

Harlowton City Council Minutes
August 13, 2019
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held August 13, 2019 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the July 23, 2019 council meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Resolution 2019-07 regarding cancellation of the roundhouse lease was discussed. Attorney Karen Hammel has not done the updated wording to the resolution so resolution 2019-07 was tabled again.

John Anderson reported that the library had not had a meeting since the last council meeting.

Rob Elwood reported that the ordinance committee will have draft first reading ordinances pertaining to livestock in city limits, repealing ordinance 83, and traffic regulations prepared for the August 27, 2019 council meeting.

Jesi McKeever requested that before the pool is shut down for the year that she be able to perform as much repairs and maintenance this fall when the weather is still warm enough to do some of the tasks such as painting the locker room floors and pool bottom repairs. She requested that Heather Mysse be allowed to continue this fall as well. The Harlowton High School PE teacher has requested the use of the pool for the first two weeks of school. A lifeguard is still required and the council feels the school should rent the pool. Council consensus is to have Kathie and Jesi work out the costs associated with keeping the pool open for two additional weeks and present that to the school as the rental costs. Charley Bennett would like to hold a public community meeting to discuss options such as a new pool, fixing the current pool, school and county involvement in funding the pool. Kathie reminded him that any meeting of this type would need to be advertised and minutes taken.

There was no tree board report.

Ron reported that there is still too much moisture in the wetlands area to start up the next phase of clean up. There is a culvert that allows access to the property that has been damaged. Access is not needed to that part and people have been accessing the area inappropriately. Ron suggests that the damaged culvert simply be removed. Ian reported that Wheatland Range Days are on September 4 and 5 and the wetlands project is on the agenda for September 4 at 3:30.

Dave Leverett of 4- Corners Recycling presented information to the council regarding increased rates for the recycling program. Council discussion regarding paying for the increases was held. Currently the Callant Family Trust sponsors the recycling program and there are enough funds to continue the program through the 2020 fiscal year.

Rick Harpell of the Graves Hotel has verbally requested to Mayor Paul Otten the closure of Central Avenue from First St S to Second St S be closed for a car show on September 6. There are no further

details so Paul will request Rick to come into city hall and fill out the street closure request form so the details can be known.

Resolution 2019-08 RESOLUTION TO OBTAIN A GRANT FROM UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR A PORTION OF THE HARLOWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT was read. Charley Bennett made the motion to accept resolution 2019-08 as written. John Anderson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding making a portion of A Avenue NW a one-way street was held. Karen Hammel will write up a separate ordinance to make the one block of A Avenue NW that is in front of the courthouse a one-way street. As this will be an ordinance, public comment will be sought prior to passing the ordinance.

Kathie has requested that a 15 minute parking spot be placed in front of the city hall to accommodate customers. Frank Brouillette made the motion to place one 15 minute parking space in front of city hall. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

The first readings of ordinances 3-2019 and 4-2019 did not take place. The ordinance committee will have these ordinances prepared for the August 27, 2019 council meeting.

The council reviewed the draft Safety Plan for the City of Harlowton. Ian explained that this was a requirement due to an infraction found during a recent Department of Labor and Industry inspection. Ron Teig made the motion to accept the Safety Plan as written. Charley Bennett seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian reported that he has submitted the signed proposal to the roofing company for the library. It has not been scheduled yet.

Wharton Asphalt will be paving A Avenue but due to the wet weather a set date has not been given. The phase 4 water project will hopefully go to bid on August 20, 2019; but due to the late bidding the construction may not happen until spring. As such, Wharton Asphalt will be asked to fix the highway where the water line break occurred this winter. The Department of Transportation is requiring that it be fixed according to their specifications.

There was a main sewer line plugged on North Central. Ian needs a camera crew to come and look into the line as excessive gravel was found. He fears there may be a partial cave in somewhere along the line and it will need to be repaired.

With the final report received from TetraTech regarding asbestos contamination in the three buildings located down by the roundhouse, Ian has been told that the sand house is safe to use as the asbestos is contained and not damaged (as to cause free asbestos in the air); however, the brick building is not safe to use and that is where the Christmas ornaments that the city decorates the streets with were stored. Erin of the Chamber of Commerce has been made aware that these decorations will not be useable. It is believed that the Chamber owns most of the ornaments that had been being used. Ian suggested that with the new brackets that have been installed within the last couple years that perhaps banners would be better than actual ornaments.

There was a major storm this past Saturday which caused a lot of gravel to wash into streets, so the crew has been cleaning up the after effects of that.

The Roundhouse had been broken into. Ian filed a police report regarding the situation.

The "old lagoon" lease that was leased by Travis Schuchard has an effective termination date of August 27, 2019. Ian suggested rewriting the lease to include emergency cancellation clause and making the lease a seasonal lease. At this time the council has agreed to not lease this piece of property out.

John Anderson asked if open fires were allowed in town. Fire rings for clean fires are allowed but no garbage burning is allowed in city limits unless burned in an incinerator or paper-burner.

Paul reported that he had talked with Steve Olson, owner of Biegel's Bar. He is still in negotiations with Dave Lode about selling to Dave rather than giving the building to the city. Paul informed Steve that the city needs a decision soon, as the city could lose the grant opportunity that would fund the clean-up of the contamination found in the building.

Paul reported that Tena Keller of Harlowton Gardens submitted information to city hall regarding the unpaid claim for the E57B train park flowers from May 2018. The people who upkeep the flowers at the park did not approve the claim submitted by Tena as they say they only purchased 3 flats of moss roses from Harlowton Gardens and the invoice was for more items. City council has decided with consultation from Attorney Karen Hammel, that as the claim is unsubstantiated (not signed by a city representative), the city is to not pay the whole invoice. If Tena can identify what portion of the invoice are the moss roses, the city will pay for those items only. Kathie is to write a letter to Tena to explain the situation.

Paul reported that Julie Berg as representative for the Lutheran Church, has asked if there are any areas in town that the city council or staff know of that need taking care of. For example, the church group recently cleaned up the recycling bin area that is located on county property. Council will keep the offer in mind.

Next council meeting will be August 27, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall.

Charley Bennett asked about the claim to MMIA for property insurance and did it cover the golf course buildings. Kathie explained that it did cover the golf course buildings and the railroad museum building. Ron Teig made a motion to pay the claims, checks #22062-22094, from July 20, 2019 through August 9, 2019. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. No further discussion was had. Motion passed unanimously.

The public hearing for the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget was opened. Council reviewed the preliminary fiscal year 2020 budget. A 3% wage increase has been calculated into this year's budget. Rob Elwood asked if items Ian requested were included in the budget. Ian felt they had been. Frank Brouillette made the motion to accept the fiscal year 2020 preliminary budget as the final budget for the City of Harlowton. John Anderson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

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

Employees Present: Ian Reed, Jesi Otten (left at 8:45)

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk

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