

August 25, 2026
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on August 11, 2026. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Susan Beley moved to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2026, Council meeting as written. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA: Dane Elwood asked for the Air Conditioner to be turned off so he could hear. Councilmember Susan Beley noticed an error in the date on the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Councilmember Susan Beley reported the library is hosting artist, Jacqueline Mercenier, this month. Her art is for sale. The puzzle swap, which is the end of August, and the book sale, which is in September, are both coming up. The book sale is pay what you can. The Library is also working on a facilitator for an Adult Book club for the winter.

Tree Board: Councilmember Vicki Paddock reported the Tree Board is looking for a new member as they have an opening.

Recreation: Councilmember Charley Bennett reported there is a Recreation Committee meeting on August 19th. The pool closes to the public on the 14th. The school will be using the pool the first couple of weeks they are in session.

Ordinance: Councilmember Frank Brouillette reported the Ordinance Committee met before the meeting tonight. They are waiting for information from Civic Plus. The committee is also going to start at the beginning of the ordinances and work through them.

Roundhouse/Railyard: Mayor Runner reported there is still no committee for this yet, but they are working on grants for the roundhouse and railyard.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 2026-19 Interlocal Agreement with Wheatland County for Fire Services:

Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to approve Resolution 2026-19. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding with Wheatland County for Fire Services: Mayor Runner explained the MOU with Wheatland County updated the dates and signatures. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the county and sign the form today. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Local Government Center Package: Mayor Runner let Council know he has not heard back from Judith Gap or Ryegate. He asked if we could postpone this item until the August 25th meeting.

Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to postpone this item until August 25th. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Street Closure AIDSPIRIT Marathon-Terry Freeser: Mayor Runner asked for approval for Terry Freeser with AIDSPIRIT Marathon to close the street from Division to 1st Street SW on September 6, 2026, from 5am to 1pm. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to allow the street closure. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Lead/Copper Lines: Mayor Runner introduced Greg Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery said he is here to go over the lead/copper rules. He said Harlowton has done their inventory for connections. He said all lead lines have to be removed by 2037. He said you can't wait until 2037 to remove them all. Greg said Harlowton has 38 lead lines and 44 galvanized lines which lead has been connected to at some point. November 1, 2027, is the deadline for replacement plans to be in to the state. The city does need to get homeowners to comply with replacing the lead lines by the deadline, but it does not specify that the city has to pay for it. There is funding available at 1.5% interest with up to 60% debt forgiveness. The City does need to make a valid attempt to get the homeowners to replace their lines. Councilmember Susan Beley asked how we get signed up for the funding. Greg said Harlowton has filled out the preliminary paperwork. Havre is the first town to use the funding to replace their lead lines. Great Falls and Kalispell are currently working on theirs. Mayor Runner let Council know that Great West bid our system for replacing lead and galvanized lines and it was \$2.9 million. With 60% debt reduction, the city would still owe \$1.8 million. Mayor Runner explained the city cannot afford to take on anymore debt.

Museum & Golf Course Utility Payments: Mayor Runner explained that Council voted to not bill the Depot Museum and Golf Course last year since they are not open year-round. Now that the City is billing itself for utility payments, Council needs to decide what funds these payments should come out of. After much discussion, Councilmember Kyle Lawson moved to have the Depot Museum and Golf Course pay their utility bills. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. The motion passed with four votes yes and two votes abstaining.

Four Corners Recycling: Dave from Four Corners Recycling was supposed to be here to talk about recycling charges. Mayor Runner explained we have a bill for \$4100. \$500 is annual bin maintenance which we have paid every year. \$3600 is box rental. Dave said he talked to Council two years ago, and said half of the box rental would go to purchasing a second bin. We currently own one bin. Councilmember Charley Bennett said Dave was supposed to buy our small bins because he had a place for them in Yellowstone Park. Mayor Runner would like to postpone this until the first meeting in September to see if we can get Dave here. Councilmember John Billadeau moved to postpone this until the first Council meeting in September. Councilmember Susan Beley seconded the motion. Councilmember Frank Brouillette would like to have minutes from the meetings where recycling bins were discussed. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Grants: Mayor Runner would like to postpone this until November as it is a FWP Wildlife Habitat Improvement program grant Lauri Ward is working on. It would have

improvements for the fishing access and wetlands areas. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to postpone this grant action until November 10th meeting. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Railyard Area Name (Satake Village): Councilmember Charley Bennett mentioned there were seven families that lived in the Japanese village so it can't be named after one family. Councilmember Susan Beley feels it needs to be called something other than the racist name it is currently called. After much discussion, Mayor Runner asked for Council volunteers to research a name for that area. Councilmembers Charley Bennett and Vicki Paddock volunteered.

Recreation Committee: Mayor Runner let Council know that he has been talking to the County Commissioners and they would like to see us change to a Parks and Recreation committee. We are going to give them the figures on the park and pool and they may give us some money to work with. Councilmember Susan Beley asked if we do change this, would we need to include county residents on the committee. Mayor Runner said that is a possibility.

Fascia on the Library next to City Hall: Mayor Runner explained the library needs some fascia work on the wall between the library and City Hall. He would like to postpone this to the September 8th meeting. As it is a discussion item, this will be moved to September.

Public Works Vehicle Sale: Mayor Runner said Public Works has a vehicle they need to do something with. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard explained it is a 2004 Ford F-150 with 195,000 miles on it. He said it needs two rear tires and a seat. Bob said it won't trip a code. Some days it starts fine, and other days it won't run at all. It doesn't need to be replaced. Councilmember John Billadeau said he feels any money put into it; you won't get it out of it. He feels the City should sell it for what they can get for it. Councilmember John Billadeau moved to sell the pickup and place the minimum bid at what the blue book value is. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Library Surplus Sale Items: Mayor Runner said the library has several items they would like to sell. They have an HP color printer they have been using for years. They have a Canon fax machine with a cartridge of ink. And they have 4 HP cartridges. They also have a wooden magazine rack. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to let the library sell these items for what they can get for them. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported Chip is out on medical for 6-8 weeks for knee surgery. They are working on the rail trail. They've been working on the dump, cleaning it up. The county donated a bunch of fill dirt to the city.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: Clerk-Treasurer Anita Leach has been working on the budget.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Runner reported we are still working on billing issues. We are meeting with Ryegate's City Clerk to help them out.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY: City Attorney Brent Brooks reported he is still working on the Civic Plus report. He is working on a trial. He has seven cases pending.

REPORT OF WCSO: None

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: August-Local Government Package
September-Fascia, 4 Corners Recycling
November-FWP Grant Approval

CLAIMS:

Councilmember Frank Brouillette made a motion to approve claims, 22942-22967. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm

Council Members Present: Susan Beley, Kyle Lawson, Charley Bennett, Vicki Paddock, Frank Brouillette, John Billadeau

Council Members Absent: None

City Office: Mayor Jack Runner, City Clerk-Treasurer Anita Leach, Public Works Director Bob Schuchard, City Attorney Brent Brooks

Public Present: Dane Elwood, Julie Berg, Terry Freeser, Tyrel Miller,
Greg Montgomery, Monitoring & Reporting Section Supervisor DEQ
Gino Pizzini, Bureau Chief for MT DEQ Public Water Supply

Jack Runner, Mayor

Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer