

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held June 25, 2019 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the June 11, 2019 council meeting were approved as corrected.

The public hearing regarding resolution 2019-04 levying assessments for street lighting district and resolution 2019-05 levying assessments for street maintenance district was opened. Resident Bryan Tomlinson asked if the assessments were going to be allocated per lot or per tax parcel. Paul explained they will be assessed per tax parcel. There were no further questions. The public hearing was closed.

Jodi Tierney of Mid Montana Insurance addressed the council concerning the bench on the west side of the Mid Montana Insurance building on the sidewalk. She had been told that the city installed those years ago. They are located on her property and she is asking permission to have them removed. Some people are using the benches and creating an inappropriate atmosphere for her business (swearing, smoking, etc.). Paul indicated that the city will do some research to make sure they are the city's responsibility and not owned by some other organization, perhaps Chamber of Commerce, and then get back to her with a response.

Mayor Paul Otten updated the council on Biegel's Bar. Paul had spoken with Steve Olson. At this time, Dave Lode has made an offer to Steve Olson to purchase the property. Steve indicated he would give the city a final decision within a few weeks as to if he will donate the building to the city so Brownfields funds can be used to clean up the contamination, or if he will be selling the building to a private citizen.

A preliminary report from TetraTech regarding the contamination in the Harlowton railyard was presented. Paul asked the council if they were willing to explore the possibility of cancelling the roundhouse lease. Frank Brouillette made the motion to continue to table resolution 2019-07 regarding cancellation of the roundhouse lease until a final report is received from TetraTech. John Anderson seconded the motion. Discussion regarding the safety of the roundhouse building ensued. Resident Bryan Tomlinson was concerned for the safety of the citizens and the liability risk to the city for all of the railyard property. After further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Resident Bryan Tomlinson reported that he is still researching the possibility of installing a septic system on his property in Van Cleve Addition Block 12. Paul reported that the city had not heard from Karen Hammel regarding the process to exchange closure of the ally for easement of the street.

Paul will direct Ian Reed to go ahead with engineering of city water and sewer services to extend to both Bryan Tomlinson and Rick Reese's properties to obtain an accurate estimate of costs.

John Anderson reported that the library will be hosting 4-H archery in the basement of the library starting this fall. Rebekah Jacobson has been leading a summer reading program at the library this summer. It has been well attended. John asked if 4 Corners recycling would recycle the old library books that are in the basement of the library. Kathie said she would check with the company.

Charley Bennett reported that the boiler controller has been temporarily fixed at the pool. He and Jesi McKeever have been checking on improvements to the pool including siding the shower building and piping natural gas to the building for hot water. Charley asked the council if he could gather public comment regarding completely replacing the shower building. The cinder block building is deteriorating, the floors are unsafe (slippery), there is no hot water available in the building. Grants and donations could be sought to fund the project. Kathie reminded the council that any posting on social media (FaceBook, etc.) is considered public information and is subject to records retention just as other public information is. Discussion regarding fixing the pool structure itself before fixing accessory structures was held. The current boiler is approximately 8 years old which is nearing the life expectancy of the boiler. Council members and pool staff will talk with residents regarding the value of keeping the city pool functioning and open.

Frank Brouillette reported that ordinance committee had not met prior to the council meeting.

Ron Teig reported that the tree board and volunteers from Invenergy had planted all of the trees that had been purchased for the year. Invenergy is interested in participating in tree planting next year as well.

Ron Teig reported that there appears to be evidence of fuel leaching into the east pond down in the wetlands/rail trail area. The start date for the third phase of clean-up (funded through DNRC) has not yet been determined. The area will have to dry up a little before this step can be started.

Jodi Tierney of Mid Montana Insurance presented her request to have East Division Street from Central Avenue to the west side of the ally closed on June 28, 2019 from noon to 9:00pm for their Centennial Celebration. John Anderson made the motion to allow the street closure. Charley Bennett seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

There has been a significant water main break on A Ave SE (A Place). Paul suggested that this water main be replaced during the upcoming phase 4 water project; however, it is not currently part of the project, has not been engineered and is not included in the current project costs. Frank Brouillette made the motion to get A Ave SE water main project engineered so an accurate cost estimate can be obtained to determine if it is possible to include in the phase 4 water project. Discussion regarding if the water main could be located in A Place where it currently is located was held. Paul explained that in 1995 A Place was “given” to the adjacent property owners at their request (Olmstead, Burrows, Eickenhorst); however it is unknown if proper paperwork was ever filed to change ownership. Paul explained that most of the other water mains are located in the city street/access areas. Easement across private property is being avoided for water mains. The current property owners will be responsible to connect to the water main at their own expense. Charley Bennett seconded the motion to get A Ave SE water main project engineered so an accurate cost estimate can be obtained to determine if it is possible to include in the phase 4 water project. No further discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2019-04 A RESOLUTION LEVYING ASSESSMENT OF COSTS OF MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL POWER FOR HARLOWTON STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT TO DEFRAY THE COSTS was read. Ron Teig made the motion to pass resolution 2019-04 as written. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2019-05 A RESOLUTION LEVYING ASSESSMENT OF COSTS OF MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT FOR HARLOWTON STREET MAINTENANCE DISTRICT TO DEFRAY THE COSTS was read. Charley Bennet made the motion to pass resolution 2019-05 as written. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathie Newland presented the fiscal year 2018 audit and findings. She explained that finding 2018-001 regarding revenue bond requirements-restricted cash, was a fourth year finding and the Department of Administration had not accepted the corrective measures submitted. Upon further research and review it was discovered that Strom & Associates had not confirmed the cash restriction requirements with the lending agency (DNRC) and the finding may be an error. The city has until July 11, 2019 to respond to the Department of Administration regarding the corrective measures. Kathie is drafting a response to the Department of Administration. Finding 2018-002 is regarding the Harlowton Fire Department Relief Association not being in compliance with GASB 73. This is a second year finding. The Department of Administration accepted the corrective measures submitted for this finding.

Jim Kalitowski reported that he had attended the Snowy Mountain Development Corporation annual meeting in Lewistown. The city of Harlowton was awarded "Partner of the Year" award.

Paul reported that Frank Hutton had resigned from his city appointed position on the Upper Musselshell Conservation District board effective June 1, 2019. Paul appointed Michael Miller to fill Frank Hutton's unfulfilled term.

Paul reported that the Moose Lodge had submitted a late request for street closure for their 4th of July street dances. Council consensus is to allow closure of 1st St NE from A Ave NE to Central Avenue NE on July 2 and 3, 2019 for the events.

Paul reported that a wind impact grant for pool financial support was submitted. An additional wind impact grant request for a new Fischer Park – E57B "Welcome to Harlowton" sign was submitted by Darlene Bacon.

Paul asked the council how they would like to handle uncontrolled noxious weeds on the leased out city owned properties. The council needs to be prepared to enforce the provision in the leases that state "Lessee shall spray for and control noxious weeds at Lessee's expense". Council indicated that failure to comply with this clause would be grounds for lease cancellation. Paul was directed to issue a letter to lease holders asking for proof of spraying and controlling noxious weeds.

Paul reminded the council members that their comments during meetings need to be addressed to him so that the clerk could keep accurate minutes of the meetings.

John Anderson reported that the Upper Musselshell Museum had contacted him about the recent street closure for the Harlo Music Project. Blockades had been placed in front of the museum in preparation for the music festival; however the museum was still open and the blockades prevented museum patrons from entering the building. Charley Bennett indicated that he would make sure future street closures for the Harlo Music Project did not interfere with any business along the closed street.

Rob Elwood asked about the status of paving A Avenue NW/SW. Paul informed him that a contract with Wharton Asphalt for paving two blocks had been signed but a date for the project had not been set yet.

Rob asked who had refiled for the council positions. Ron Teig and Rob Elwood have filed to retain their council positions. At this time John Anderson has elected to not refile for his council position. Rob informed the council that he is doing some research on a public website that helps document street lights. He hopes to document Harlowton's street light information so that accurate data can be provided to NorthWest Energy in our efforts to get the street lighting contracts clarified.

Next council meeting will be July 9, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall.

Charley asked about the claim to NW Pipe Fitting for the golf course. Paul explained that parts were ordered on behalf of the golf course and they reimbursed the city for the costs. Frank Brouillette asked about the claim to Wheatland County. Kathie explained it was for the second half of the law enforcement contract. The claim to Advanced Technology Products is for pool chemical supplies. Ron Teig made a motion to pay the claims, checks #21993-22013, from June 7, 2019 through June 21, 2019. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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

Employees Present:

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk