

September 26, 2023
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on September 26, 2023. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the September 12, 2023 Council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Myrna Mysse had talked to Council Member Ron Teig concerning her booster pump that had to be replaced costing \$1265.00. Myrna wanted to know if The City was anyway responsible for this and would reimburse her the cost. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard said we have an Ordinance in place that would protect The City from being responsible.

Council Member Charley Bennett mentioned that an Apartment building in Harlowton is renting out rooms. There are signs posted on the building advertising this. Charley's concern is that there is no water, sewer or electricity in much of the building. He did meet with Cody Nelson, Director of the Wheatland County Disaster & Emergency Services (DES), Cody said he would meet with the Sheriff's Department and get back to Charley.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Council Member Johnny Cooney III stated that The Library now has a child policy in place. Children not behaving would be asked to leave, and a child under the age of 7 would have to be accompanied by someone over the age of 16.

Ordinance: Councilmember Frank Brouillette said they have not met.

Pool: Council Member Charley Bennett had Thompson Pool out on September 22, 2023 to shut down the pool. They shot water out of the skimmers showing nothing was wrong with the plumbing. Thinking maybe the sand filters or pump need replaced. The pool is now cleaned and empty. Public Works Director will turn off the water and check the leaking valve. Jimbo Fisk will winterize the pool house soon for the winter.

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

Wetlands Rail Trail: Councilmember Ron Teig had nothing new to report.

UPDATE ON DECAY ORDINANCE COMPLAINTS:

Charley Bennett presented his list of cars that Mayor Paul Otten had requested for The Council to provide to him from their ward. Mayor Paul Otten asked Attorney Brent Brooks if the tow bill can be at the owner's expense, Brent mentioned that the towing company may expect payment from The City rather than the owner.

Charley said there has been change on the property in his ward.

UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ITEMS:

1. Council Member Frank Brouillette brought to attention that any quote that comes in that is over \$80,000 will have to go out for bids. The bid came in from MT Paving out of Lewistown came back with a bid of \$79,900 for new asphalt on C Ave SE.
 - a. Charley Bennett made motion to approve this bid from MT Paving and Ron Teig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Attorney Brent Brooks updated The Mayor and The Council on Interlocal Agreement with City, County and Hospital Concerning RD Bonds for New Hospital (Brent has a call into the bond attorney Nathan Bilyeu for an update on the Agreement as to if the hospital and County have approved the changes, we sent back about two weeks ago.) Status Update on Annexation Petition from Wheatland Memorial Hospital (Brent left a voicemail for Jessie Proctor, engineer for the Hospital as to what the status is concerning the Petition for Annexation and asked her to call and let me know if he can help).
3. Second reading of Ordinance 01-2023-Chapter 10.46. Allowing the City Council to change the color of No Parking Zones upon request. State Statutes will make this affective after 30 days of approval. Frank Brouillette made motion to approve this with Ron Teig seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Resolution 2023-10 Authorization of the City land Sale to Boyd Burroughs. Frank Brouillette made the motion and Councilmember Allison Jones seconded the motion, approving the sale of the property to Boyd Burroughs was passed with a 5-1 vote. Councilmembers Frank, Ron, Allison, Johnny, and Kathleen were in favor, Charley opposed.
5. Frank & Charley went down the Rail Trail Bridge to access the repairs that need to be done, it seems it will need to be totally replaced. Talked about possibilities of what the most reasonable way to repair the Rail Trail Bridge. Both Ron & Frank will ask around and get bids from local people.
6. Attorney Brent Brooks will send a letter to Denny Eikenhorst to take further action in collecting back solid waste fees. Brent Brooks will give Mr. Eikenhorst the option to make payments or pay this in full. Brent will express to him that if he does not pay this in a timely manner it could be turned over to a collection agency.
7. Frank made motion and Ron seconded the motion for Resolution 2023-10 for Street Light District Assessment. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Frank made motion and Allison seconded the motion for Resolution 2023-11 Street Maintenance Assessment. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kylie Meeker expressed concern of the safety, to put a fence up between the dugout and the backstop at the baseball field located at Chief Joseph Park. Kylie stated this would be paid for out of the grant they received. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard asked if there would be a gate

installed large enough for a mower to pass through, kylie said yes that there would be.

Kylie also asked for permission to have the t-ball field in the middle of the track. This way all the kids and families could be together rather than two locations. And at this location there are restrooms available. Mayor Paul Otten along with Councilmembers suggested Kylie to talk to the Superintendent for approval of this, since the school maintains the track.

2. Received an email from Susan Beley requesting an EIN# and approval from The City for permission (since the golf course is owned by The City), to apply for a grant through the Wheatland County Community Foundation. The grant would help supplement the cost of the YOUTH GOLF ACADEMY for the summer of 2024. Mayor Paul Otten along with the Council approved giving them the EIN# and approval for getting this grant.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:

Bob Schuchard reported that Chip Horne passed his 3rd and final test. Bob went to Lewistown this week and picked up the E57B sign, it has been put up replacing the old sign. Water project is done other than the road work which is being done now.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER:

Deputy Clerk Deshawnda Carver reported Big Sky Big Leadership will be holding program dates around Wheatland County. If anyone is interested there are scholarships available. City Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Johnson completed the corrective action plan and journal vouchers to finalize the FY22 Audit, it has been filed with the Feds. Also, The City had an audit for the Water Phase 5 Project. Attending were Mayor Paul Otten, Public Works Director Bob Schuchard, Deputy Clerk Deshawnda, Craig Erickson with Great West, and Joel Pilcher with and Auditors Lindsay and Erin. Lindsay and Erin were impressed with the spreadsheet presented. Everything they requested was in order and they were pleased.

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY:

Attorney Brent Brooks made the Councilmembers aware of law suit that is against The City. There may be a closed session at a later date. Brent has made contact with Jessy Proctor about the Hospital Annexation suggesting maybe using google earth for the Engineer to show the property of the hospital.

MAYORS REPORT:

Central Montana Water Authority has planned a ribbon cutting event for October 18th, 2023, here in Harlowton. There will be several people attending this event including Montana's Governor Greg Gianforte and Senator Jon Tester. More detail to follow.

REPORT OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPT: No one present

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Bennett would like to discuss putting 3 to 5 links of culvert into Jawbone Creek to prevent flooding of basements in that area of the flats.

CLAIMS:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20P.M.

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

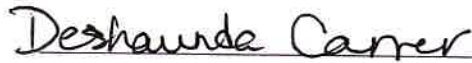
Council Members Absent: None

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

Public Present: Kylie Meeker



Paul Otten, Mayor



Deshawnda Carver, Deputy Clerk