

June 30, 2026
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on June 9, 2026. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to accept the minutes of the May 26, 2026, Council meeting as they were amended. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Councilmember Susan Beley reported the library is having a Flag Day celebration at the theatre tonight. Summer Reading also started today. The 250th Art Show is going on at the library throughout August. The board met and passed the strategic plan for the library.

Tree Board: Councilmember Vicki Paddock reported the Tree Board met on May 27th with Jennifer Anderson from MSU Extension, to do some strategic planning. The Tree Board meeting that was scheduled for June 10th has been cancelled. Julie Berg asked about some trees she was wondering if they were on city property. Mayor Runner said they would take a look at that.

Recreation: Councilmember Charley Bennett reported the pool is open and the door to the mechanical building was installed today. They are painting the pickleball court.

Ordinance: Councilmember Frank Brouillette reported the Ordinance committee has a few recommendations for the council. They are on the agenda so will discuss them during the meeting. Julie Berg asked if the city is enforcing any ordinances, Councilmember Brouillette said we are enforcing the ones that are enforceable.

Roundhouse/Railyard/Wetlands: No report at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 2026-15 Water/Sewer Rate Change: Mayor Runner asked council for comments on this resolution. Councilmember Susan Beley asked if the city could implement half of the increase now and half in January. Mayor Runner explained that we financially can't afford to split the increase. The city will be invoicing itself for utilities also. There was a question as to whether there was any federal funding or grants available to offset anything. Mayor Runner said not that we are aware of. He also reiterated that we have paused all construction. Councilmember Vicki Paddock moved to approve Resolution 2026-15 to raise the water and sewer rates and to look at rate increases of 2-3% for the next two years. Councilmember Susan Beley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Billing Severed Lines: Mayor Runner explained that in order to make everything fair and equitable to everyone, the accounts that have access to the infrastructure but are not using it, should be billed at the base rate. Other communities are doing this to help offset the expenses. If the city does not bill these properties and takes them off our EDUs, the city's rates would go up \$25/EDU. The city will research each property and bill accordingly. Councilmember Vicki Paddock moved to work on the list and bill legitimate accounts. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed with 5 for and 1 abstaining.

Civic Plus Contract: Mayor Runner explained that Civic Plus is billing in four timeframes, and the next section is due. The recommendation is to have them make the changes and send us back a soft proposal. And if the Ordinance Committee feels that we can put this together ourselves, we will sever our relationship with Civic Plus. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to accept the recommendation of the ordinance committee and send it back for a soft proposal. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Park Use Agreement: Mayor Runner explained that we would like to change the Park Use Agreement to the Pavilion Reservation Form. After much discussion Councilmember Susan Beley moved to accept the Pavilion Reservation Form. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 03-2026 Title 16 Leases: Mayor Runner asked if everyone had a chance to read through the changes to Ordinance Title 16. Councilmember John Billadeau moved to accept the first reading of Ordinance 03-2026 Title 16 Leases. Councilmember Susan Beley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cody Nelson: Cody was not in attendance.

Street Closure for Harlo Music Project: Mayor Runner reported the Harlo Music Project would like to close Central Avenue for the Music Project from Division to 1st Street SW. Councilmember Charley Bennett moved to approve the Street Closure for the Harlo Music Project. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Street Closure for Chamber Car Show: Mayor Runner reported the Chamber of Commerce would like to close Central Ave from Division to 1st Street SW on July 4th until 1pm for the Chamber Car Show. Councilmember John Billadeau moved to approve the Street Closure for the Chamber Car Show. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Robert Peccia Design Invoices: Mayor Runner introduced Chris Hayes from RPA. Chris went over the timeline of design for the next phase of the sewer project, which included former Mayor Otten signing a contract \$226,000 for the design and that the contract will raise sewer rates another \$2.09. The only funding available for this at this time is an SRF loan. Each project is only allowed one loan forgiveness per project. If we ask for forgiveness for this part of the loan, we cannot get it for the project itself. After much discussion of when RPA was told we were not doing the project and why they continued the design, Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to apply for the SRF loan for the design invoices but not ask for loan forgiveness for this portion. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported the new grader is here and works great. He thanked the Council for the purchase.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: Clerk-Treasurer Anita Leach reported the e-waste, and aluminum can recycle event collected 42 pounds of cans and almost 1400 pounds of electronics. She also let the council know she was going to Helena to the Municipal Summit on Wednesday. Anita reminded the council there are still some summits to attend. Councilmember Susan Beley let the council know they had been invited to Columbus to the summit by Mayor Joe Morse.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Runner reported that Tonya Garber with Snowy MT Development would like to start with the PAR (Preliminary Architectural Report) and the PER (Preliminary Engineering Report) and they already have funding in the grants for these. Mayor Runner said as long as the council approves he would sign paperwork to begin the process. Mayor Runner also said Mayor Miller from Judith Gap is looking at having training for mayors, council, clerks, and having Dan Clark come teach it. Mayor Runner also signed up for the MT League of Cities and Towns Conference October 7th-9th in Helena.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY: City Attorney Brent Brooks said he is going to the summit in Columbus July 9th. He has two new criminal misdemeanor cases, a DUI/Disorderly Conduct/Right-of-Way Case is going to a jury trial. Brent said he will be in Harlowton on Monday and Tuesday for that trial.

REPORT OF WCSO: None

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Light pole banners for Central, No alcohol signs for park, Cody Nelson, Bulk water at night- Julie Berg request,

CLAIMS:

Councilmember Frank Brouillette made a motion to approve claims, 22789, 22807, 22827-22855. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm

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, Amy Tupker, TJ Tupker, Chris Hayes, Julie Berg

Jack Runner, Mayor

Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer