

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held June 9, 2020 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the May 26, 2020 council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Beley asked if the mess in the three yards owned by her family will be fixed. She had attended a council meeting about one month ago and had been told that it would be fixed. Paul asked specifically what was still wrong. She stated that the sprinkler was broken and lawn was still ripped up. Bob reported that the water project construction company had gone and fixed her sprinkler system where they had damaged it. The worker who did the work commented that there were breaks to the sprinkler system that the constructions project did not do so did not fix. Bob will contact Do-All Constructions to have them deal directly with Susan,

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Otten updated the council on Biegel's Bar ownership transfer. A conference call has been set up for Wednesday June 10, 2020 at 2:30 between Steve Olson, Paul Otten, Karen Hammel and Kathie Newland to work on the details of getting this finished.

Mayor Otten reported that he has not heard from Karen Hammel regarding the alley closure for easement exchange with Bryan Tomlinson.

Paul reported that research on the Tucker Town Sewer District is still ongoing. Cost estimates for hypothetical maintenance and repair situations are being developed. The deputy clerk has gone through the minutes of Harlowton City Council meetings from mid-1970's through present and made copies of anything regarding the Tucker Town Sewer District. Copies will be provided to the council for review. Mark Feist commented that he believed the sewer pipes in that area are made from different material than the remainder of the city. Bob is aware of the products used in the area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jack Runner reported that the library re-roofing is complete. Library staff are working on getting their CE credits on line as the annual library conference was cancelled. This needs to be done by August 2020. The Library recently approved the purchase of a new printer and upgrading a few computers. Forty children are participating in the summer reading program.

Rob Elwood reported that the ordinance committee met earlier in the evening. They reviewed sections 10.12 through 10.23 of the draft Rules and Regulations Governing Utility Services.

Ron Teig reported that Ken Manchester of Pioneer Technical reported that some seeding of cleaned area still needs to be done before closing out the last portion of the most recent clean-up process of the rail grounds. Kathie Newland reported on the Concept Plan development progress. WWC has contacted the steering committee via phone calls and emails. They will develop a plan for community meetings based on the feedback of the steering committee.

Bob reported nothing new for the tree board committee.

Charley Bennett reported that the pool skimmer repair project is progressing and cement laying should commence June 10, 2020. Frank Brouillette asked when the pool would start to get filled. Charley replied as soon as the last test by ASP is performed which hopefully will be soon. Pool Manager Jesi McKeever has started with the locker room clean up and repairs. Frank asked when a new heater/boiler was getting installed. Charley stated in the fall. A local contractor would like to bid on this. Charley added that if the project progressed to a pool liner that only professionals in the business would be considered.

PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLUTION 2020-07 A RESOLUTION LEVYING ASSESSMENT OF COSTS OF MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL POWER FOR HARLOWTON STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT TO DEFRAY THE COSTS was discussed. Kathie informed the council that this was drafted per the council discussion at the May 26, 2020 council meeting. There was no change in the assessment rate for the street lighting district. There was no public comment. Ron Teig made the motion to approve Resolution 2020-07 as written. There were no further questions or comments. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2020-08 A RESOLUTION LEVYING ASSESSMENT OF COSTS OF MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT FOR HARLOWTON STREET MAINTENANCE DISTRICT TO DEFRAY THE COSTS was discussed. . Kathie informed the council that this was drafted per the council discussion at the May 26, 2020 council meeting. There was no change in the assessment rate for the street maintenance district. There was no public comment. Frank Brouillette made the motion to approve Resolution 2020-08 as written. There were no further questions or comments. Ron Teig seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Rebeca Farrar of the Central Montana Headstart program asked permission to hang an enrollment banner on various city properties through the summer to encourage the public to enroll their children in the headstart program. Council consensus was to allow the hanging of the banner on city property.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob Schuchard reported that the Wheatland County Chamber of Commerce had asked the city to take over maintenance of the corner lot owned by the Chamber (former Smart Property). Bob commented that the city crew staff is very limited and already have too much on their work load. Council discussed that this would be taking away business from locals who provide this service. Council consensus was to not take over maintenance of this property. Paul will inform the Chamber Director – Erin Fisk- of the decision.

