

Harlowton City Council Minutes  
March 13, 2018  
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held March 13, 2018 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the February 27, 2018 council meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Paul Otten updated the council on a meeting he, Ian and Kathie had attended with the Wheatland County Commissioners on March 7, 2018 regarding the fire department. There was no representation from the fire department at this meeting. Insurance on two fire department trucks was being duplicated by the city and county. The city will drop these vehicles off of its insurance once Chris Anderson confirms this. Both the county and city are carrying workers compensation insurance. The city carries it on approximately 21 volunteers, while the county carries it on at least 60 firemen. Kathie will contact MMIA (who carries the city's work comp insurance) to verify how the program works to see if both the county and city need to carry work comp insurance. Paul, Ian and Kathie will attend the next county commissioners meeting on April 4, 2018 at 1:00pm to discuss the fire department further. Chris Anderson has been invited to attend as well.

A lease renewal notice has been posted in the Times Clarion. A few sealed lease bids have been brought to the city already. Paul informed the council that Donna Hagberg has supplied information to the city that indicates she thinks she owns one of the new properties listed for lease (building approximately 24x24). John Anderson who previously owned the Conoco Bulk Station (on which this property lies), indicated he owned the buildings and sold them to Dave Sorensen sometime around 1985. Donna Hagberg stated they purchased the buildings from Sorensen. Paul will ask attorney Karen Hammel to research this when she returns from vacation.

John Anderson reported that the library had received a Triangle grant for \$1,000 and will be replacing the "snack fridge". The library had their fund raiser on Saturday March 10, 2018 and raised more than \$1,000.

Drew Galahan addressed the council with a request for street closure for Gally's summer music concerts. Drew informed the council that the old Harlowton High School stage will be used as the performer's stage. Music will start at 5:00pm and be done around 8:00pm. Street closure would need to allow for set up time and tear down time. Paul asked Drew for a written request to include all four dates at once. Council consensus was to approve street closure, and with the application, ordinance 9.22.020 regarding open container would also be approved. The city will make sure law enforcement is notified of this approval. Additional discussion ensued about other liquor establishments participating in the events.

Council discussed dates for clean-up days. Council consensus is City clean-up days will be June 1 -2, 2018. The Chamber sponsored city wide garage sale is scheduled for May 19, 2018. Typically the clean-up days are scheduled for the weekend after the city-wide garage sale; however, the weekend after May 19 is Memorial Day weekend.

Ian presented information regarding 2018 transfer station fees and previous years' costs. Council discussed options for increasing rates. Resident Terry Freeser suggested asking the Callant Foundation for funds to supplement the loss the city takes each year on the city wide clean-up days. Rob Elwood made the motion to

raise the regular per yard charges from \$14.00 to \$18.00. There was no additional discussion. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Additional discussion regarding rates for the City wide clean-up days was held. Frank B made the motion to charge \$5.00 for a pickup, \$10.00 for a trailer and the rest of the rates would go unchanged from 2018 clean-up days. There was no additional discussion. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Ian informed the council that typically the transfer station opens up for the season in April. However, Ian has not hired anyone for the part-time summer position so there may be no staff to man the transfer station in April. Council discussed not opening the transfer station until May as it may be too muddy in April this year.

Paul explained the opportunity zone designation process to the council. No direct funds would be received by an opportunity zone. Designations as an opportunity zone incentivizes a business to be located in the area by granting capital gains tax deferrals and possibly other tax deferrals. Resident Lauri Teig commented that she had researched the opportunity zone process and commented that there are about 106 areas that qualify for this opportunity with only 25 that will be named as such. MT Main Street communities will be looked upon favorably for this designation. Harlowton is not a MT Main Street Community at this time. Wheatland County as a whole would be one area designation – Harlowton would not be a separate area. Ron Teig made the motion to pursue opportunity zone designation. There was no additional discussion. Rob Elwood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian reported that the crew has been trying to fix potholes. However, being so early in the year, these patches will probably not hold up very long. They have already used about two years-worth of patch mix and another pallet of patch mix has been ordered. The street south of Hillcrest has been closed as water is flooding the street. Ian has found another company that may be able to come and camera and fix the large culvert that runs under that street. Ian updated the council on the funding situation for the fourth phase of the water project. SRF (State Revolving Fund) will not be giving the city any loan-forgiveness. Typically SRF can forgive up to 50% of a loan. They had previously informed the city that they would lend \$800,000 and forgive \$400,000 for the phase four water project. With TSEP funding gone, and SRF loan forgiveness gone it is unlikely the city can afford to do any portion of this project this summer. The city still has the WRDA grant which can be held until this phase can be sufficiently funded.

There have been a few complaints of stinky, black water in areas that typically don't have issues. Ian had shut off the west-end well for a few days to see if that helped the situation. In addition he has tried to reverse some flows to see if that would alleviate the issues.

Jim Kalitowski informed the council that Tester, Daines and Gianforte have submitted bills regarding the Central MT Regional Water Authority. This water supply project has been in the works for many years and hopefully some forward progress will be getting made.

Next council meeting will be March 27, 2018 at 7:00pm the Harlowton city hall. Resident Wayne Gentry has written some letters to attorney Karen Hammel. Wayne will be invited to the next council meeting along with Karen Hammel so his concerns can be heard by the whole council. John Anderson gave a brief recap of the issues experienced by Wayne Gentry when the last phase of the water project came along the street in front of his property. Wayne has a concern regarding fill that was hauled to the Wesleyan Church by the contractors that the City of Harlowton had during the third phase of the water project.

Ron Teig made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21349-21370 from February 24, 2018 through March 9, 2018. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Council Members Present:

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

Employees Present:

Ian Reed

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Paul Otten, Mayor

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Kathie Newland, Clerk