

Harlowton City Council Meeting
May 28, 2024
Harlowton City Hall
7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on May 28, 2024. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the May 14, 2024 Council meeting were approved as corrected. Council member Frank Brouillette stated that he would like more care taken with the minutes as a few names were spelled wrong.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Library: Council member Johnny Cooney reported that Tina was working on their budget.

Ordinance: Not met yet

Pool: Council member Charlie Bennett will be putting water in the pool soon. Thad Lynn did the work so we can run the water on the practice field. Chemicals will be picked up soon. A little bit of cleaning needs to be done. Zack from Montana State has told Charlie the crosswalk is a go. It will be done sometime this year, and they will also paint it.

Tree Board: Meeting was cancelled because they don't know what the budget is. They will plan a new meeting once they know their budget.

Wetlands Rail Trail: Ron Tieg was not present.

UPDATE ON PAST AGENDA TOPICS:

1. Recycling: Paul Otten asked Frank Brouillette if he had talked to the County Commissioners about helping with the costs of recycling. Council member Frank Brouillette stated that we need our financials for a year's cost to show them. He stated that we need to show them how many times they were filled and how many times they were dumped. Mayor Paul Otten asked if the Callant Fund helps with that, to which council member Charlie Bennett said he thought they did pay something. Council member Frank stated that we just need to get financials and get that to the commissioners, he is sure they will help us out. A discussion ensued about how to pay for the new bins and why the new ones are here without approving it. A follow-up will be presented at the next meeting.

UPDATE ON DECAY ORDINANCE COMPLAINTS:

1. Deputy-Clerk Sarah Williams shows two new pictures of decay violations sent into the city. The Counsel stated that they were already being worked on. Council member Roger Kitts will talk to the owner about the other one.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Pool Wages:** Council member Charlie Bennett discussed pool wages. It was suggested to pay the new hires \$12.00 an hour and return lifeguards \$13.00 as Ray's pays \$12.00 for new hires. Maybe no bonuses since we are upping the wages. Council member Frank Brouillette asked if we have money for the pool budget. Council member Charlie Bennett reported that we had \$10,000.00 for the pump we can use as it was run through last year's budget. Council member Frank asked if we need to do paperwork for that. Deputy-Clerk Sarah Williams said that will require an amendment to the budget. Frank Brouillette asked about the bonuses. Discussion was held about bonuses. Charlie Bennett suggested \$500.00 for managers. It was \$190.00 to send the managers to school. They can then certify others in the surrounding areas to be lifeguards so they won't have to go as far away, and we can charge them for the training. Council member Frank Brouillette said that sounds good. Julie Berg suggested that we give the bonuses at the end of the season. Council member Frank Brouillette replied that is what is done now. Council member Charlie Bennett commented that we have some young ones coming to work and we might have them for several years. Council member Frank Brouillette asked about bumping up the manager's wages. Charlie Bennette motioned to give them a \$1.00 an hour raise. Frank Brouillette 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all in favor.
2. Sharon Tripp to present later.
3. Counsel to discuss Ron Teig being out of city limits. Mayor Otten stated that he received a text from Ron Teig stating that he will be resigning his position on the counsel. Mayor Otten stated we will be needing a counsel member for Ward 3. Council member Frank stated that that will also give a vacancy on the Tree Board as well as Rail Trail. Discussion then ensued if a counsel member needs to be in the tree board as well as rail trail. City attorney Brent Brooks to follow up.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that they had started digging to put the hydrant on the west end, and there is no mainline out there. The map shows that it runs along M avenue to Klocks property, but its not there. Public works director Bob stated he called in an emergency locate, and Duane will dig down from the well, put all new 6 inch to run to the hydrant. He stated that it will be a fix but more expensive. Mr. Schuchard stated that PEC starts, and they have a meeting scheduled, then they will start lining the sewer lines. Mr. Schuchard also stated that he would like to have a discussion at the next counsel meeting about the rodeo grounds. Jeff Sell called Bob awhile back and stated that he doesn't think it's fair that the public works maintains the park for county functions, he would like to have the county pitch in and help with some of those costs. Public works director Bob Schuchard stated he was down at the park on Friday, the High School Rodeo, there was horses where there was not supposed to be.

They cut ropes. Camped on the rail tail, cleaned horse trailers out on the rail trail. There was horse droppings everywhere, which will make it difficult to mow. Bob stated that he wants to have a meeting with the Rodeo committee, it can be a positive meeting, just a conversation. Council member Charley Bennett stated that Charlie Church makes the park look very nice. To which Counsel member Kathleen agreed. A discussion ensued about having the high school come to the next meeting and about having someone from the rodeo committee here as well.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER: None. Public works director Bob Schuchard thanked Deputy Clerk Sarah Williams for taking on the role of both jobs and stated how he knows how overwhelming it can be. Counsel member Frank added a thank you, as did Counsel person Kathleen.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Paul Otten stated that Lexi Petersen is officially not employed at the city office anymore, and that we will be looking for a clerk-treasurer. Mayor Otten stated that Deputy-clerk Sarah Williams has her application in to move to the Clerk-Treasurer position. He stated that he has others he wants to interview as well. Council member Frank Brouillette stated he would like to sit in on those interviews. Council member Kathleen stated she would like to as well. Counsel member Johnny Cooney asked if we ever found out who hung the 'see something, say something' posters around town. To which Mayor Otten stated that he spoke with the bank and the post office, and they did not know either. We cant get video on it because we don't have a time frame. He stated that all the posters have been taken down. Mayor Otten stated that he went and talked to Donna Hagberg about possibly using some of the sprinkler fund to pay for our weed spraying and to pay Todd Schock. The sprinkler fund was donated by Donna Hagberg in her late husband Herbs name to put sprinklers in the park, there is a lot of donated money that Donna graciously is letting us use some of it to pay the weed bills. Mayor Otten stated that because we are going through a transition in the office with its employees, he would like the city to get into an agreement to have Jodi Rodgers from Montana League of towns and cities to come train whomever takes the Clerk-Treasurer position. It's \$50 an hour plus travel expenses. It will be a good opportunity to get some good training. The contract and information on it will be on the next agenda.

Attorney Report: Mr. Brooks stated that the agreement with Montana League of Cities and Towns looks solid and will be very helpful. Mr. Brooks also stated that Civic plus has indicated hat they are ready to start the first stages of rewriting our city codes, they stated that they are getting a high volume of customers. Brent stated that he and Sarah Williams will be providing them with any information they need. Mr. Brooks stated that he reached out to Megan Cameron for some information about a vacant counsel seat and how long we need fill it and is hoping to hear back from her soon. Mr. Brooks stated he is hoping to hear back from the attorney on the Burrough property soon to get that taken care of.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Financial services from Montana League to go over.
2. Rodeo committee to visit with counsel about fairgrounds.
3. Recycling information to go over.

CLAIMS:

Council member Frank Brouillette made a motion to pass the claims. Council member Johnny Cooney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett, Frank Brouillette, Kathleen Schreiber, Roger Kitts, and Johnny Cooney.

Council Members Absent: Ron Teig

City Office: Mayor Paul Otten, City Deputy-clerk Sarah Williams, Public Works Director Bob Schuchard, City Attorney Brent Brooks via owl

Public Present: Joe Hagl, Julie Berg, Susan Beley

Paul Otten, Mayor

Robert Schuchard, Public Works Director