

Harlowton City Council Minutes
February 26, 2019
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held February 26, 2019 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the February 12, 2019 council meeting were approved as written.

Council member Frank Brouillette asked if Rob Elwood had provided Attorney Karen Hammel with a copy of the Billings Gazette newspaper editorial regarding NorthWestern Energy and the street lighting issues in Billings which was mentioned at the February 12, 2019 council meeting. Rob will get that information to Karen.

Frank Brouillette informed the council that he had spoken with Tena Keller of Harlowton Gardens regarding a claim she submitted to the city in December of 2018 for \$490.80 regarding bedding plants. The claim cannot be verified by the volunteers who plant the E57B garden each year. The volunteers had chosen to purchase bedding plants from another source in 2018. Ian suggested that perhaps Tena was confused and these plants were actually for the planter boxes on Central Avenue which the Wheatland County Chamber of Commerce pays for. Kathie will check with the chamber to see if this is a possibility.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Paul Otten updated the council on the speed limits on highway 12 project. The city had received information from Zach Kirkemo at MT DoT regarding changing the speed limit at the school crossing zone. After council discussion, they were in agreement that the city would not request a traffic/speed study be done in this area. Patrolling by the sheriff's office and a school crossing guard seem to be sufficient. Paul also informed the council that MT DoT has approved placing flags on the 25-mph speed limit signs. The city will be responsible for installation and maintenance of the flags. The 25-mph speed limit signs on the west end and east end of town will be replaced with larger format signs by the MT DoT. The city has formally requested keeping the existing 35-mph speed limits on the west end of town at their current location.

There was no library committee report.

Rob Elwood reported for the Ordinance Committee. The committee met immediately prior to the council meeting. The second reading of Ordinance 1-2019 pertaining to regulation and control of dogs will be read later at this council meeting. Committee worked on a draft of the snow removal ordinance and resolution. The first reading will not be ready for this council meeting.

The second reading of Ordinance 1-2019 **ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, AMENDING CHAPTER 8.09 OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON MUNICIPAL CODES CONCERNING THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS TO CLARIFY AND CHANGE SECTIONS THEREIN CONCERNING**

LICENSING, PENALTIES, AND UNCLAIMED DOGS, AND TO CORRECT TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS was held. Charley Bennett asked if anyone was exempt from kennel licensing, such as any “dog rescue” organizations. Rob Elwood answered that no one is exempt from the kennel licensing provision. Charley Bennett made the motion to accept the second reading of Ordinance 1-2019. Rob Elwood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

In order to plant trees to the east of Dennis Tandberg’s residence (in an attempt to help mitigate ground water issues) the city will need to amend Lance Schuchard’s lease to exclude the area where trees will be planted. Frank Brouillette asked how long will this area need to be removed from the lease. Ian responded it would be best to have it permanently removed from the lease as cows can do significant damage to trees. Per the lease agreement, a 60 days’ notice needs to be given. Ron Teig made the motion to remove the area indicated on the attached map from Lance Schuchard’s lease and also reduce the lease amount by a proportionate amount. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathie Newland presented the request for proposal (RFP) for audit service. She explained that an RFP can be sent out to prospective audit firms to obtain quotes on future year’s audit services. Frank Brouillette made the motion to submit the proposed RFP for Audit Services to prospective auditing firms. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Paul Otten proclaimed April 26, 2019 as Arbor Day in the City of Harlowton.

The first reading of Ordinance 2-2019 regarding snow removal in city limits was not ready to be presented to the council.

Discussion regarding paving, curb and gutter, and sidewalk requirements ensued. Ian commented that with the increased street maintenance assessment, the city could schedule a portion of streets to be repaved and curb and gutter installed as necessary on an approximate three year schedule. A Avenue NW/SW (from the highway south) has been quoted to be repaved (the 2/3rds portion not done in the last water main upgrade), and curb and gutter on the west side of the street for approximately \$125,000. This amount could be financed for a three year loan and then the next identified area could be scheduled. Discussion regarding current city ordinances regarding who is responsible for paying for curb and gutter and sidewalks ensued. Council’s recommendation to the ordinance committee is that the city would be responsible for replacement costs of curbs and gutters and paving, while property owner of adjacent land would be responsible for sidewalk costs. Council consensus was to also require curb and gutter be installed during new construction of homes. Ordinance committee will take this under advice and work on an ordinance to enact this.

Council discussion regarding projects for the BaRSAA (new gas tax) allocation of \$21,554.66 was held. Council consensus was to allocate funds for the repair of the culvert and road by the Hillcrest school, the curb and gutter repair on A Avenue NW/SW that was performed the fall of 2018, snow removal costs and if any funds remained to go towards new curb and gutter costs on A Ave NW/SW. Resolutions declaring these projects will be prepared for the next council meeting.

Paul presented two grant applications written to the Charles M. Bair Family Trust. One was for re-roofing the library. Total project costs to re-roof are \$48,000. A USDA RD Community Facilities grant for \$36,000 has been applied for. The request from the Charles M. Bair Family trust was for \$12,000.00. The second grant request is for \$12,000 to help pay for a land survey of the Milwaukee railroad grounds. Ian explained that having an accurate survey will assist in future grant requests to further develop those grounds and to clarify any property owner disputes. Ron Teig made the motion to submit both of these grant requests to the Charles M. Bair Family Trust. John Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Works Director, Ian Reed reported that the crew has been busy with snow removal. The plow on the 4-wheeler is currently down. Ian thanked all of the council members who helped flag during a recent water line break on the highway. Ian informed the council that a requirement to have a cattle guard at the "old lagoon" currently leased by Travis Schuchard is being violated. A makeshift rope gate has been placed across the entrance. Ian has taken the "rope" gate down across the cattle guard in order to provide a safer work environment for the employees who have to go into that area daily for testing.

Mayor Paul Otten also thanked all of the council members who helped with the recent water line issue. Paul thanked Rob Elwood for leading the last council meeting during his absence. Paul reported that the training at the Executive Forum in Helena was very good but a bit overwhelming with information. Paul informed the council that the city has received notice from NRCS that they can no longer assist with the 5-year formal inspections on the Jawbone Creek Dams due to staffing reductions. The next formal inspection deadline is April 2020. An estimated cost to perform an inspection is \$5,000 to \$10,000. Ian indicated he had spoken with Sterling Sundheim (Water Operations Bureau of DNRC) regarding this situation. Ian and Sterling will work on a possible solution for this.

Next council meeting will be March 12, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall.

Rob Elwood made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21838- 21850, from February 9, 2019 through February 22, 2019. John Anderson seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

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

Employees Present: Ian Reed

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk