

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held July 24, 2018 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the July 10, 2018 council meeting were approved as corrected.

Loren Richter addressed the council regarding the sewer issue he had earlier this year (at 102 3rd St NW). He had submitted invoices to the city in the first part of June for the repairs and had not heard back from anyone. Paul responded that the invoice had been submitted to the contractor (Battle Ridge Builders) who had done the water project and severed the sewer line. Loren questioned why the city was not just paying him and Paul indicated that the contracted company was responsible for the payment but were balking at paying it. Ian added that Great West Engineers is working on the situation and he would call them again to see if there had been any resolution. Loren requested that someone contact him to notify him of the results. Loren then left the council meeting. John Anderson asked why the contractor was not paying the claim and Ian explained that Battle Ridge was not notified directly and given the option to repair the situation themselves. There are multiple issues with the situation in that the home was vacant for an extended period of time after Battle Ridge Builders had installed the water main line, so no one was aware there was an issue until Mr. Richter purchased the house some months later. In addition it is believed that the home has had sewer issues for years that were not related to the disconnected line and the bill in question is for replacing the whole sewer line up to the house which should not be part of the claim against Battle Ridge Builders. Frank Brouillette asked what would the city do if Battle Ridge Builders does not pay the claim. Ian indicated that we could pull the bond on the project in order to pay the claim.

Rob Elwood was not in attendance to update the council on his progress with the urban deer hunt.

Paul obtained a Broker's Price Opinion on the lot currently occupied by Dan Dempster. Based on averaging two other lot sales within the city, an average of \$1.15 per square foot was given making the value of that lot to be \$36,570.00. However it was noted that the comparable sales used for the average did not have city water, sewer or power at the time of purchase so it was recommended that consideration be given to the value of those utilities as well. Paul will talk to the interested buyer and see if they are still interested. It was clarified that the sale would still need to go to be offered to the public.

John Anderson provided a listing of items that the library currently pays for out of their county mil funds, donations and book sales, versus the items the city pays for.

Ian reported that he had called some engineers about sidewalk standards and specifications. Most of them agreed that following DOT standards would probably be too strict and did not recommend it. Ian will review and discuss with the street and alley committee his recommendations for sidewalk construction specifications. Charley Bennett asked if the sidewalk installed along C Ave should be looked at. It appears to be crumbling already and he wondered if it was covered under warranty by Christiansen Construction. Ian indicated he would check it out.

The attorney contract with Karen Hammel was reviewed. Karen indicated she bills on a 1/10 hour increment. John Anderson made the motion to approve the contract with Karen Hammel. Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Paul asked Karen if there was anything she needed from the council or city in order to get moving forward with updating the ordinances. Karen will start first with recommending ordinances that could be deleted and will have that list available by the second meeting in September 2018.

Lease amendments to include reserving the city's rights for allowing hunting were discussed. Karen suggested that this amendment would qualify as a modification so possibly the leases do not need to be terminated and redone. Jim Kalitowski was concerned about the liability statements in the leases and wondered if they would also need to be updated. Karen suggested a letter to the lease holders should be written asking for their opinion on the subject. Karen will seek additional attorney opinions on the subject.

Ian reported that PACE had inspected the culvert by the Hillcrest school and found the whole length to be packed with rock, gravel and debris. The city crew had been attempting to clear the blockage but had run out of room to place the debris. There is a sink hole in the road and it is thought that the rock/gravel blocking the 36 " culvert is from a failure in the culvert and road base had collapsed into the culvert from above. There are many utility lines (city services, fiber-optics, gas, etc.) that go through that street so digging up the culvert is not the best option. PACE will come back at a later date to try assess the situation after the rock/grave/debris is cleared out. The street in front of the Post Office was discussed. Triangle Communication's contractors (JKL) had dug up the corner in front of the post office a while back and the temporary gravel placed in the hole is not staying in the hole. Ian will contact JKL and ask them to get it patched appropriately.

Next council meeting will be August 14, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall.

Charley inquired if the new pool chemical system was installed at the pool. Ian informed him it was.

Charley asked if the Disposal Services bill of \$3,535.70 was from the city clean-up day. Ian informed him it was. Ron Teig made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21537-21551 from July 7, 2018 through July 20, 2018. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Council Members Present: John Anderson, Charley Bennett, Frank Brouillette, Jim Kalitowski, Ron Teig

Council Member Absent: Rob Elwood

Employees Present: Ian Reed

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk