

February 10, 2026  
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on January 27, 2026. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment on Items not on the agenda:** Dane Elwood said he likes the new arrangement but wants to remind everyone to speak to the room.

The minutes of January 10, 2026, Council meeting were approved as amended.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Library:** Councilmember Susan Beley reported the library would like to do a fundraiser for Summer Reading. They were going to do a bingo and ice cream social but ran into needing a license for bingo. Tina will work on the fundraiser when she gets back. There is a puzzle swap going on. Lots of puzzles to choose from. Mayor Runner Also reported the new windows have been installed and look great.

**Tree Board:** Tree Board is meeting on Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**West End Lots:** City Attorney Brent Brooks reported that he had heard from Mark Josephson. The underwriters have some requirements before they sign off on the sale. Brent will put together a memo for the next meeting. Councilmember John Billadeau moved to table this item until the next meeting. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Unisex Bathroom at the Pool:** This item has been tabled for the next meeting until we can get more information. Councilmember Vicki Paddock moved to table this item. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2026-02 Per Diem Rates:** This resolution sets the per diem rates for city employees to be reimbursed at the State rate depending upon the region of the conference, per the rate sheets attached to the resolution. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to approve this resolution. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2026-03 Appoint City Court Judge Sheila Crow:** Councilmember John Billadeau moved to approve and appoint City Court Judge Sheila Crow for the remainder of her term of elected office which is until December 31, 2026. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Runner then gave the oath of Judge Crow.

**Resolution 2026-04 Establishing Library Board:** Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to establish the library board as spelled out in the resolution. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2026-05 Ordinance Committee:** Councilmember Vicki Paddock moved to establish the Ordinance committee as spelled out in the resolution. Councilmember Susan Beley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Purchase Needing Council Approval:** Mayor Runner asked for approval of a pickup purchased by the former Mayor without council approval. This approval of the claim is to allow the city to make budget amendments to fund this purchase. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to approve the purchase to clean up the budget. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2026-06 Surplus Sale of Equipment:** Mayor Runner asked for a motion to approve the list of equipment to be sold as surplus, with the amendment to the list of the window out of the library. Councilmember John Billadeau moved to approve the resolution with the amendment of adding the library window. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2026-07 Term of Council President:** Councilmember Vicki Paddock moved to approve this resolution making Frank Brouillette as council president until his term is up or he gives up his seat before that end of term. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Water/Sewer/Solid Waste Budget & Charges (EDUs not billed):** Mayor Runner explained that once a year the city can reevaluate the number of EDU's they are being charged for by Central Montana Water. He came up with a savings on EDU's of about \$7200/year. In figuring these numbers, he found a number of EDU's the city can not bill for, since they are ours, etc. We need to look at options to bring in revenue from these EDUs to help keep the budgets balanced. We are also looking at the numbers to determine what if any raise in prices needs to take place to balance the budget.

**Jawbone Dam Repair:** Mayor Runner explained about the repairs needed on Jawbone Dam #1, including the need for a Loss of Life study since the dam is .1 foot short. He has spoken with Jonathan Weaver from Great West and they are working on funding and planning for this project. It needs to be completed by August 2026.

**Wastewater Funding Application:** Mayor Runner explained the funding application that was sent from RPA. The current project is about \$6.5 million. Our past projects have been \$1.5-\$2 million. He has spoken with Chris Hayes to get some more options on future wastewater projects to get costs down so that the city doesn't need to raise rates for sewer by \$43/month. Chris is supposed to come back with some other options.

**Tree Board Grant:** Mayor Runner explained the Tree Board was going to apply for a grant for training in tree inventory management. But the MUCFA grant they received already has this provision. Mayor Runner said some of the trees were planted by the Boy Scouts about 70 years ago and a bunch of them are dying at the same time.

**Pool Equipment Grant:** Mayor Runner read the list of equipment the pool needs to train our own lifeguards now that our managers are qualified to train them. We would like to put in for a grant for this equipment. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to approve a grant being written for this equipment. Councilmember Susan Beley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Runner explained that since Darian Murray is our pool manager, Kyle Lawson should not have voted on this motion. Councilmember John Billadeau moved to approve a grant be written for this equipment. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed with Councilmembers Paddock, Brouillette, Billadeau, Beley, and Bennett all voting for and Councilmember Lawson abstaining.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:** Public Works Director Bob Schuchard said as part of the repair of the Jawbone Dam, he filled in a hole on the side and filled in the ruts made by the golf carts on the top of the dam. They have also been working on trimming trees.

**REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER:** Clerk-Treasurer Anita Leach reported she has been working with the Mayor on the budget. And she fixed the errors on all the tax vouchers back to July 2024.

**MAYORS REPORT:** Mayor Runner said the city has some wonderful employees. They have been working hard. They are doing a good job. Mayor Runner also wants to thank Kevin and Sue Knudson. The counter that was here was built by Richard Knudson and he did a great job of putting it together. Kevin was very good and appreciate his help a lot. He helped take it apart and put it back together in the library. City employees Jeff and Charlie helped move the counter from here to the library.

**REPORT OF ATTORNEY:** City Attorney Brent Brooks is helping with the ordinance committee. It will be nice when Civic Plus can put the ordinances online after the City has reworked them. Brent also reported he has five new criminal cases.

**REPORT OF WCSO:** Sheriff Randy Cameron reported they participated in an operation with thirteen other law enforcement agencies. It was a drug trafficking saturation patrol and collar. They were set up all the way from Billings to almost the Canadian border. They were targeting the drug cartel movement. While they did not have anything major, they did have 160 traffic stops, 2 arrests, 5 citations, 3 canine deployments, and they did seize a bunch of drugs. Randy also said the Sheriff's office could not restore their old Facebook page so they started a new one.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** West end lots, Unisex bathroom, resolution for bank signatures, estimates for 2015 Ford front end work

**CLAIMS:**

Councilmember Frank Brouillette made a motion to approve claims 22563-22582. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

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

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: Charlotte Runner, Paul Otten, Dane Elwood, Lindsey Sramek, Alex Thompson, Randy Cameron, Lucas Verreth, Julie Berg, Sheila Crow

---

Jack Runner, Mayor

---

Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer