

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held May 26, 2020 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the May 12, 2020 council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Feist asked if the city owned the property that SilverTip propane tank is on. Paul responded that yes the city owns it and leases it to SilverTip Propane. Mark stated there is the noxious weed white top on the property that needs to be dealt with. Paul informed him that the lessee is responsible for weed spraying and the city will contact them to get it taken care of.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Otten updated the council on Biegel's Bar ownership transfer. Mr. Olson had texted Paul saying he is still wanting to get the property ownership transfer done but had some requests/stipulations that Paul did not agree with. One item was the removal of the awning on the front of the building. Steve stated that the city should take down the awning and store it on city property. Charley Bennett asked if the city would then be responsible for any damage that might occur. Bob Schuchard commented that there isn't much space in the shop outdoor storage area for it. Paul will set up a conference call with Steve Olson, Karen Hammel, himself and Kathie Newland to set clear expectations.

Mayor Otten reported that Karen Hammel has not gone to the Wheatland County Courthouse to complete her research on the alley closure for easement exchange. Jack Runner reported that Bryan Tomlinson had contacted him and said he wanted this completed by July 1, 2020.

Bob Schuchard reported that he had discussed the Tucker Town Sewer District situation with both Rural Waters and RPA (the engineer the city has been using for sewer projects). They both informed Bob that taking on a sewer district opens the city up to liability issues if the original project was not engineered to meet required specifications. Chris Hayes from RPA offered to come to present information to the city on this. Mark Feist commented that at some point the city must have already approved the connection to the city system. Bob added that per RPA when the TTSD committee became defunct that the responsibility should have gone back to the county not the city as this was a rural district outside of city limits. Rob informed Mark that the city is still working on getting financial figures and researching any history that can be found at the city hall. A meeting will be set up that involves the city, Wheatland County, RPA and members of the TTSD to continue discussing this situation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jack Runner reported that the library is opened with restrictions including only 5 patrons at a time and only 3 computer users with a 1/2 hour limit each. The quilt raffle that was to be drawn for during April has been extended due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Rob Elwood reported that the ordinance committee has not been meeting due to COVID 19 restriction, so there was no report.

Kathie Newland reported on the wetland rail trail progress. The steering committee for the Concept Plan development has been finalized and WWC will commence with contacting everyone

to gain ideas on what could be done with the Railroad property and how to most effectively hold informational community meetings during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Bob reported that tree planting took place on Friday May 15, 2020. Invenergy came to assist in the planting. Twenty-one trees were planted.

Charley Bennett reported that the pool skimmer repair project is progressing. ASP will be working on the last skimmer, then pressure testing, then refilling the holes (cementing) etc. He hopes that the project will be done within two weeks. Kiwanis had started on the “pave the wave” sidewalk project, but pavers are not yet available to put down.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA, PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 was reviewed. Kathie explained the purpose of the amendment and that there was no negative effect on the city’s cash situation as these amendments were due to fund raising and grants already received. Jack Runner made the motion to approve resolution 2020-06 as written. There was no questions or comments. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathie presented information for the fiscal year 2021 proposed street light and street maintenance district assessments. As the current assessment for street lights appears to be sufficient to cover the costs of the district, the council consensus was to leave the street light rate at \$47.00 per parcel. Discussion regarding the new LED heads on streets lights ensued. Kathie will prepare the resolution for the street light assessment for the next council meeting. The street maintenance assessment was discussed. Kathie reminded the council that a portion of these assessments are to be used for general street maintenance which is usually snow plowing and other routine street maintenance, while the remaining portion is allocated to “major” projects. Rob Elwood commented that he felt the process of picking major street projects to tackle seemed to be working. Bob reported that Wharton Asphalt had come to check out D Avenue milling, C Avenue paving and Division chip sealing in order to give an estimated cost; but then quoted the whole project together at \$170,000. Bob asked them to separate the bid out by street so the council could decide on the next project. The council consensus was to leave the street maintenance assessment at \$90.00 per parcel. Kathie will prepare the resolution for the next council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob Schuchard reported that the phase 4 water project was progressing on schedule with a few “ghost” main lines showing up on Central that need to be figured out. It will be a few weeks before the service line connections on Central are done. Rob Elwood commented that during the past weekend, a “sink hole” had developed in an area on Central where work had been done. He was wondering what the process was for marking these areas. Bob reported that Do-All is responsible for the marking of the areas; but if something happens during the weekend, the sheriff’s office has Bob’s contact information and one of the city crew would come and temporarily cone it off for safety. Bob reported that even though Do-All had coned off their work area before leaving for the weekend, someone had driven through the area and drove over Do-All’s equipment.

Bob reported that he is getting further back logged with regulatory reports. He has been contacting the agencies and MT Rural Waters in an effort to get assistance; but because of COVID-19 issues everyone is back logged or not responding.

MAYOR REPORT

Paul reported that Jesi McKeever, pool manager, will be starting working on getting the pool ready for the season. Discussion regarding if and when the pool should open due to COVID 19 issues was held. Further research will be done prior to the next council meeting.

Rob Elwood asked that when ASP comes to do training on the skimmers and other equipment that multiple people be involved in the training. Bob wouldn't likely be able to attend any training due to the many projects currently going on; so Rob offered that if he was available he would like to be in on the training. Charley commented that he had asked ASP to provide a quote on doing the actual winterization and "re-opening" process.

Charley Bennett asked about the culvert on the creek that is backing up the water flow. Paul reminded Charley that the city cannot do work in the creek without a permit from DNRC.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be June 9, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall. Paul reported that the council agenda and packets would be prepared on June 5 (the normal day) as the agenda had mentioned an early deadline which was now not necessary.

CLAIMS

Frank Brouillette made the motion to pay claims, checks #22475-22489, from May 9, 2020 through May 22, 2020. There were no questions or comments. Rob Elwood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Council Members Physically Present: Charley Bennett, Frank Brouillette, Jim Kalitowski, Jack Runner

Council Member Absent: Ron Teig

No attendance via WebEx meeting

Employees Present: Bob Schuchard

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk