

Harlowton City Council Minutes
August 25, 2020
Harlowton City Library

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held August 25, 2020 opened at 7:19 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the August 11, 2020 council meeting were approved as written. Minutes of the August 11, 2020 closed session were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council member Frank Brouillette informed the council that the Wheatland County Community Foundation will be holding a free event, “Reimagining Rural Montana”, on Tuesday, September 15th, September 29nd, and October 13th and has invited as many council members to attend as possible.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Paul Otten updated the council on Biegel’s Bar ownership transfer. As far as Paul knows, owner Steve Olsen has not responded to Attorney Karen Hammel’s email.

Paul and Council member Rob Elwood reported that they have not heard anything from Wheatland County regarding Tucker Town Sewer District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner had nothing to report regarding the library.

Rob reported that the ordinance committee did not meet this week.

Council member Ron Teig reported that there was nothing new to report regarding the Tree Board.

Ron reported that WWC Engineering held two community meetings regarding the Harlowton Railyard Concept Plan. Former Harlowton Clerk-Treasurer Kathie Newland reported that Garth French from WWC will be compiling the information from those meetings to present to the stakeholder group.

Councilmember Charley Bennett reported that the pool closure is tentatively set for September 11th because Harlowton High School would like to use the pool for the first two weeks of school. Frank asked if this was a similar situation to last year and hadn’t we written a contract. Kathie reported that a contract had not been written for last year but that the school had paid Jesi directly for her lifeguard hours. Jesi proposed a \$250.00 rental rate for the two weeks, as the school’s funding is limited. Rob asked what the costs for operating the pool for two weeks were. Additional discussion took place. Council consensus is that a contract needs to be written up for \$600 for two weeks with a clause exempting the City from any liability.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul Otten swore in new Harlowton City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco.

The RESOLUTION 2020-15 CITY OF HARLOWTON WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF CDBG APPLICATION was reviewed. Frank Brouillette made the motion to approve Resolution 2020-15 as written. There were no questions or comments. Rob Elwood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Paul asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Phase 5 water project early notice for construction within Floodplain that Craig Erickson from Great West Engineering discussed during the Public Hearing. There were no questions or comments.

Charley proposed purchasing the following items for the pool: diving board, boiler, drains, siding for the shower building, lowering the east door for ADA access, security cameras, summer pool cover, storage container, vent in the boiler room, energy-efficient pump, refinish pool house flooring and resurfacing the pool floor with funds received from Bair Family Foundation, 2020 Wind Impact Grant and funds raised by the "Save the Pool" committee. Additional discussion took place. Paul requested additional quotes for pool boilers. Council consensus was to allow Charley to proceed with purchasing a diving board up to \$2500, repairing drains up to \$1500, security cameras up to \$1000, replace summer pool cover up to \$2000, 20 foot storage container up to \$4400, vent in the boiler room up to \$500, energy efficient pump up to \$6000, and to finish shower room floors up to \$1000. Council consensus was to direct Charley to get quotes by the next council meeting for: siding the shower room, a pump to recycle water to the slide, lowering the east door for ADA access, and repairing the bottom of the pool.

Former Clerk-Treasurer Kathie Newland presented the preliminary fiscal year 2021 budget. The maximum Mill Levy of 150.28 will be levied. The permissive medical levy for fiscal year 2021 will be 22.11 mills. Projected revenues and expenses were discussed. Kathie explained there would be a small loss in the general fund and the solid waste fund but there is sufficient cash to sustain the losses. Council member Jack Runner made the motion to approve the preliminary fiscal year 2021 budget as presented. There were no additional questions or comments. Rob seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard had to leave meeting early due to emergency storm damage call.

MAYOR REPORT

Paul informed the council that the 2020 Callant Family Foundation Grant monies had been received.

Paul informed the council that the second public hearing for the CDBG Grant will be held at 6pm on September 8th at the Harlowton Library conference room.

Paul reported that he had spoken with Richard Moe regarding purchasing the lot that Cream of the West is located on. Paul is checking with attorney Karen Hammel regarding proper procedure for the sale of this property.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be September 8, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Harlowton Public Library Conference Room.

There will be a second phase 5 water project public hearing at 6:00pm at the library conference room prior to the council meeting on September 8, 2020.

CLAIMS

Frank made the motion to pay claims, checks #22636-22652, from August 8, 2020 through August 21, 2020. There were no other questions or comments. Charley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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

Employees Present: Bob Schuchard (left prior to unfinished business for emergency call)

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk

DRAFT