

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held August 28, 2018 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the August 14, 2018 council meeting were approved as written.

Resident Bryan Tomlinson asked if the alley behind the Mercantile will be getting graded. Ian responded that the alleys will be getting graded.

Residents Tom Tomlinson and Bryan Tomlinson were in attendance to discuss the urban deer hunt on city property. Currently they do allow hunting on Tom's city leased property. Per the lease agreement, they hold an insurance policy on the property and would like to monitor who is being allowed on the properties. There are approximately 6 deer stands on that lease and they are not for public use again for liability reasons. They reiterated they are not against hunting on that property they just have safety concerns. They also stated they encourage youth/adult archery hunting on their property. Tom commented he is concerned about if deer are injured and not killed, how will that be handled. Deputy Andrew Greydanus asked how an urban deer hunt would put pressure on the sheriff's office regarding complaints coming in. Mayor Paul Otten recommended the Sheriff's office contact Roundup as they have had an urban deer hunt for a few seasons. Councilmember Frank Brouillette commented that one of the outcomes of an urban deer hunt is to hopefully put pressure on the deer for a longer period so they will stay out of town. Paul commented that the city had also received a written comment from lease holder Gary Olsen. His comments appeared to be in approval of an urban deer hunt, again with closely monitored use. Council member Rob Elwood commented he had not received any calls with questions about the urban deer hunt.

Paul Otten commented that the sale of city property had been on the front page of the Times Clarion but has not been listed as an ad yet as proper wording has not been determined for the ad. Resident Jim Fisk asked if Dan Dempster would be offered first right on the property as he has been on the property for an extended time. Paul responded that sale of city property is an open public bidding process. Jim Fisk suggested that the ad have wording in it to make clear that the building is not part of the property sale. He also commented that the broker's pricing opinion that had been given to the city was accurate but only with the building included.

Paul reported that the city had contacted Zach Kirkemo at the MT Department of Transportation regarding the process for speed limit changes on highway 12 through Harlowton. Currently, equipment to check for speeding vehicles was not available. Deputy Andrew Greydanus commented that they do ticket people speeding through town and a frequent response he gets is that people just do not see the 25mph signs. Resident Nancy Widdicombe suggested if the speed limit were slowed to 25mph near Wheatland Implement on the west end of Harlowton that may help. Resident Susan Beley asked about speed limit warning signs such as the ones by Shawmut and Ryegate. Ian indicated all signs along state highways need to be approved by the department of transportation. Resident Sanford Moore asked if our local state highway department could help with the process. Paul indicated he hadn't been able to contact Jim Clements. Nancy thanked the city council for taking her request seriously.

John Anderson commented that the library board had questions for the council during the budget item on the agenda.

Ian has gathered information regarding sidewalk construction. New sidewalk construction should meet ADA requirements (American's with Disabilities Act), which has specific width, rise, slope and thickness requirements and should have curb and gutter installed as well. Resident Julie Woodard, realtor for Central MT Real Estate, asked about whose responsibility is it to maintain current sidewalks. Ian commented that per current city ordinance it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain and repair existing sidewalks. Ian also commented that many of the city's existing sidewalks already meet ADA requirements. Corner lots are required to have ramps and bump-outs.

A survey for an upcoming Rural Development – USDA compliance review was given to the council. They were requested to fill out the survey and return it to Kathie.

The public hearing for the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget was opened.

Library board president Sanford Moore had questions regarding the proposed library agreement. It was explained that the library agreement was not part of the budget hearing but was a document for the library board to consider in order to simplify and document the agreements between the city and the library. Sanford stated that the draft library agreement would hopefully bring the association between the city and the library into agreement with current Montana library codes. Considerable discussion was held regarding the library's portion of the budget. City clerk-treasurer, Kathie Newland went line by line through the city's proposed preliminary budget. Sanford asked about the roof repairs to the library and if that was included in the budget. Ian indicated that an insurance claim had been filed for the damage. Detailed information regarding the 2018 Callant Family Foundation was given to the council. Rob Elwood asked if the items Ian was hoping to get in the next fiscal year were covered. Ian felt they were. Frank Brouillette asked if the additional tax assessment for the street maintenance fund were being accumulated to pay for larger projects. Kathie explained that the additional assessment approved by the council was all being accumulated and only the original portion of the assessment was being used to assist paying for street maintenance issues. There were no additional questions.

Resolution 2018-08 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 BUDGET was read. Charley Bennett made the motion to approve resolution 2018-08 as read. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian reported that they have been trimming trees and grading roads. Council asked about the rebuilding of the road grader discussed during the budget hearing. Ian explained a used grader of appropriate size and capability would cost around \$80,000. The rebuilding of the current road grader could be done in stages so it would not ever be out of commission for an extended period of time. It is hoped that during the staged process, the current issues will be fixed and it would be possible that the fixing would not cost the whole \$20,000. Battle Ridge Builders had returned and fixed the failed asphalt issues from the phase 3 water project. Paul informed the council that a letter had been received from Buehler Law Office regarding Loren Richter's sewer claim. Ian informed the council that Battle Ridge Builders had issued a check for the \$3,827.64 that Loren Richter had submitted but the city has not received it yet. The letter from Buehler Law Office as claiming \$7,883.74 in damages. Paul will contact Karen Hammel to get the issue figured out.

Charley Bennett asked Ian if the ditch near his home could be cleaned or checked out. When there is water in the ditch it appears that he gets water in his basement. Ian indicated there is a gas main in that ditch near the surface so the ditch itself cannot be modified but he would check it out to see what could be done.

Next council meeting will be September 11, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall.

John Anderson made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21599- 21610 from August 11, 2018 through August 24, 2018. Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Council Members Present: John Anderson, Charley Bennett, Frank Brouillette, Rob Elwood (via telephone), Jim Kalitowski

Council Member Absent: Ron Teig

Employees Present: Ian Reed

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk