

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council held September 25, 2018 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the September 11, 2018 council meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Rob Elwood updated the council on the urban deer hunt. He asked that the topic be tabled until further research can be done. He has received various comments from the public including some in favor and some against. Paul asked if Rob had talked directly with Nic or Ashley (Fish Wildlife and Parks). He had not. Council wondered how many tags would be available for a hunt and how many would need to be filled to make a difference.

Paul read an email from Zac Kirkemo of the MT DoT indicating that an engineering study would have to be done in order to change the speed limits on highway 12. The process could take one month to one year. Frank noted that it appeared more enforcement of the speed limit had been getting done recently. Rob introduced information on an inexpensive personal use speed indicator and photograph device but added that if the state was working on getting the process rolling he didn't think it would be necessary. His intent was to only gather information regarding numbers and speed of drivers.

Paul reported information on annexation and sale of the industrial park lots. The city has been working on getting all areas within the city limits out of the FEMA floodplain and a letter was recently submitted to FEMA requesting removal from the floodplain. It is believed that the industrial park lots would still be in a floodplain area and so discussion was held regarding if annexing those properties would cause issues with the floodplain removal letter. Having a floodplain within the city limits requires the city to have a floodplain administrator and to properly administer FEMA's floodplain regulations. Ian commented that perhaps if Antelope creek is taken out of the equation (due to the information provided by the city to FEMA) the industrial park may not be in a floodplain. Council consensus was to wait on annexation until some word comes back from FEMA regarding the floodplain. Ian will contact the DNRC to see if they have any information regarding the floodplain appeal processes.

There was no library report.

There was no update on the street and alley committee.

Karen Hammel presented her recommendations on a process to update the city's ordinances. She recommended appointing a committee to do the preliminary work before presentation to the full council. Rob had done some research on codification and free software programs that could do character recognition. Once the ordinances are in place this software could be used to publish the information on the city's website. Rob Elwood volunteered to be on the ordinance committee. Paul requested Charley Bennett to also be on the committee.

Kathie Newland presented the 4th quarter 2018 financial statements. In the review process she pointed out the areas that would require a budget amendment.

Council reviewed Resolution 2018-09 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018. Rob Elwood made the motion to accept resolution 2018-09 as written. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian reported that the crew has been patching streets and working to finish the playground upgrade. A parking pad has been poured, and a climbing wall as well as other pieces of equipment have been installed in the playground. Paul commented that the camping areas were looking very nice and well maintained. Rob commented that A Ave SW had been patched nicely.

Paul reported that the swimming pool has been winterized but is losing a large amount of water so there is a large leak somewhere and as of yet they do not know where the leak is. Charley wondered if it would be cheaper to purchase a camera than to hire a company to come in and check for a leak. Rob discussed if an expensive fix is needed for the pool, should the city consider an indoor pool that would be in cooperation with other entities – such as the schools and hospital.

Next council meeting will be October 9, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall.

Frank asked how the library roof patching job went. Ian explained the multiple nail holes had been fixed and the large six foot gap in the seam had been fixed. The whole roof will need to be replaced in the upcoming summer. Paul asked about the 2 inch meter that had been purchased. Ian indicated it was for the rest area to better monitor the usage. Charley Bennett made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21635- 21648 from September 8, 2018 through September 21, 2018. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. Motion to pay claims passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett, Frank Brouillette, Rob Elwood, Jim Kalitowski

Council Members Absent: John Anderson, Ron Teig

Employees Present: Ian Reed

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk