

May 12, 2026
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on April 28, 2026. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

No public comment on anything not on the agenda.

The minutes of the April 14, 2026 Council meeting were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Councilmember Susan Beley reported there were 1,246 browsers, visitors, and computer users to the library for March. The Cyber Security workshop held last week was very helpful. There were about 25 in attendance. It covered passwords, security, and scams. The kids' programs are about done for the school year and Summer READING program will start shortly after school is out. The 250th anniversary adult art show will start on Friday. It will be shown in the common area. The annual high school art show will be in the conference room.

Tree Board: Councilmember Vicki Paddock reported the tree board celebrated Arbor Day April 24th in Chief Joseph Park. The city crew and 4-H club planted a tree there, and the Mayor read the Arbor Day proclamation. There will be a Tree Planting 101 on May 11th from 4:30-6:00pm at the IAGT building. Patrick Plantenberg from MUCFA will be the presenter for this hands-on training. Please RSVP to the MSU Extension Office to make sure they have enough supplies for everyone.

Recreation: Councilmember Charley Bennett reported the recreation committee held their first meeting and it went well. He has a bid for the fence for the baseball field. They received one for just materials for \$3600 and they received one for materials and installation for \$3822.32. They are going with the bid for materials and installation. Mayor Runner reminded everyone the Council approved this at the last meeting.

Ordinance: Councilmember Frank Brouillette said the Ordinance committee will have a lot of recommendations for the Council at the next meeting. Some of the things up for recommendation may be changed depending on the way the upcoming election goes. So those will wait until the first meeting in June.

Railyard/Roundhouse: Mayor Runner reported this committee is non-operational at the moment. Jason Seyler from DEQ and Tonya Garber from Snowy MT Development will be here Friday for a meeting with Mayor Runner to talk about future projects.

OLD BUSINESS:

Park Use Agreement: Mayor Runner asked the Council to move to postpone this item to the next meeting for further work on the agreement. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to postpone this item to the May 12th meeting. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bobbie Schular, MT Rural Water-Water and Sewer Rate Analysis: Mayor Runner introduced Bobbie Schular with MT Rural Water. She was here Friday for a Council Work Session to go over the rate analysis. Bobbie went through the numbers for both water and sewer and how the rates are figured by the expenses both the water and sewer have. Both funds are enterprise funds, which means they must sustain themselves. They cannot be helped with any tax money. We will have a public hearing for water and sewer rate increases on May 26th at 6:30pm at City Hall.

Local Government Review: Local Government Review Chairman, Diane Jones, presented the ballot items that the Local Government Review has coming up in June. The Review is proposing switching to Self-governing powers or stay with general powers. They also recommended changing how the councilmembers are chosen. They recommended changing to one councilmember being chosen from each ward, and three councilmembers chosen at large from city residents or staying with the current form which is two councilmembers from each ward.

Library Gutter Issue: Mayor Runner explained that last fall, the council voted to re-direct the gutters on the back of the library to the north side. It was also voted that the water would be trenched out across the parking lot behind the old museum to the storm drain. The city received two bids. The bids were deemed too high and the work never finished. Now the water is running down the wall and into the basement of the library. The soon to be new owner of the building has also mentioned fixing the drainage problem with his building. Money was budgeted for this repair. Mayor Runner asked if the Council wanted to leave the money for this repair, talk to the soon to be new owner and get new bids. Councilmember Charley Bennett moved to keep the money in the budget for the repairs and get new bids. Councilmember Susan Beley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026 CIP Grant: Mayor Runner explained that a Capital Improvement Plan should be done by the city every five years. It includes information about projects for the city, water and sewer infrastructure, streets maintenance, fire protection, municipal buildings, and other information about the city itself. This document helps with receiving loans, grants, and debt forgiveness loans to name a few. The last time the city received grant money for the CIP, it was from Montana Coal Endowment Program. They currently are not doing any grant money for CIP. Great West is looking into grants for this. They will let us know when they find out what grants are available and we can write our Resolution at that time. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to postpone the Resolution for the CIP grant to the next meeting. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dump Usage, Rates, Resolution 2026-14 Transfer Site Rates, and Information: Mayor Runner said the Citywide Garage sale is May 9th so Clean-up days will be May 15th and 16th. We will need to use the prices from last year as Republic Services haven't given us the new prices yet. Their fiscal year doesn't start until July 1st so they haven't gotten them done yet. When we receive the new prices we will do a new resolution to change them. In consideration of the wind events that Harlowton has had, Council approved giving two passes this year to each utility account that is in good standing for a load of branches, grass and/or leaves. Construction garbage will not be

