

March 10, 2026
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on February 24, 2026. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA: None

The minutes of the February 10, 2026, Council meeting were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Councilmember Susan Beley reported the library will have their Summer Reading program fundraiser March 15th from 2-4pm. They will have an ice cream social, a cake walk, a duck pond, and Tina will be setting out board games for people to play. They will sell tickets for the games and cake walk and the ice cream social will be a free will offering. The library opted not to have bingo because of the cost of the license to the state for one day.

Tree Board: Mayor Jack Runner said the Tree Board has not met, but we will be dealing with it later in the meeting.

Ordinance: Councilmember Frank Brouillette reported the Ordinance committee is working on the Policy and Procedure manual and going through the ordinances. The going is slow.

OLD BUSINESS:

West End Lots: Mayor Jack Runner reported that the Council has four options with the lots.

1. The title company wants MMIA to indemnify them for everything. Mayor Runner feels that is too broad, they should be indemnified, but responsible if the title company did something wrong.
2. The city would need to contact all living descendants of the Tuckers and get them to sign off that they agree to rescind the park designation.
3. We can go to Court, which we still must track down all the descendants or post in the newspapers in their areas to get their signatures on the agreements.
4. Give up on the sale and refer the property back to the Recreation Committee for a recommendation.

Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to abandon the sale of the west end lots. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Councilmember Susan Beley feels we should go through the court process and try to get them sold. After much discussion, the council would like Mayor Runner to talk to Logan Holmquist and find out if he is still interested and then start the court process to get the park designation lifted on those lots. It will be three months before we can get on the court calendar. Councilmember Brouillette rescinded his motion, Councilmember Billadeau agreed with this action.

Pool Storage/Unisex Bathroom Building: Mayor Runner asked if this item could be referred to the Recreation Committee for further study. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to have the Recreation Committee do more research on this issue. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed with five ayes and one abstaining from voting.

Resolution 2026-08 Bank Signatures: Mayor Runner explained that the bank card for signatures on checks would include the Mayor, Clerk, Council President, and a Councilmember, so the Council needs to choose a Councilmember to be on the signature card. Councilmember Brouillette nominated Councilmember Beley. Councilmember Beley said no, because she feels it should be a councilmember on a four-year term, so it doesn't need to be done again right away. Councilmember Charley Bennett said he does not want to do it. Councilmember Billadeau nominated Councilmember Vicki Paddock. Councilmember Beley seconded the nomination. Motion passed with five ayes, and one abstained. Councilmember Bennett asked if the Council realized they had two family members on the signature card now. Councilmember Billadeau moved to reconsider the previous motion. Councilmember Beley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Paddock nominated Councilmember Billadeau. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Council then voted on Resolution 2026-08 Bank Signatures, Mayor Jack Runner, Clerk Anita Leach, Council President Frank Brouillette, and Councilmember John Billadeau will be on the signature card at the bank. Councilmember Brouillette moved to approve this resolution. Councilmember Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Committee Application: Mayor Runner asked the Council if they had read through the application for City Committee members. Councilmember Beley moved to accept this application. Councilmember Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Crosswalk & Signs by School: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported he had been approached by Principal Bailey Snelling to have another crosswalk added in front of the school. It would be about \$650 for paint, 5 signs and one break-away post and hardware. Councilmember Paddock moved to add the crosswalk. Councilmember Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2026-11 Tree Board Advisory Committee: Mayor Runner would like to form a resolution forming the tree board advisory committee. Councilmember Brouillette moved to approve the resolution. Councilmember Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Golf Course Bair Grant: Councilmember Susan Beley explained that the golf course wants to write a Bair Grant to replace greens tarps and patio furniture that disappeared or were destroyed in the December wind event. Council approves writing the grant.

Water/Sewer Rates: Mayor Runner asked the Council if they would look at the Water/Sewer EDU Rate report handed out to them. He explained that water and sewer rates should have been raised every time there was a water or sewer project to help cover those expenses. He also explained that these rates should have been raised by 2-3% every year for inflation and increase in expenses. The city is also supposed to have a reserve account for every water and sewer loan we have. The reserve account should have a year's worth of payments plus 10% for each loan. This reserve is in case of a catastrophic incident that would interfere with the system providing services for up to a year. We do have some funds in both the water and sewer reserve accounts, but they are not fully funded. This is also a finding we have had numerous times from our audits, which is very serious and part of our possible loss of state funding if we don't fix these issues. Mayor Runner explained we have a meeting with Bobbie Shular from Montana Rural Water on March 18th. We are getting information for her on the water and sewer loans, current rates, expenses for both funds, and she will do rate analysis for the city. We will have to do a rate increase for both water and sewer, and as soon as we get the rate analysis completed, we will hold a public hearing for the rate increase. The water/sewer fund can also bill the other city funds for EDU's that are not billed. That will help lower some of those numbers also.

Open Surplus Sale Bids: Mayor Runner opened the surplus sale bids

HP Printer and Cartridges

Phil Wilsman \$201

Ty Paddock \$51

Tamarel Sanofsky \$200

Window

Shelly Tilzey \$75

Computer Monitor

Paul Otten \$50

Desk (up front by window)

Charlotte Runner \$50

Table & 2 Chairs

Randy Colby \$65

Charlotte Runner \$25

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported they had training on repairing and working on fire hydrants. The rep came and did an inspection of the UV building. He found that the brushes that clean the bulbs weren't installed properly and were only cleaning about half of the length of the bulbs. Now that they are installed correctly, it will extend the life of the UV bulbs which are very expensive. Jeff and Anita have been working on meters that don't read and only have a couple left to fix.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: Clerk-Treasurer Anita Leach reported that MMIA is phasing out their workers comp program effective July 1st. We are in the process of finding new coverage. And we lost our free swim sponsor and gained a new one in short order. Thank you to Jimbo Fisk and Fisk Contracting for sponsoring free swim for the summer.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Runner will be in Livingston March 4-6 for Executive forum. There is Budget Training in Helena that either Mayor Runner or Anita will be attending on March 12th. He is also waiting to hear from Central Montana Water on the EDU reduction.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY: City Attorney Brent Brooks is working on ordinances with the Ordinance Committee. He is also looking at the city's park use agreement which will look much like the street closure agreement when finished. He is also working on the Mark Robinson decay letter.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Substitute Librarian wages, water/sewer rates

CLAIMS:

Councilmember Frank Brouillette made a motion to approve claims, 22605-22623. Councilmember Susan Beley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm

Council Members Present: Susan Beley, Kyle Lawson, Charley Bennett (via Zoom), 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: Charlotte Runner, Dane Elwood, Alex Thompson, Ben Hall, Lindsey Sramek

Jack Runner, Mayor

Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer