Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

June 8, 2021

Harlowton City Library Conference Room

6:00PM

(Meeting was called to order at 6pm but there were technical difficulties with the phone until 6:15pm)

**Minutes:** Minutes from the May 25th Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment:** None

**Updates on Previous Meeting Agenda Points:** Committee member Allison Jones reported back the results of the survey regarding stray cats. Sixty five people had taken the survey and only 3 did not see the stray cats as a “problem”. Most survey takers thought trapping and relocating was the best option. Options for relocation would be barns/ranches. The survey takers asked that if trapping was going to occur, to notify the public first. Some people offered to help trap. Allison also stated that survey takers asked if the local veterinarians would be interested in donating their time. Also, it was suggested that the veterinarians be consulted for their opinion on the stray cat problem.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of traps. It is believed that they are approximately $40.

**New Business:**

1) The Floodplain ordinance was discussed. Mayor Paul Otten stated that Traci Sear from the DNRC had found a document from the City regarding a Floodplain ordinance created in 1981. Mayor Oscar Biegel had signed it. Paul suggested that since the DNRC already had these documents in their possession, it would be a good option for City Attorney Karen Hammel to review them.

Committee chairman Frank Brouillette had questions regarding the Roundup Floodplain example. He asked who the “Floodplain Administrator” would be. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that it would be Page Dringman. Frank asked about the process of applying for permits for building in the Floodplain zone. Paul stated that people would go through the City. Paul also stated that there was an option of a “post construction permit” for those projects that had already been completed in the floodplain zone. All buildings in the area would have to be permitted. Any rebuilds that would be of the same dimensions would not require a permit.

Committee member Jack Runner stated his concern regarding neighbors complaining about one another. Paul stated that it would be up to the Floodplain Administrator to decide.

Discussion ensued regarding how Page Dringman would be paid and what the process would be. Discussion of the Interlocal Agreement between the County and City was discussed. The status of the document being signed was discussed as well as the City and County Attorneys.

Jack suggested that the Roundup document be given to Karen as well as the 1981 City Ordinance and see what she thinks. The Committee would like her feedback before the next Ordinance meeting.

2) Frank suggested that Karen also be involved in the process of separating the dog and cat ordinances.

3) The Committee reviewed the Street document that Jack had cut and taped together from all the ordinance in the book. Jack had changed the number sequence. Jack mentioned that the document did not include much about campers/RV/trailers/motorhomes. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not such a document exists and if so, could it be in the wrong section of the book. Charley Bennett asked City Clerk-Treasurer to post on listserv to ask how other Cities handle the issue. Jack asked Lara to look into if other Cities have ordinances regarding the issue.

Jack stated that the Floodplain ordinance stated that all vehicles must be able to be moved quickly in the case of a flood.

Frank stated that a fire lane must be necessary. Jack stated that Montana law says a vehicle that is undriveable and has not moved in 2 weeks can be hauled away.

Discussion ensued regarding how to enforce this. Charley suggested putting out a survey to ask the Community’s opinion.

Discussion ensued regarding the J-Turn signs on Central Ave.

Charley suggested that the fire department be consulted regarding their opinion on the accessibility of residential streets due to RV parking.

Items on the next Meeting’s agenda include:

Continued discussion of the Floodplain Ordinance
Continued discussion on dog/cat vaccinations/fines/licensing

Continued discussion on streets section of Ordinance book

Discussion of RV/car parking for extended periods of time on residential streets

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Committee Members present: Jack Runner (via phone), Allison Jones, Frank Brouillette

Committee Members absent: none

City: Paul Otten, Lara Brisco, Bob Schuchard

Sheriff’s Office: none

Public Present: Councilperson Charley Bennett

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Jack Runner, Committee member Lara Brisco, City Clerk-Treasurer