

FY 23-24 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing  
September 5, 2023  
Harlowton City Hall

Opening of Public Hearing for discussion of FY24 Preliminary Budget (including discussion of wages/salaries for FY 23-24)

A public hearing meeting was held on September 5, 2023. The meeting opened at 6 p.m. City Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Johnson presented documents of the Preliminary Budget for FY 23-24. Discussion took place regarding adjusting the City's expenditures/revenues with the inflation that is occurring throughout the County/State.

Discussion took place regarding the library that having a in their 2220 Library- County Funded account may prevent them from getting a future grants at this time.

Talk of closing the Wheatland Fire Department account was mentioned, Council voted on closing the account and giving them their money to manage themselves. City Hall will meet with the City Accountant and the Fire Chiefs to look at options.

Mayor Paul Otten asked Public Works Director Bob Schuchard about the Streets that need paved, and decided to use \$75,000 from Street Maintenance account and \$75,000 from Gas Tax Fund.

Returning lifeguards for the summer of 2024 will receive a bonus similar to this past summer. The bonuses will be \$25.00-June, \$25.00-July, and \$50.00-August in addition to their regular paychecks. The Pool Managers returning would receive \$500.00 bonus at the end of summer 2024.

Councilmember Frank Brouillette suggested that the Mayor's salary go from \$400.00 to \$450.00 per month and the City Council's salary change from \$800.00 per year to \$1200.00 per year. Councilmember Johnny Cooney III sited a policy regarding council absences. It was decided a councilmember can miss 2 meetings per year as well as sick absences, after which time \$50.00 will be deducted from the annual stipend per absence. This will begin January 2024.

Mayor Paul Otten and Council Members discussed Deputy Clerk Deshawnda Carvers wage which is currently \$17.28 per hour, with the 8% cost of living raise, to be increased to \$18.00 per hour. As with the City Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Johnson's wage which is currently is \$21.60, with the 8% cost of living raise, to be changed to \$22.00.

Council will need to vote on Resolution 2023-07 to approve wages/salaries for FY 23-24 and Resolution 2023-08 to approve the FY 23-24 Budget at the City Council Meeting 2023-09-12.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Frank Brouillette, Charley Bennett, Johnny P. Cooney III, Allison Jones

Council Members Absent: Ron Teig, Kathleen Schreiber

City Office: Mayor Paul Otten, City-Clerk Treasurer Debbie Johnson, Deputy Clerk Deshawnda Carver,

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard

Public Present: None

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul Otten", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Paul Otten, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Debbie Johnson", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Debbie Johnson, City-Clerk Treasurer