

2023-08-08
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held Aug 8, 2023. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the July 25, 2023, Council meeting stand approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Councilmember Johnny Cooney III had nothing to report

Ordinance Committee: Councilmember Frank Brouillette said it sounds like City Attorney Brent Brooks should have something for the committee soon.

Pool: Per Councilmember Charley Bennett, Thompson Pool said the continued issue with the skimmer may be caused by being plugged and assured Charley that there is not a broken line. They will be in Harlo to close down the pool in a few weeks. Other than that, everything seems to be going well with around 50 kids per day. The pool will be closing on Aug 12th.

Tree Board: The Public Works Director Bob Schuchard had nothing new to report.

Wetlands Rail Trail: Councilmember Ron Teig had nothing new to report. Mayor Paul Otten stated he went down to the railyard and met with Jason Seyler, and others, and there will be more grant money coming in and they are pushing to get the cleanup done and cleanup for the Roundhouse could be done by this fall. Councilmember Charley Bennett stated Representative Bergstrom was in town and wanted to look in the Roundhouse. He was told he could look at it but not allowed to go inside. Rep. Bergstrom was the driving force that got our money back after Harlo was cut out of receiving restoration money in HB 12.

UPDATES ON DECAY ORDINANCE COMPLAINTS:

Frank Brouillette stated he contacted Wells Fargo regarding a property they own that needed attention and they have arranged to have someone keep the property mowed.

Councilmember Charley Bennett stated there is still no change to the property in his Ward that had a public complaint.

UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ITEMS:

1. Vote on Resolution 2023-05 for mail ballots.
 - a. Per Mayor Otten this will need to be moved to the 2023-08-22 meeting as County Clerk and Recorder, Megan Cameron is out of town, and we need to verify dates and candidate names.
2. Graves Hotel cleanup and repair. Do we need a meeting with other agencies to see what is being done and what still needs to be done.
 - a. Per Attorney Brooks he has spoken with Attorney Brad Condra and it seems there was a lack of understanding and a lack of communication between Condra and

the county. Bottom line is they are free to start cleaning up hopefully this week. Per Mayor Otten, he spoke with Jeff Samuelson, the owner of the Graves, and was told that Jeff accepted a contractor bid to start cleanup of the site maybe as early as Wednesday, Aug 9th and the contractor hopes to have it looking better in a few days. The Mayor will ask the contractor about purchasing rocks from the Graves Hotel site.

3. Parking Change proposal at Junior High and High School – Randy Durr.

- a. As a new Superintendent, Randy Durr, has been in discussions about the concern of no fire or emergency lane area in front of the school and limited access to inside the building if there was an issue in the gym, and they are unable to access to provide support. He is asking for 75 feet of curb in red, in front of the gym. There is currently a lot of yellow paint, which research shows as buses, loading zone, no parking etc. The problem is everyone is parking in the yellow zone. Durr has spoken with Sheriff Misner regarding a fire hydrant across the street that is also painted yellow and continually has people parking in front of the fire hydrant. Frank Brouillette stated he would have no problem with the color change but said the real problem would be enforcement. Per Durr, Sheriff Misner said he would put something on the Sheriff's website and start to cite violators if the council agrees. He asked if the city would also put something on their website or Facebook page noting these future changes. Durr stated he would put an ad in the paper for a couple weeks and will put signs on the building designating fire lanes. The bus lane will be restricted at certain times before and after school for student drop off and pick up. For the first few events, they may put cones out to help enforce the no parking zone. Although there were no complaints at the grade school, they could certainly do the same thing if deemed necessary. Per City Attorney Brooks, the current ordinance section 10.46.030 states all non-parking should be painted yellow, and this would need to be amended to say yellow, unless otherwise designated by city council resolution. As the ordinance amendment will need a 1st and 2nd reading, and a public comment period, the council agreed to let them paint the curbs and wait to have any citations issued until amendment and resolution are in place.

4. Burroughs revised survey and land sale.

- a. Per Mayor Otten, we are waiting on about 6 items from Mr. Burroughs attorney and City Attorney Brooks is working on some other stuff until we can carry through with the land purchase. The Mayor does have the new Certificate of Survey from Andy Stensrud. Both Boyd Burroughs and Chad Roelfs have look at it and agreed with everything except possibly an easement for the water. We will need to do a title search on the property.

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Bob Schuchard stated the contractors are working on replacement water mains by the hospital and when done they will start on 5th street, then C Ave NE. They are about 2/3 done and looking at around October for completion. Bob also stated all

the leaks are fixed on the water main from the Central Montana Water project. The mayor stated a representative for Senator Tester will be in Roundup to look at the pipeline and report back to Senator Tester. Bob mentioned that we will be getting stickers for each of the electric outlets in the park stating the electric vehicle cost for charging is \$5.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: City Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Johnson reported the city has signed a contract with Strom and Associates for auditing. She also stated she will start on the budget with help from the city accountant Magda Nelson. The city has received its 2023 Certified Taxable Valuation. It was discussed and decided to get a certificate of liability naming the city as an additional insured for the Farmer's Market as they do serve alcohol. Attorney Brooks stated this would also require a liquor liability endorsement. Debbie noted a fun fact from Deputy Clerk Deshawnda Carver, that in July 22 different states had camped in Chief Joseph Park and so far in August there have been 18 different states represented. Debbie let the council know that she will be moving back to the Billings area in the future, and we will need to advertise and train a new clerk-treasurer.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR: City Mayor, Paul Otten, shared a thank you card from Beth Keating to the Public Works department and Council for addressing the issues she brought forth at a previous council meeting.

REPORT OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPT: Post meeting discussion with Deputy Eric Karsten on junk vehicles and a list of cars. Per Mayor Otten stated we will get a list and give to the Sheriff's office, and they will put a sticker on the car. The city has 2 people lined up to remove the junk vehicles.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Nothing for the next meeting

CLAIMS:

Frank Brouillette made a motion to approve the claims and Ron Teig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

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

Council Members Absent: Allison Jones

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

Sheriff's Department: Deputy Eric Karsten

Public Present: Randy Durr



Paul Otten, Mayor



Debbie Johnson, City Clerk-Treasurer