

Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes
February 11, 2020
Harlowton City Hall
6:00pm

Rob Elwood called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Minutes of the January 14, 2020 and January 28, 2020 ordinance committee meetings were approved as written.

There was no public comment.

Changes to Section 2.14 were reviewed by the committee. Additional language to address sewer connections need to be added. Kathie will research the city's already existing ordinance (7.04.000) and draft the additional information.

Changes to Section 6.3 regarding bulk water were reviewed by the committee. No additional changes were noted.

Review commenced starting at Section 7.5 and proceeded through the remainder of Section 7. Changes noted:

Section 7.5:

Discussion on the use of sump pumps and roof drains going into the city sewer were held. Ian felt there were not a lot of these situation still in existence; however, Rob felt that in the "flats" there may be quite a few sump pump situations. Discussion on what owners could do with "sump pump" water if it didn't go through the wastewater line as the city doesn't have any storm drain systems ensued.

In addition a discussion regarding "Tucker Town Sewer District" was held. Currently sewer base rate plus \$2.00 is the charge to these residents. Wording in 7.5 regarding estimating water consumption or metering of private wells appears to be a more equitable way to charge for the services. To try to address the root of the issue Rob Elwood will recommend to the city council adding the agenda item – discussion of "Tucker Town Sewer District" annexation.

Section 7.6:

No changes noted.

Section 7.7:

The wording in this section needs to be re-written to address multiple buildings on one tax parcel. Kathie and Ian will draft the changes.

Section 7.8:

Strike whole section.

Section 7.9:

No changes noted.

Section 7.10:

No changes noted.

Section 7.11:

Reference to just wastewater will be changed to "utility" where appropriate as this section is referring to billing.

Rather than ordering a public hearing, the complaint will be placed on the regular city council agenda for discussion and decision.

Kathie reminded the committee that currently the city charges an average sewer charge during the summer based on winter usage (to account for people watering their yards but the water not going down the wastewater system) and was wondering if there should be reference to that in this billing section. In addition Ian asked if this sewer averaging could be on a case by case basis as, for example, very few owners along Central Avenue even have yards to water yet they pay an average wastewater rate. Kathie thought that the Black Mountain Software billing system could probably accommodate that. Further research on the BMS billing system will be done.

No further review took place.

Next ordinance committee meeting will be February 25, 2020 at 6:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall. The committee will continue to review the rules and regulations governing utility services starting at section 8.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Committee members Present: Rob Elwood, Frank Brouillette
City: Paul Otten, Kathie Newland, Ian Reed
Sheriff's Office:
Public Present: Esther Fischer
Other Council Present: Jack Runner

Rob Elwood, Committee Chair

Kathie Newland, City Clerk-Treasurer