

Harlowton City Council Minutes
May 14, 2019
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held May 14, 2019 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the April 23, 2019 council meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

There was no library report.

Rob Elwood reported that the committee reviewed domestic livestock and sewer ordinances. Drafts of both ordinances may be available by the next council meeting for the first reading. The 2nd reading of ordinance 2-2019 regarding snow and ice removal will be held on June 11, 2019 at the regular Harlowton city council meeting.

Ian reported that the pool has a broken water line in the building so the water couldn't be turned on yet. Jesi McKeever ordered deck chairs that are being paid for by the 2018 Wind Impact Grant. Charley questioned if the drain cover had been installed. Ian believed it had been.

Ian is requesting that the paving of A Avenue be split into a two year project. The first year being curb and gutter on the west side of the street and paving from the Federated Church south to First Street SW; and the second year being curb and gutter on the west side of the street from the Federated Church north to Highway 12. Ron Teig asked if a quote from Weeden Construction was obtained as they will be doing the highway project west of Harlowton. Ian indicated that they will be using a special highway mix that is expensive and so wouldn't be a benefit to the city as the cost of the mix wouldn't offset the mobilization fees. Ian will check on references for Precision Paving who had provided a quote previously. Interest rates and funding for the project will be investigated. Rob Elwood made the motion to have Ian proceed with the paving of A Avenue from the Federated Church south to First Street SW including curb and gutter on the west side of the street pending securing acceptable funding for the project. Ron Teig seconded the motion. No further discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Paul reported that Snowy Mountain Development Corporation had been granted approval to use Brownfields funding on the clean-up of Biegel's Bar if owner Steve Olson gives the building to the City of Harlowton. The city and Steve Olson need to work out an agreement for 100% of the ownership to be transferred to the city. Ian indicated that a redevelopment plan needs to be submitted to SMDC. Discussion regarding using the lot as parking and city green space was held.

Kathie presented the information for the 2020 Street Light assessments. The tax parcel number had been increased by 193 due to review of the ordinance and communication with the Department of Revenue. This increased the potential revenue from the assessment beyond what was necessary to adequately fund the street light district. Discussion regarding installation of LED lights was held. Paul has been verifying the street lights wattages compared to the map provided by NWEnergy. The city is being billed for 190 lights, Kathie counted 178 lights on the map provided by NWEnergy and Paul can only physically verify 160 lights in city limits. Paul will continue to try to get ahold of NWEnergy to get

these discrepancies figured out. John Anderson made the motion to reduce the FY 2020 street light assessment from \$62.00 per parcel to \$47.00 per parcel. Charley Bennett seconded the motion. No further discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathie presented the information for the 2020 Street Maintenance assessment. Kathie explained that the current assessment rate of \$90.00 per parcel is made up of \$48.00 which can be used for any street maintenance project while \$42.00 per parcel is strictly for “major projects”. She estimates that by the end of fiscal year 2019 there will be about \$19,600 allocated for major projects and \$68,000 for general street maintenance functions. Frank Brouillette made the motion to leave the FY2020 street maintenance assessment at \$90.00 per parcel. Rob Elwood seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian reported that they have been working on getting the broken water line in the Chief Joseph Park fixed. The ground water level is only 12” to 18” so the trenches keep caving in. They hope to have the fire hydrant installed and pressure testing done soon so the park bathrooms can be opened.

The culvert on 4th Street NE (south of Hillcrest Elementary School) has been re-buried and anchored down. The coulee has been draining fine.

Rob asked if any work has been being done on the rail bed west of town. Ian reported that he is waiting for a bid from Craig Martin on the work to be done. Ian would like to haul large rip-rap and just place on the top of the grade so if a full washout were to occur, the boulders would drop down into the way and hopefully slow water down. There are currently sufficient boulders located behind the hospital. It is believed that Weeden construction has been breaking up the hill behind the hospital.

Due to the Chief Joseph Park being flooded, Arbor Day had to be postponed. The trees for Arbor Day were to be planted in the park. Ian is hopeful that if weather cooperated Arbor Day tree planting can happen the week before Labor Day. Ian will keep Invenergy informed as they donated funds for Arbor Day and wanted to be involved in planting.

City wide clean-up days are scheduled for May 17 and 18. Ian asked for the council members to please come and help as the days get very busy. Charley asked about rescheduling clean-up days if it rains too much. Ian indicated that it was already advertised and if need be vouchers could be given to people to drop off their garbage at a later date. Discussion regarding turning away people who are out of the county ensued.

Discussion regarding junk vehicles took place. Ian indicated that there is a program out of Lewistown that deals with junk vehicles. Kathie read the city’s decay ordinance that pertains to component parts. Council was concerned that our previous attorney mentioned the decay ordinance was not enforceable as written.

Paul reminded Rob Elwood, John Anderson and Ron Teig that their council terms were up this year and if they intended to refile for the position it was due the Mary Miller by June 17, 2019.

Paul requested additional members for the Harlowton Tree Board. Ivy Bacon was in attendance and volunteered to be a member. Kathie Newland will also be on the tree board committee. Jim Kalitowski asked about the survival rates on trees being planted. Ian commented that since the “watering bags” have been being used and there is a watering plan there is only about a 10% death rate.

Paul requested additional members for the Harlowton Wetlands Rail Trail Committee. Rob Elwood volunteered to assist. Kathie Newland will also be on the committee. Ian will be the chairperson of the committee. Additional community members will be solicited to increase the diversity of the committee.

Charley Bennett asked if there had been any word on the Dollar Store. Paul said he had not heard anything regarding the Dollar Store lately.

Paul and Frank have completed their 44/53 Leadership Training.

Paul attended the Gordon Butte information meeting in White Sulphur Springs recently. The project is still progressing and could generate some activity in Harlowton regarding housing.

Next council meeting will be June 11, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall.

Frank Brouillette asked about claim 16994 to DEQ for \$13,567.21. Kathie explained that this was for one of the planning grants from DNRC that Jason Seyler of DEQ had obtained. The city had received this amount from DNRC and now the amount is due to be paid to DEQ. Ron Teig made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21927-#21955, from April 20, 2019 through May 10, 2019. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

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

Employees Present: Ian Reed

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk