan of Gally's Brewery presented information on a project they are working on involving bringing music to Harlowton. They hope to have four summer concerts that will hopefully be held on Central Avenue. There would also be potentially vendors at these events (food trucks, products, etc.). Drew will attend the next council meeting to request closure of a portion of Central Avenue for these events. Expected dates of these concerts are June 23, 2018, July 21, 2018, August 18, 2018 and September 8, 2018.

Paul informed the council that a 2010 agreement with Wheatland County was found regarding the Fire Department; however, the agreement is vague and certain issues are not addressed. Paul hopes to set up a meeting with Chris Anderson and Kevin Knudson (fire department representatives), and a county commissioner to discuss issues prior to a new agreement being written. Some identified issues are workers compensation, vehicle ownership, and fire department funds currently in the city's general fund.

Council member John Anderson reported that the last library board meeting was held on the same day as the Local Government Center training the city had, so was not able to attend. He will get a report from the library staff on what was discussed.

Paul informed the council that there are three leases that expire this year. One of these leases is Michael DeBorde who was present at the council meeting. He expressed an interest to renew his lease. He still has extensive cleaning up of the property to perform before he is ready to let the lease go. Clerk-Kathie Newland explained the process to renew leases involves placing an ad in the local newspaper, potential lessees submitting bids, council reviewing bids and contracts going to the winners of the bids. Current lessees that are in good standing are given preferential renewal rights; however if multiple bids come in for one property the council has the right to select any of the bids. Kathie mentioned that it would be nice to get the city leased properties all on the same schedule – with all leases expiring at the same time. Ron Teig made the motion to renew the expiring leases for a time frame that put all of the leases on the same expiring schedule. Rob Elwood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

In addition there are two buildings that have not been getting properly leased. The current occupants of these buildings expressed to the mayor, an interest in continuing to use these buildings. Council requested Attorney Karen Hammel to write up a letter to these two occupants explaining they will be given the opportunity to sign a lease agreement and if they do not sign the agreement they will be given a time frame to be moved out of these properties.

There is one property at this time that the lessee is in arrears with monthly payments and currently does not have a valid lease. It is assumed that this person owns the building on the property but the city owns the land. Council requested Karen Hammel to write up a letter requesting this person to get current with payment and sign a new lease or the city will pursue its options (eviction, restricting access, lien on building, etc.).

Resolutions 2018-02 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, REQUESTING DISTRIBUTION OF BRIDGE AND ROAD SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM FUNDS was presented to the council. Funds in the amount of \$10,100.45 have been allocated to the city. The city is required to match 5% (\$505.02). These funds can be used for anything that the regular gas tax can be used on; however, in order to request the distribution of these funds a resolution needs to be passed declaring the project these funds will be used for. These funds cannot be used for equipment purchases. John Anderson made the motion to use these funds for city street snow removal/control costs. There was no additional discussion. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Karen Hammel discussed the ordinance update process. She just recently received the copy of the ordinance book as Jon Hesse was not being cooperative in our requests to get his copy returned to the city. She feels there are a number of ordinances that are no longer necessary and they should be repealed. These could be done at one time. There are other ordinances that do not seem to be properly adopted. Each of the remaining ordinances will need to be reviewed and properly adopted. This will be a major project and Karen suggested review of the ordinances title by title. She will be gone from the country from March 5 through 21st. When she returns she will work on this project.

Ian was not in attendance to give a report. Paul reported that the city crew is still working on snow removal and street maintenance.

Next council meeting will be March 13, 2018 at 7:00pm the Harlowton city hall. City clean-up days and transfer station fees will be discussed at that time. Drew Galahan will also attend to put in a specific request for street closures.

Rob Elwood made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21336-21348 from February 10, 2018 through February 23, 2018. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Council Members Present:

John Anderson, Frank Brouillette, Rob Elwood, Jim Kalitowski, Ron Teig, Charley Bennett (via telephone)

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk