

October 24, 2023
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on October 24, 2023. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the October 10, 2023 Council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

TJ Tupker asked the Council if there were any updates on trailers and campers parked on City streets. Mayor Paul Otten stated he didn't have any new updates since the last the meeting.

Councilmember Charley Bennett stated that he didn't believe the Councilmembers deserved a pay raise. He thinks that the members were setting a bad example as city employees. He rationalized the members got paid when they missed meetings, but the city clerk and deputy clerk cannot just skip a day of work and get paid, they must use their PTO. Councilmember Frank Brouillette was confused and needed further explanation. He also stated that the deputy clerk and the treasurer have sick pay and paid time off. Councilmember Charley Bennett said the Councilmembers do not get a lot done around the city to constitute a raise. Councilmember Frank Brouillette stated he does get a lot of constituents thank you's around the town of Harlowton and if there was a money incentive, aka raises, maybe we would have more people interested in being Councilmembers. Bennett said he just wanted to throw his two cents out there to be heard is all.

****Revisions for approval per Councilmember Frank Brouillette**

Councilmember Charley Bennett stated "the council is not doing their jobs and not getting nothing done".

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Councilmember Johnny Cooney III stated that the library got their new furniture from the corrections facility in Deer Lodge. The furniture is very nice and efficient. They also had someone move plugins around. This was funded by the Callant Family.

Ordinance: Councilmember Frank Brouillette stated they have not met.

Pool: Councilmember Bennett stated the pool house is shut down for winter. Charley also mentioned that the pool is officially keyless, the gates have digital padlocks or keyless entry.

Wetlands Rail Trail: Councilmember Ron Teig absent.

Public Works: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard absent.

UPDATE ON JUNK CAR ORDINANCE REPORT: Mayor Paul asked about the 10-day sticker, as we currently don't have one. He asked if we would be able to get them printed at Elk River Systems, mimicking the 10 days sticker the city of Billings uses. City Attorney Brent Brooks stated he will meet with a city worker from Billings to get a sample sticker to present to the members. Mayor Paul Otten stated he will follow up with Judith Gap Oil to find out the towing costs.

UPDATES ON PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ITEMS:

1. Public Meeting on Annexation of New Hospital property.
 - a. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-12 Annexation of New Hospital. Councilmember Kathleen Schreiber motioned and Johnny Cooney 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Motion to accept Interlocal Agreement for hospital, city, and county. Charley Bennett motioned to accept and Kathelene Schreiber 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Motion to accept the Petition Requesting Annexation of the New Hospital into the City. Johnny Cooney motioned to accept the Petition and Kathleen Schreiber 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. AMCS Courier & Services. Ben Hall to discuss his proposal for courier services.
 - a. Ben stated he is working closely with Public Works Director Bob Schuchard on water and solid waste samples. Weekly samples will be picked up from Harlowton and driven to Billings by Mr. Hall. The trip would cost \$70 and \$30 for a return trip. There will be an extra \$30 if there is bad weather. He would haul samples on call as well as bring back anything the City of Harlowton would need. City Attorney Brent Brooks stated that he would need updated proof of liability insurance, and a business license. Mr. Brooks stated that he is concerned with Ben not being a city office employee and the liability it could potentially have. Ben and the Attorney will work together to make sure Ben has everything in place and added to the contract before it is accepted by the council at the November 11, 2023 meeting.

3. Susan Beley Request to be on Agenda regarding the sewer repairs needed.
 - a. Susan Beley presented a letter to the Councilmembers. She stated she has worked with City Public Works Director Bob Schuchard on her sewer issues which was damaged when the contractors C&C came through to hook up water from Central Montana to the tower in Harlowton. She stated Bob has been nothing but kind and gracious however she is worried if this issue doesn't get fixed before winter, she will be facing frozen sewer lines, which could cost the city even more money. She stated there are other things this company broke but this is top priority. Councilmember Johnny Cooney mentioned that Susan wasn't responsible for the repairs. Mayor Paul Otten stated that he has reached out to CMWA, and stated they will be back as the project has not been signed off on.

4. Tom Keating Request to be on the Agenda regarding Burrough's Land Sale.
 - a. Tom came to ask about the land sale to Boyd Burroughs. He stated that things pertaining to this property have been done completely backwards, changing the bid, changing what the city is selling, when you aren't supposed to change a bid. City Attorney Brent Brooks stated he would be happy to visit with Mr. Keating outside a council meeting. Unless Mr. Keating has a lawyer, in that case to have his lawyer contact Attorney Brooks. Tom Keating then stated he has visited with a lawyer. Attorney Brooks reiterated that he would discuss this outside of a meeting and asked for his contact information so they can talk. Tom Keating stated that instead of one lawyer he will get two. If the bidding in the paper was different then the one the City Hall posted, the add should have been rescinded from the beginning. City Attorney Brent Brooks asked Mr. Keating if he had an email to discuss this further. Mr. Keating stated he did not, but he could reach him by text.

NEW BUSINESS:

1.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Bob Schuchard absent.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER:

City Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Johnson stated that she has reached out to the Sheriffs office about 10 days stickers as well as a panic button for the City Hall. These items seem to be at a stand still for now. Debbie stated the City has hired Sarah Williams as the new Deputy Clerk. Debbie also asked the Councilmembers if the city would pay for the Clerk to get bonded as a notary? Councilmember Johnny Cooney stated that a notary can't notarize their own paperwork and this is not a service we will offer the public at this time.

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor Paul Otten stated the ballots for this year's election went out Friday and this will cost the City around \$1000.

City Attorney Brent Brooks: Mr. Brooks stated he will let us know about the 10-day stickers.

Sheriff: No Representation

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Ben Hall AMCS Courier contract.

a. Motion, Discussion or Action

CLAIMS:

Frank Brouillette made a motion to pay the claims. Kathleen Schreiber 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35P.M.

Councilmembers Present: Charley Bennett , Johnny Cooney III, Frank Brouillette, Kathleen Schreiber

Councilmembers Absent: Ron Teig, Allison Jones

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

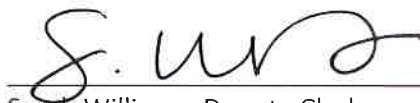
Public Works Director Bob Schuchard- Absent

City Attorney Brent Brooks

Public Present: TJ Tupker, Susan Beley, Ben Hall, Tom Keating



Paul Otten, Mayor



Sarah Williams, Deputy Clerk