accepted on clean up days. Councilmember John Billadeau moved to approve Resolution 2026-14, giving 2-yard waste passes to utility accounts in good standing, and having Clean-up days May 15th and 16th. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Wind Impact Grant-City, Library, Baseball and Golf Course: Mayor Runner asked for approval for the City, Library, Baseball Association and Golf Course to apply for Wind Impact Grants. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to approve the groups applying for the Wind Impact Grants. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Callant Grant-Golf Course: Mayor Runner asked for approval for the golf course to apply for the Callant Grant. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to approve the golf course applying for the Callant Grant. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MMIA Workers Comp to State Fund: Mayor Runner explained that our current workers' comp supplier, MMIA, is done July 1st. Our best option for workers comp after that is Montana State Fund. If the city signs the voluntary withdrawal form and gets it back to them before May 1st, we'll get our dividends back sooner than cities that opt not to. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to sign the withdrawal form and go with Montana State Fund for workers' comp insurance. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported that they have been filling potholes and need more material. They'll be getting another load next week. They are still working replacing meters. And they are doing park maintenance. Bob also mentioned that the new crosswalk at the school will take a lot of street sweeping to get it cleaned enough to paint. They will wait until school is out for safety concerns.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: Clerk-Treasurer Anita Leach reported she is getting ready for the audit. She let the council know about the Summit meetings that are put on throughout the summer and are free. Anita reminded the Council about the shredding event May 13th from noon to 2 and the e-Waste event June 4th from 9 to 1. Councilmember Susan Beley asked Anita let the court know about the audit so they can get their files ready.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Runner explained that Jason Seyler from DEQ would like permission to apply for more grants for the Roundhouse/Railyard cleanup. Mayor Runner let the Council know that the Roundhouse/Railyard currently has a \$1 million grant for asbestos cleanup and \$2 million grant for petroleum/diesel cleanup. Council okayed DEQ applying for grants so they don't miss the deadline, and we will formally okay it through Council at the next meeting. Mayor Runner also let the Council know there is one applicant for a city committee position and might be one more. Approval will be on the next agenda. He and Anita met with Jodie from MLCT and went over budgets and numbers last week. Mayor Runner is also attending the Big Sky Leadership Alumni program.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY: City Attorney Brent Brooks said he is working on a couple of cases and there might be a change of plea. He also said Civic Plus wanted to have a conference call with the Ordinance committee. That will be scheduled for the week of May 11th.

REPORT OF WCSO: Sgt. Tim McKenna reported he has the Driver's Ed Safety class at the High School. He will be covering some MCA with the kids for what the Sheriff's Office typically sees on the roads and in town, serious fatality accidents, and the kid's responsibilities when they get on the road.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Resolution for Railyard Grant, Resolution for CIP Grant, Committee Members, Ordinance recommendations Title 13, 15, 16, change some verbiage, recommend to council no door hangers

CLAIMS:

Councilmember Frank Brouillette made a motion to approve claims 22724, 22751-22766. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

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: Charlotte Runner, Dane Elwood, Sgt. Tim McKenna, Aubrey Miller, Claire Miller, Diane Jones, Lori Hoge

Jack Runner, Mayor

Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer