

October 13, 2026
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on September 22, 2026. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council was asked if anyone had a conflict of interest with anything on the agenda. Councilmember Charley Bennett had a piece of paper he said allowed him to vote on Milwaukee Depot issues since he did not have a financial interest in the depot. City Attorney Brent Brooks will look into this.

Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2026, Council meeting as written. Councilmember Susan Beley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

No public comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library: Councilmember Susan Beley reported the Library Board met last week. The book sale has come down, and the craft swap is about to go up. The board went over and made a clean copy of the bylaws. They will require a second reading in October. 718 people checked things out at the library last month. There were 369 technology users and 1 person checked out the new telescope. There were 10 puzzle checkouts and a total of 984 browsers in the library last month. School programming has also begun.

Tree Board: Mayor Runner reported the Tree Board did not meet, it will have to be rescheduled.

Recreation: Councilmember Charley Bennett said Thompson Pool came and shut the pool down. Darian is finishing some things up in the pool house and then will call Fisk Contracting to shut the pool house down. The recreation committee is getting information on the backboards at the school. They discussed cameras at the pickleball court. Ron Fischer said they might have a little money left over for a camera. The next meeting for the recreation committee is October 21st at 6:30pm at the depot

Ordinance: Councilmember Frank Brouillette said the ordinance committee met for a work session on September 12th and have most of Title 1 and Title 2 done.

Railyard/Roundhouse: Mayor Runner reported the committee has not met, but they are almost up and running.

OLD BUSINESS:

Design Publication for Sewer Project Loan Requirements: Mayor Runner explained the loan for the design portion of the next sewer project, which is a few years out, needs to be advertised in the newspaper. The loan is a lower amount than originally thought. We are only having to borrow \$172,000 instead of the original \$250,000. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to

approve publishing the Notice of Publication of Categorical Exclusion and approve the loan for \$172,000. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Utility Share Application & Committee: Mayor Runner asked Council if they would form a committee to go over the criteria and update the Utility Share Application and make recommendations to Council. Councilmembers Vicki Paddock moved to have 2 councilmembers and 1 member of the public for a committee for the Utility Share App. Councilmember Susan Beley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Councilmembers Susan Beley and Frank Brouillette volunteered for the committee. Other committee members are Dane Elwood and Julie Berg.

Local Government Services Package: Mayor Runner reported that Judith Gap and Ryegate both feel they can't afford the Government Services Package at this time. He reminded Council that Roundup was interested in partnering with us. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to go in with Roundup on the Local Government Services Package. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bids for sale of Public Works Vehicle: Mayor Runner let Council know we had no bids for the public works pickup that is for sale. He asked Council what they would like to do. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to lower the price to \$1000. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Library Gutters & Drainage: Mayor Runner said we are waiting for Jimbo to get back so we can discuss this project with him since he would like to do his building also. Councilmember Frank Bruillette moved to push this off until we have more information. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Street Closure Approval for Harlowton High School Homecoming: Mayor Runner explained the school came in to request the street closure and needed it before the next council meeting. We had an email vote and received approval to let them close the street. This is to get official approval from Council for the record. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to approve the street closure. Councilmember Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2026-24 Harlowton Public Library Board of Directors: Mayor Runner said since the library receives funding from the County, the Board needs to have city and county representation. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to approve Resolution 2026-24. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Employee Health Insurance: Mayor Runner explained that when looking at the Personnel Manual, it states that from 20-39 hours would be eligible for a prorated employer paid health insurance. MMIA has in their records since 2023, 30 hours or more are eligible for employer paid insurance. Mayor Runner asked Council what they would like to do. Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to honor what is written in the employee manual. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Susan Beley moved to include wording stating, "Employees are not eligible for a cash payment if they opt out of health insurance". Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Polaris Side by Side for Weed Spraying (Grant funds): Mayor Runner told Council, Chip Horne had found a 2026 Polaris Ranger 1000 EPS for \$14,300. He also for the sprayer for that unit for \$1000. The city was awarded a Callant Grant of \$16,000 for the purchase of a side by side and the sprayer for it. Councilmember John Billadeau moved to approve purchasing the 2026 Polaris Ranger 1000 EPS and sprayer for a total of \$15,300. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Park Mower Purchase (Budget): Mayor Runner said Public Works would like to buy a Husqvarna MZ54 lawn mower. The money for this purchase is in the FY 2027 budget. Councilmember Charley Bennett moved to approve purchasing the Husqvarna MZ54 mower. Councilmember Vicki Paddock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Roof on Old Fire Hall/Times Clarion Building: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported that Jimbo Fisk is having the Times Clarion building roofed with tin and then will spray foam over the top of that in the spring. They had asked if the City would like to do the same for the Old Fire Hall roof so the two roofs which are connected will match the same height. Councilmember Susan Beley moved to postpone this until spring when Jimbo has a price on the foam. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Milwaukee Depot Museum Water line reduction: Mayor Runner reported to Council that the Depot Museum currently has a 1inch water line and would like to reduce it to a 5/8 or ¾ inch line. Mayor Runner reminded council that this decision will set precedence for future requests for line reductions. After much discussion about the length of the museum's season, Councilmember Frank Brouillette moved to allow the line reduction. Councilmember Kyle Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported they have started drying sand for the winter. They have been fixing alleys. They are also repairing the fence up at the shop after the wind tore it up some. Bob also said Chip is going to the doctor on Wednesday and will probably be back to work on Thursday.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: Clerk-Treasurer Anita Leach reminded everyone the City has a table at the Community Connect Day on Monday the 28th if anyone would like to participate. She let everyone know the final audit report is in the office if anyone would like to take a look at it.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Runner let council know that with the holidays in November and December, Council needs to decide what they want to do with the second meetings in both of those months. In the past the city has had quick meetings where the council just approved the claims, and they have not had the second meeting in each of those months. This item will be on the agenda at the next meeting so this gives council time to decide how they would like to handle

it. Mayor Runner is going to the Commissioners meeting on October 6th at 10am if anyone has anything they would like to bring before the commissioners. He is also going to the Workforce Exchange at the Youth Center on the 6th at 11am. Mayor Runner will be in Helena for training October 7-9th. He reported that the city is one of 5 communities chosen for the Pitch Fest Grant Writing project. He submitted the Rail Trail project for their consideration.

Mayor Runner also said he wanted to stop the rumors. The City is not cancelling leases as has been heard around town.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY: City Attorney Brent Brooks said he had attended the MMIA Governance Committee meeting. He is also going to the MLCT meeting in Helena October 7-9th. He said he has a conference call with Tiffany Thomas of Civic Plus Wednesday. He has also had a change of plea in criminal court.

REPORT OF WCSO: None

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Nov/Dec meetings, Golf Course Grant request

CLAIMS:

Councilmember Frank Brouillette made a motion to approve claims, 23021-23050. Councilmember John Billadeau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm

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, Tina Peterson, Clair Miller, Aubrey Miller, Julie Berg

Jack Runner, Mayor

Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer