

Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes
January 12, 2021
Harlowton City Library Conference Room
6:00PM

Minutes from the December 22, 2020 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Business: A discussion took place regarding the legalization of recreationally used Marijuana in the State of Montana and how this could negatively impact the City of Harlowton. Committee Chair Rob Elwood led the discussion. He had recently visited Colorado and after witnessing some issues with the recreational use of Marijuana there, he felt the City of Harlowton should prepare itself for possible issues to come. Rob stated that his main concern was Marijuana being consumed around areas where children go such as the Chief Joseph Park playground and City pool. A discussion took place between Rob and Committee member Frank Brouillette regarding how this could be handled as well as what the Montana Law would cover. Another issue Rob had with Marijuana versus alcohol use was that those close by a person smoking Marijuana could get a “contact high”. This was especially concerning during events such as the Rodeo. But the Rodeo arena is considered County property, so the City cannot control that issue. Further discussion took place regarding whether the Harlowton Schools are considered City or County property. Community member Allison Jones texted High School Principal Andy Begger during the meeting and clarified that the Schools are considered their own entity, independent from the County and the City. Rob proposed that a very large fine (\$1000/first offense, \$5000/ second offense, \$10,000/ third offense) be attached to the proposed Ordinance to deter people from breaking the law. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that the Sheriff’s Department currently did not uphold the dog-at-large Ordinance because of the large fine attached to it. Bob believed that the proposed ordinance in question would not be any different. Frank stated that further research by the Committee should be done on what exactly Montana’s laws about the newly legal recreational-use of Marijuana are.

Mayor Paul Otten asked the Committee what their opinions were on “obscene language”. He referred to a flag that a community member had recently put on their property with the “F-word” and the name of the US President-elect. The general consensus was that this was the man’s “freedom of speech”.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Committee Members present: Rob Elwood, Frank Brouillette
Committee Members absent: none
Other Council Present: Jack Runner
City: Paul Otten, Lara Brisco, Bob Schuchard
Sheriff’s Office: none
Public Present: Allison Jones

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, City Clerk-Treasurer