

Harlowton City Council Minutes
January 28, 2020
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held January 28, 2020 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the January 14, 2020 council meeting were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Otten updated the council on Biegel's Bar ownership transfer. Paul reported that he had not had any further communication with Steve Olson.

Bryan Tomlinson presented an Ordinance variance request form (variance from 7.04 Sewerage System Regulations) regarding installing a private septic system on his property (Van Cleve Block 12 Lots 1-9 and 16-24). He presented questions regarding how long will the city allow for the variance and would the variance stay with the property if it was sold. A copy of the completed variance request form will be provided to the council to be placed on the February 11, 2020 for action.

Paul said that had spoken with Ken Berg. He is the new owner of the property that the city would need to request easement from to extend 6th Street NE out to the Old Gap Road. Bryan informed the council that he still owns the property with the ally while Ken Berg owns the property the city would need easement across. Further discussions will be held when Ken Berg is back in town.

Darlene Bacon has been instructed to contact the MT DoT before finalizing the "Welcome to Harlowton" sign that will be placed on the Wheatland County Chamber of Commerce property (corner of 2nd St NW and Central Ave N). The funds for this sign are from the Wind Impact Grant that was written in the name of the City of Harlowton. Official approval had been given for the sign to be placed in a different location.

Susan Beley presented the council with historical information regarding different options the city had used in the past for pool fees. She also requested that the council not approve any raises in the 2020 pool fees as the community has been contributing very well to fund raisers for the pool. Jesica McKeever provided the council with information on the proposed 2020 pool fees and the 2019 pool fees. Discussion on how a family pass would be defined ensued. Rob Elwood made the motion to approve the following rates for the 2020 pool season:

- \$150.00 Family pass for the 2020 pool season (which is June through August 2020)
- \$75.00 Individual pass for the 2020 pool season
- \$45.00 for Adult Swim Pass for the 2020 pool season
- \$3.00 for day swim fee
- \$2.00 for night swim fee
- \$1.00 for adult swim fee

When family season passes are purchased the two adults and children in the family to be included on the family pass are to be declared.

When season individual and adult swim passes are purchased the individual to use the pass is to be declared.

Additional questions were posed and discussed. Susan Beley was concerned about foster children, step-children and other "non-blood related" children classification as this situation had been a problem in the past. Rob explained that Jesi has the right to use her judgement in who is allowed as "related" adults and children in selling the family passes.

Jack Runner seconded the motion as presented. There was no further questions or comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Jesi reported that she had no further information yet on the cost and process of becoming a lifeguard trainer. She will continue to try to get more information and will request to be on the agenda when she finds out more.

Jack Runner reported that the library is in the preliminary steps of setting up an “Author’s Night” fund raiser where local authors will do readings and books signings.

Rob Elwood reported that the ordinance committee had reviewed sections 3 through 7.4 of the draft rules and regulations document for water and sewer governance and will continue on through more sections at the upcoming meetings.

Charley Bennett requested that the contract to ASP for repairing the skimmers be signed, so the pool could get on their schedule and possibly get done timely. The contract will be provided to the council and placed on the February 11, 2020 agenda. Charley also reported that fund raising for the pool had been going well and the “Friends of the Pool” committee had been doing a good job.

Ian reported that the tree board has received a \$750 grant for continued tree planting.

Ian reported that the Wetlands Rail Trail RFP for the Harlowton Railyard Concept Plan was let with a deadline of February 14, 2020. A selection committee will review all proposals on February 19, 2020. This \$40,000.00 concept plan is being funded by SMDC and an EPA Technical Assistance grant. On January 17, 2020 a call was held involving all the funding agencies that have been working on the railroad grounds de-contamination projects to help get all involved up to speed with what has been happening and what is still in the works. Paul commented that there are some structures on the railroad property that are on top of contaminated areas and the council will need to discuss and make a decision about what to do with those structures. Ron asked if someone will be testifying at the MT legislature in support of these projects. Ian said he assumed someone would need to do that in the 2021 session.

Kurt Mills of the Census Bureau made a presentation for the council on the upcoming census process. He is asking that the council spread the word on the census taker job positions that are available for our county. He expressed that the goal is an accurate count of the population. A second seat on the house-of-representatives is at stake. Also, various funding opportunities (i.e. federal and state grants) are based on population so an accurate count is needed. Kurt is arranging a “hiring event” at the Harlowton Library in order to assist potential workers with the application process.

RESOLUTION 2020-01 RESOLUTION RELATING TO FINANCING OF CERTAIN PROPOSED PROJECTS; ESTABLISHING COMPLIANCE WITH REIMBURSEMENT BOND REGULATIONS UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE was reviewed. Ron Teig made the motion to approve resolution 2020-01 as written. There was no further questions or comments. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathie Newland presented the second quarter fiscal year 2020 financial statements. Jack runner asked for clarification on the two library funds. Jack Runner made the motion to approve the second quarter fiscal year 2020 financial statements as presented. There was no further questions or comments Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ian reported that the fire hydrant by the Hillcrest Elementary school had been ran into by a vehicle. It will be a costly fix. The sheriff's office is investigating the accident.

The roundhouse has been broken into again via the west side big doors.

Ian asked the council to consider what street repair/maintenance project the council wants to complete in the upcoming year with the street maintenance funds and BaRSAA (special gas tax) funds. With the phase 4 water project that will be completed in 2020, an asphalt company will already be mobilized to the city. It would benefit the city to consider a larger project in this funding year as there could potentially be no mobilization fee. Discussion regarding milling up D Ave SE and C Ave SE, chip sealing A Ave SW/NW, finishing A Ave paving and west side gutters was held.

Mayor Otten did not have anything specific to report.

Rob Elwood has been in contact with NW Energy-Lisa Perry-regarding the Harlowton Street lights. She offered that the contracts have been lost except two. In addition, apparently as a recent legislative session decision, contracts are no longer needed for them to provide street lights. Harlowton is scheduled for LED street light upgrades within this calendar year. A NW Energy technician has GPS located all the lights. Lisa offered to come to a council meeting to discuss the project. Rob will contact NW Energy regarding damaged and potentially failing street light posts. He will also invite Lisa to make a presentation to the council regarding the LED street lights at an upcoming council meeting.

The next council meeting will be February 11, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall. The ASP pool contract will be on the agenda. Bryan Tomlinson's ordinance variance request will be on the agenda.

Ron Teig made the motion to pay the claims, checks #22326-22338, from January 11, 2020 through January 24, 2020. There was no further questions or comments. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett (via telephone), Rob Elwood, Jim Kalitowski, Jack Runner, Ron Teig

Council Members Absent: Frank Brouillette

Employees Present: Ian Reed, Jesica McKeever

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk