

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held July 14, 2020 opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the June 23, 2020 council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Otten updated the council on Biegel's Bar ownership transfer. Attorney Karen Hammel has been in contact with Steve Olson regarding some particular requests he has regarding transferring ownership of the property to the city.

Paul reminded the council that there is a meeting on July 21, 2020 at 7:30 at the library conference room with members of the Tucker Town Sewer District. Wheatland County Commissioners have also been invited. Copies of past city minutes regarding TTSD were provided in the invitations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jack Runner reported that the library has fulfilled the matching grant portion of the Washington Grant. They received the Wind Impact grant request of \$1,500.00. A new copier has been purchased for the library. The summer reading program has been well attended (mostly virtually) and will end at the end of July. The Federated Church made a substantial donation to the library.

Rob Elwood reported that the ordinance committee met earlier in the evening. They reviewed through the end of section 10 of the draft Rules and Regulations Governing Utility Services. The next sections, 11 through 14, will need Karen Hammel's input and review.

Kathie Newland reported for the wetlands rail trail committee. She reported that WWC has contacted all of the Concept Plan Steering Committee members and is formulating a way to hold community meetings in the realm of COVID-19 restrictions.

Bob reported nothing new for the tree board committee.

Charley Bennett reported that the pool received the Wind Impact grant request of \$29,000. Recent power outages have been causing issues with the boiler (and therefore the heat of the pool water) and chemicals balancing. The state pool inspection took place last week and everything passed. Discussion regarding a community member's concerns for how the pool is being managed was held (Susan Beley). Jesica McKeever presented information regarding the state's requirements for the age of pool attendees. Jesica also addressed the council regarding the very unprofessional and accusatory statements made by Susan Beley in the letter. Charley Bennett will supply the information provided to Susan Beley. Rob Elwood commended Jesica for her appropriate actions (lack of reaction) to the accusations made. The Harlowton Kiwanis club will be sponsoring Sundays at the pool. They will pay \$100.00 per open Sunday which covers the cost of the lifeguards. In addition, all attendees get into the pool for free on Sundays. Jesica informed the council that she is working on updating the swimming pool policies for the council to approve at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

A street closure request with exemption from the City of Harlowton's open container ordinance for August 8, 2020 from 3:00pm to 11:00pm from Gally's was presented. They will have live music performances that evening and would like participants to be able to dance on the street to allow for appropriate social (physical) distancing. Charley Bennett made the motion to approve the request. There were no further comments or discussion. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with Rob Elwood abstaining as he presented the request on behalf of Kendra Gallahan (Gally's).

Discussion regarding the use of the 2020 BaRSAA funds (new gas tax) was held. Bob Schuchard obtained a quote from Wharton Asphalt for various paving and curb projects and gave his opinion on which projects he thought were most pressing. Kathie explained that the 2020 BaRSAA funds of \$31,226.87 along with the estimated 2021 BaRSAA funds and current Street Maintenance District cash would cover approximately \$109,000.00 of projects. She explained that the 2021 BaRSAA funds would not be available until spring of 2021 at the earliest. In addition the upcoming Street Maintenance District cash that comes from the fiscal year 2021 assessments usually come to about \$60,000 with some of that being allocated to other uses (not major projects but regular street maintenance). Rob Elwood made the motion to proceed with A Ave NW curb repair, A Avenue milling and repaving, and D Avenue milling and repaving. There was no further comments or questions. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. A formal resolution allocating the use of the BaRSAA funds will be presented at the next council meeting.

Resignation of the city clerk-treasurer, Kathie Newland, was presented and accepted. Paul Otten asked for a volunteer to assist in interviewing potential new clerk-treasurers as Kathie would possibly be gone by the time qualified applications arrived. Frank Brouillette volunteered to participate in the interview process. Rob Elwood also volunteered if his work schedule would be open.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob Schuchard reported that one of the city crew workers had been injured during work and would be out for a time, leaving a very limited crew to take care of business.

Bob presented information from a company that would provide maintenance and trouble-shooting for the SCADA well systems. Council consensus was to accept the proposal if the cost could be worked into the budget for the next fiscal year.

Bob reported that he and Paul had discussed the creek by Tanbergs with a representative from DNRC. A plan to obtain grants over the next few years to help clean the creek and perhaps alleviate some of the ground water issues in the area, will be developed in conjunctions with the wetlands rail trail project.

Bob reported that noxious weeds are out of control in the leased properties along the river. There is spurge in the area that DEQ is trying to clean up right now. Frank Brouillette asked if the lease holders were taking care of their noxious weeds. Bob replied they were not. Frank feels that the leases cause more problems than they are worth and the leases are up for renewal in March of 2021 and perhaps at that time the leases should not be renewed.

Bob reported that there are almost weekly DEQ lagoon violations now as the city's current system cannot remove enough of the chlorine from the waste to meet the DEQ's requirements. It is taking up a lot of his time to clear up these violations. The issue of residual chlorine will be taken care of once the UV system for the lagoon is installed this fall. In addition there are additional lead and

copper tests that need to be performed this year. He is having issues with DEQ responding to his calls regarding changes that must be made in the proposed testing plan.

MAYOR REPORT

Paul informed the council that two applications for city clerk treasurer have been received and he will contact the applicants to schedule interviews.

Unrestricted money has been received from the closing of the Callant Trust (CRUT). Paul asked if the council would like to allocate any of the funds to any specific projects. Charley Bennett made the motion to pay for the fiscal year 2021 SCADA maintenance system from MET. There were no further questions or comments. Rob Elwood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Thank you letters to Larry Callant, for the above mentioned money, and the Federated Church, for their recent donation to the recycling program, were passed around for council signatures.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be July 28, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton Public Library Conference room with a public hearing for the phase five water project to be held at 6:00pm prior to the council meeting. The ordinance committee meeting regularly scheduled for July 28, 2020 at 6:00pm will be cancelled due to the public hearing.

CLAIMS

Charley Bennett made the motion to pay claims, checks #22539-22586, from June 20, 2020 through July 10, 2020. There were no other questions or comments. Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

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

Council Members Absent: Ron Teig

Employees Present: Bob Schuchard

Paul Otten, Mayor

Kathie Newland, Clerk