

2023-06-27
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held June 27, 2023. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the June 13, 2023, Council meeting approved minutes after a correction of removing Jack Runner off as being attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kevin Knudson has a fire truck located in Big Timber that will be up for a sealed bid July 13, 2023, a 1985, 55 ft long ladder truck. Kevin would like to do a sealed bid of \$15,000 (\$7500.00 coming from the city and \$7500.00 coming from the county). Kevin will keep us updated on the outcome of the sealed bid.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: The council will need to fill the library board vacancy.

Pool: Per councilmember Charley Bennett, this week he had to rebuild the pump for the pool. The pump being rebuilt is still not 100%, which is causing the skimmers not to work properly. The current pump was replaced in 2011, so it may be time to replace the pump, which could cost around \$10,000. He has contacted Thompson Pools to have them come up to look at it. Triangle Communications was here Monday and installed a 911 phone that when picked up it calls directly to the Sheriff's office. The lockers arrived and were installed. Plumbing in the mechanical building was completed. The state came in today and tested the water and the pool was low on chlorine so it was forced closed for the rest of the day as well as Wednesday, June 28, 2023. This may be due, in part, to all the rain. Charley also went to the High School to get information for the Memorandum of Understanding form the use of the pool at the end of the season.

Ordinance: Per councilmember Frank Brouillette, they still have not met.

Tree Board: The Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported that the trees have been picked up by public works employee Lloyd Horne. July 14th The Judith Gap Wind Farm will be here at 9 a.m. to help plant the trees.

Wetlands Rail Trail: Per councilmember Ron Teig, nothing to report

UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ITEMS:

Unlicensed / Inoperable Vehicles: The council gave approval to proceed with addressing vehicles that are unlicensed and appear to be inoperable. The mayor met with the sheriff's office regarding support of the ordinances and also ask for someone from the sheriff's office staff to attend the city council meetings with a report of citations issued as a result of enforcing the city's ordinances. No one from Sheriff's office showed up at the meeting. City Attorney, Brent

Brooks, stated Billings process for their ordinance states to put a 10-day sticker on the vehicle, take photos for evidence and if not addressed after 10 days, the vehicle will be hauled off by a designated company. He will follow up and give us his best practice recommendations.

Per councilmember Frank Brouillette, he spoke with Everett Misner, and it was decided that a formal letter be emailed to the Sheriff's office, and they will start enforcing the ordinance.

Frank followed up on the complaints of tall grass in his ward and they were taken care of. He also made rounds and noted more properties that needed attention. Some empty lots that Frank saw were in dire need of attention. It was discussed that the ward members need to make note of properties and verbally address issues with the residents to help avoid public complaints.

Cameras in the Park: With discussion of brands of cameras and how many we need for the park, it was decided that two game cameras would be purchased for the park to be able to monitor the water usage, garbage, and restrooms. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard will be going to Great Falls on Friday June 30, 2023 and can stop and purchase the game cameras.

Budget: Wages increase. It was approved to pencil in an 8% cost of living rate increase, determined by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research University of Montana for the 2023-2034 pay cycle to determine if this will work with the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Beth Keating requested to be on the agenda, her concerns are the dirty sidewalks on the highway, the sign at the E57B is in desperate need of repairs, and the Boomer Trail path. The previous Public Works Director Ian Reed did make the agreement with the State to do snow removal only for the sidewalks that were put in. Councilmembers Frank and Ron Teig will talk to Rick Reese & Dave Miller who may also be property owners in the areas of Beth's concern.

Boomer trail is also in need of some work. Beth mentioned if there are millings, she could find enough people to help to add a sidewalk/walkway in. Also, the city has done an awesome job with spraying for mosquitoes.

The E57B is in need of repairs. All the windows are wooden frames and they are rotting causing windows to break. This is being caused by a leaking roof. It was mentioned possibly painting the roof with a snow roof application. The current sign is needing to be replaced and Bob suggested Eastman Sign in Lewistown as they were the ones who did the sign for Chief Joseph Park, and it was done well. Charley asked about if the donation box has been checked that is located at the E57B railcar. Maybe Milwaukee Historical Society would help with a donation to put towards the sign or repairs needing to be made.

Phase 5 Water Project: Finalized Resolution 2023-04. Ron Teig made the motion and Johnny Cooney 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With the tall grass issue, Councilmember Charley suggested for the public to fill out the citizen complaint form and take pictures of properties needing care.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:

Bob Schuchard updated info on the grader. It is currently at Paxton Wojtowick's for repair and could be 4-6 weeks before completion due to lack of employees.

HDPE up by Hillcrest will be completed in a few weeks. The water could possibly be done, and the City of Harlowton could have the new water by July 28. If so, the water will be shut off at midnight and will affect the hospital, rest area, west part of town. These times will be advertised as the project nears completion.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR: Mayor Paul Otten presented a letter from Governor Greg Gianforte, notifying the City of Harlowton was awarded \$500,000 in DNRC Reclamation and Development Grants through House Bill 7. Also, we received \$400,000 through HB 12 for the Asbestos Removal, Cleanup, and Restoration of Contaminated Soils at the Harlowton Roundhouse.

Dean Thompson asked to park a trailer that would be obstructing a little bit of the street for the hot dog eating contest on July 3rd. This would only be for 30-40 minutes.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: City Attorney Brooks is working with Andy Stensrud regarding Northwestern Energy transmission lines before the title commitment, buy/sell and resolution can be completed for the Boyd Burroughs land purchase.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: Deputy Clerk, Deshawnda Carver for Debbie Johnson We checked with our MMIA insurance and there is no insurance exclusion for slides at the pool. She stressed, however, that the installation must follow manufacturer's recommendations exactly. MMIA also confirmed that with street closures for events the city does need to get a certificate of coverage stating the city as an additional insured for that event. The coverage should be no less than 1.5 million dollars per occurrence. Deputy Clerk, Deshawnda Carver, has added this to the Request for Street Closure Form. MMIA Bulletin available for viewing at City Hall.

If a street closure request comes to City Hall too late to be approved at a council meeting, it was suggested the city staff email council members to get at least a majority approval and if not enough replies, the mayor will approve. Also, it was questioned, if a meeting is canceled, how do we get approval to pay the claims as there was only one response to our email after the last canceled meeting. As the council does have to approve the claims, they stated they would be better at responding to emails.

It was approved to put signs for the cost of water on the park spigots and the bulk water station near the shop. A lot of people are currently not paying for water from either place. With signs being posted we can enforce payment.

Council agreed to try zoom for a year as Teams has not always been reliable. It was approved to try it for \$150.00 a year.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Annexation- Public hearing (Kelly Evan)

- 1.) Attempt to annex resolution
- 2.) Resolution to annex
Deeds recorded in the hospital name (Wheatland Memorial)

CLAIMS:

Frank Brouillette made a motion to approve the claims and councilmember Ron Teig seconded the motion. No comment from the public. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett, Johnny Cooney III, Frank Brouillette, Kathleen Schreiber, Allison Jones, Ron Teig

Council Members Absent: None

City Office: Mayor Paul Otten, City Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Johnson, City Deputy Clerk Deshawnda Carver, City Attorney Brent Brooks (via Teams), Public Works Director Bob Schuchard

Public Present: Kevin Knudson, Beth Keating, Dane Elwood



Paul Otten, Mayor



Deshawnda Carver, Deputy Clerk