

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held February 25, 2020 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the February 11, 2020 council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tina Peterson gave a report to the council regarding the Christmas Decoration fund raising. The Federated Church purchased 7 street ornaments and the Christmas banner that crosses Central Avenue (\$5,000.00 total), Chamber of Commerce purchased 6 ornaments, and 16 banners for spring, 4th of July and autumn (48 banners total for about \$4,000.00). There were \$1,730 in private donations.

Bryan Tomlinson questioned the council on why his variance request had been tabled at the prior council meeting. Bryan has been working with the council for a long time to get the issue straightened out so that his lots would be "sell-able". Bryan would like the variance request approved before incurring any costs for sewer testing (such as percolation tests). Ian informed the council that with the phase 4 water project continuing this summer, a water line and fire hydrant would be getting installed close to that property but there were no current plans for sewer/wastewater additions in that area. Ian also believed that due to the age of the sub-division that this property is located in, there are no issues with the state as far as installing a private sewer. The matter will be placed back on the agenda for the next council meeting.

Michael Miller presented information regarding a fencing issue that is located between the city's property and he and Brad Miller's property. The Miller's want to graze that part of their pasture this coming summer and the fence isn't sufficient to keep their cattle out of city property. Michael thought that the fencing had been damaged in both of the 2007 and 2011 floods. Michael also asked the council about the status of the weed infestation in that area. Michael asked for the city to decide on how to proceed with the approximate ½ mile of fencing that needs fixing. Ian informed the council that the property in question is currently leased out to Tom Tomlinson and per the city's lease agreements, the lease holder is to upkeep the fencing and spray for noxious weeds.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Otten updated the council on Biegel's Bar ownership transfer. Paul reported that he had texted with Steve Olson about the property. Mr. Olson now wants to remove the awning on the west side of the building and move it to the building he owns just south of the Biegel's Bar (known as the Toggery). However the awning is wider than that building and Mr. Olson is requesting official approval to still place it on the Toggery. Paul informed the council that he had texted Mr. Olson back and told him this situation needs to be dealt with now and the awning situation could be dealt with at a later time.

Paul had spoken to Ken Berg regarding the easement through his property for Sixth Street NE to reach the Old Gap Road. At this time the property is still in Bryan Tomlinson's name not Ken Berg's. Real Estate agent Julie Woodard had performed a fair market value assessment on both pieces of land. The property the city wants easement across is approximately 5,400 square feet valued at \$1.41 per square foot (\$7,614.00) while the ally that Bryan is proposing to close is about 4,680 square feet also valued at \$1.41 per square foot (\$6,598.80). Frank Brouillette made the motion to have attorney Karen Hammel proceed with the legal process required for an ally closure and property exchange. Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. There was no further questions or comments. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jack Runner reported that the library will have a fund raiser at Gallys on March 12, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm to raise matching funds for the Washington Grant. There will be poetry reading, free will donations and the like. Kathleen and Debbie will be attending the MT Library Association meeting the beginning of April. Charley and Sharon Bennett have donated to the after school snack program. Twyla Wise has donated an afghan as a raffle prize for the library.

Rob Elwood reported that the ordinance committee reviewed section 8 of the water and sewer rules and regulations. The committee will proceed with section 9 at their next meeting.

Ian reported that the selection committee for the Wetland's Rail Trail/Railyard met on February 19, 2020 and reviewed the proposals submitted for the concept plan for that area. WWC Engineering was selected by the committee to complete the concept plan which includes community meetings to gather information on what the community would like to see happen with the property. This project is getting paid for by an EPA \$20,000 grant which was matched with another \$20,000 from Snowy Mountain Development Corporation.

Ian also mentioned that Jason Seyler from DEQ is working on the MT Historic Preservation Grant application and is requesting letters of support be submitted to the city by Thursday February 27, 2020 to be included in the application. Charley Bennett suggested contacting Kenny Mager to get a letter of support from the City County Preservation Committee.

Ian reported that he and Bob have contact Townsend to purchase any extra trees that their tree board has purchased. The city will be getting about twenty-one trees and cost around \$750.00 (which is the 2020 Arbor Day grant funds received).

Charley Bennett reported that the pool winter carnival brought in around \$3,000. He had spoken personally with Tom from ASP regarding getting the skimmers fixed to include rebar under the pipes and re-piping the wrong sized pipes. In addition he told Tom that the city wants a new boiler if there ends up being enough funds for it. Jim Kalitowski reminded the council that the Kiwanis club is doing a fund raiser (Sunday Brunch) on March 1, 2020 for their pool sidewalk paver project (Pave the Wave).