Bob asked about the cleaning of the restroom for the upcoming July 4 rodeo. There may be strict regulations on sanitization of restrooms, and at this time there would be no one to do the women's bathroom. Randy Cameron of the Wheatland County Sheriff's office commented he did not think there were such restrictions in place.

Bob informed the council that mosquito spraying was going to start this week. The tractor clutch was not working so it is at Wojtowick Motors getting fixed.

Do-All Construction plans on having the Central Avenue service lines completed and Central Avenue re-paved prior to the July 4 parade. Ron Teig asked if anything had been discovered around the Citizen's Bank block regarding the water in the basements. Bob replied that nothing was discovered.

Jim Kalitowski asked Bob to check a tree located by the Streeter's property that appeared to be dangerous.

Bob informed the council of an issue arising at a property on E Avenue and 2nd Street NE believed to be owned by Jeff Sell. A fence and retaining wall are being built and it is believed to be well outside of their private property lines encroaching on city property. In addition Cameron Sell (who is living there – son of Jeff Sell) had extended the water stand pipe, then damaged it, and the city could no longer shut off services if necessary. Rob Elwood, as Ordinance Committee chairperson, informed Bob that the city needed to fix the stand pipe and bill the property owner for the work, to ensure that it was done properly. In addition it is against current municipal code for an owner to “mess with” a water standpipe/curb stop. This property is in ward 2 where Jack Runner and Jim Kalitowski our ward council members. Jack will check out the situation to see if any survey stakes are visible. Rob Elwood offered to go with.

MAYOR REPORT

Paul reported that the Local Government Center is offering free on-line education due to the spring clerk institute being cancelled. They offer quality education. Information on how to attend the on-line sessions was provided to all of the council members.

Paul informed the council that there is a planned power outage on June 11, 2020 from 10:00pm to 4:00am. Bob will be out of town, but has instructed Jeff Perry on how to handle the situation.

Paul, Bob and Kathie will be participating in a call with Kari Smith, and others from DEQ to follow up on concerns the city expressed last year.

The Ministerial Association will be presenting a community service on July 5, 2020 and would like to hold it in the park rather than in the rodeo arena. Kathie informed Jack Runner that if they want to reserve the area, a park use agreement can be filled out. Or they can just use the park and “hope” that no one else is already in the area they want to use. Jack said he would come get a park use agreement and fill it out.

Charley Bennett reported that he contact Cheryl Miller from the Upper Musselshell Conservation District regarding how to proceed with getting access to the culvert in the creek. She informed him that a representative from Fish Wildlife and Parks will be here and can review the situation.

Ron Teig asked if the street lighting bill was still lower this month. Kathie informed him that the second bill since the LED heads were placed had not come in yet.

Rob Elwood asked Everett Misner (Wheatland County Sheriff) and Randy Cameron (Wheatland County Undersheriff) about some confusion that had happened regarding the dog ordinances. Kathie added that she had retyped the municipal code based on the new ordinances, submitted it to attorney Karen Hammel for review, but had not received it back yet. The confusion is in that the city has not set bond surety for any of the ordinances. Everett explained that it is common to set the bond surety at a percentage of the maximum penalty. That helps ensure that the offenders will show up to court if necessary. Kathie will check with attorney Karen Hammel on what needs to be done. Everett suggested that all new ordinances be emailed to himself, Randy Cameron and Jamie Sanguins at the Sheriff’s Office.

Charley Bennett asked about the Corona Virus case that had been accounted to Wheatland County even though the person had not been in Wheatland County prior to or after testing positive. Randy Cameron informed him that he had contacted various officials to see how that case could be removed from counting in Wheatland County but had not had any success.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be June 23, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton City Hall.

The Moose Lodge will be requesting street closure for their annual street dance on July 2-4, 2020.

CLAIMS

Frank Brouillette made the motion to pay claims, checks #22490-22514, from May 23, 2020 through June 5, 2020. There were no questions or comments. Jack Runner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

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

Employees Present: Bob Schuchard

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk

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