NEW BUSINESS

A new contract from ASP had been submitted for the council's approval. This contract was for the four skimmers closest to the pool house. Paul stressed that it is important that at a minimum these four skimmers be fixed in order for the pool to open for the 2020 season. Jim noted that the contract states that any excess costs will be discussed prior to work being performed. Frank noted that change orders could be done to the contract if money and time allowed for additional work to be performed. Charley Bennett made the motion to sign the ASP contract as submitted. Rob Elwood seconded the motion. There were no further questions or discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2020-02 regarding the MT Historic Preservation Grant was presented. Kathie explained that this is a formal resolution of what the council had approved in the February 11, 2020 meeting. In order to complete the MHPG application a formal resolution was needed. Rob Elwood made the motion to approve RESOLUTION 2020-02 RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE DETERMINATION THAT *EXEMPT* IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE CITY OF HARLOWTON STABILIZATION OF THE MILWAUKEE RAILROAD ROUNDHOUSE AND OTHER APPLICABLE BUILDINGS as presented. Ron Teig seconded the motion. There were no further questions or discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2020-03 RESOLUTION TO CHANGE CITY OF HARLOWTON BANK ACCOUNT AUTHORIZED USERS was presented. Paul explained that he would like Jack Runner to be on the signatory list as he is the representative on the library board and would be informed of the library boards review of library claims prior to the checks being signed in addition to being available on a regular basis for additional signatory needs. Rob Elwood made the motion to approve Resolution 2020-03 as presented. Ron Teig seconded the motion. There were no further questions or discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft grant applications to the Callant Family Foundation and the Charles M. Bair Family Foundation were presented. Kathie explained that the information included in the grant requests regarding the swimming pool had been provided by Jesi McKeever, with the exception of the handicapped parking cement work which had been provided by Ian. Ron Teig made the motion to submit the two grant applications as presented. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. There were no further questions or discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Rob Elwood discussed the Tucker Town Sewer District (TTSD) situation with the council. During ordinance committee meetings there has been discussion regarding the legality of the TTSD and whether the district is defunct and actually in existence. The city has been paying for maintenance and upkeep of sewer lines that are actually TTSD property not the city of Harlowton's property. As this seems unfair to the tax paying residents of the city Rob proposed that the TTSD properties be annexed into the city limits. Charley Bennett asked if the property owners would be required to also hook up to the city water services. Rob explained that at this time no they would not. Discussion over street/road maintenance was also had. Right now the roads in the area are maintained by the county not the city. Frank Brouillette made the motion to have Karen Hammel proceed with the process of annexing the Tucker Town Sewer District area into Harlowton City Limits. Rob Elwood seconded the motion. There were no further questions or discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Ian reported that the city's wastewater project (lagoon UV disinfection system etc.) funding from TSEP had been reduced from \$625,000 to \$301,221. Alternate funding options are being researched including USDA/RD loans and grant forgiveness. In addition Robert Peccia and Associates (RPA) have submitted three different proposals to either reduce the scope of the project or have the full project split into alternate additives to the project.

Rob Elwood asked about the progress of the phase 4 water project. Ian informed the council that when Do-All Constructions feels that the working conditions (weather) are ready they will continue the project.

Jim Kalitowski informed the council that the MT Rural Water Authority project looks like it may be moving forward slowly at the federal level.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Otten reported that the auditor (Tripp and Associates) were currently performing the 2019 audit. An exit interview will be held on Friday February 28, 2020 at 3:00pm. A quorum of the council cannot be in attendance, however, he would like at least one other council member to be in attendance at this meeting. Jack Runner thought he would be available to attend.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Rob Elwood asked if there had been any disaster preparedness discussion regarding the potential pandemic situation (coronavirus). Ian informed the council that Randy Cameron is the Wheatland County Disaster Preparedness Coordinator.

The next council meeting will be March 10, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall. Included in the next agenda will be: Bryan Tomlinson Variance request for private septic; deadline for Steve Olson to respond regarding transferring of the Beigels' Bar ownership.

CLAIMS

Charley Bennett asked about the claim to Barco for a picnic table. Ian explained it was for an ADA compliant picnic table in the Chief Joseph Park playground area. This expense was part of the Fish Wildlife and Parks grant. Ron Teig made the motion to pay the claims, checks #22354-22375, from February 8, 2020 through February 21, 2020. There was no further questions or comments. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

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

Employees Present: Ian Reed, Bob Schuchard

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk