

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held November 10, 2020 opened at 7:03 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the October 27, 2020 council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Paul Otten updated the council on Biegel's Bar ownership transfer. Bar owner Steve Olson emailed Paul and would like to proceed with the process of ownership transfer. There will be a meeting between the City and Olson as well as City Attorney Karen Hammel. Karen will be drawing up legal papers soon.

Council member Rob Elwood went over the data from his "A Ave one-way" proposal online survey. Ninety total survey results were recorded. Rob broke down the different demographics throughout his data. Overall, the clear public opinion is against making A Ave a "one way". Community members and long-time A Ave residents Ron and Merilee Swickard were present for the meeting. Rob went over the data with them. Rob requested that the data from the survey be made public.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner gave a report about the library to the Council. The Library Board recently met. There will be a fundraising even in March 2021.

Council member Rob Elwood reported that the Ordinance Committee did meet this week. The Officers from the Wheatland County Sheriff's Department attend this week's meeting. They participated in the conversation regarding the Chief Joseph stay-limit ordinance currently being written. The Committee is currently working on more ordinances in relation to creating a Parks and Recs department for the City. This week the Committee went through parts of the Water/Sewer chapter of the Ordinance book.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a statement on the pool. Charley has consulted with Thompson Pools regarding the purchase of 2 new boilers for the pool. They need to be ordered soon because the COVID-19 pandemic causing shipment delays. Charley also went over the costs of a new diving board (\$1700-2100), a valve replacement (approximately \$3400.00), solar blankets (\$800 for one or \$1700 for two). Charley would like a decision made on these items so that they can be shipped in time for Spring 2021. Also, all copper pipes will be replaced with plastic pipes. The pool filters will be cleaned out as well in time for Spring.

Charley handed out documents he had printed with the pricing for time clocks and cameras that he would like installed at the Pool for the 2021 season. He discussed different options for cameras, internet and pricing. Discussion ensued regarding costs and how much is available in the pool budget. Paul stated that due to costs of supplies rising, a contract and deposit should be done to ensure the City would get a good rate for the products and services. There was a discussion about how long the City would be required to keep the recorded footage of the cameras at the Pool. Karen Hammel will be emailed regarding this question. Paul stated that Charley should get a contract

locked in with Dave Lode for the purchase of the steel for the Pool repairs as well as a check for 50% of the costs written out to him. Discussion ensued regarding monthly internet costs for the cameras. Paul also noted that the heaters should be ordered from Thompson Pools as soon as possible with a 50% payment upfront towards costs.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that there was nothing new to report regarding the Tree Board.

Council member Ron Teig was not present at the meeting. There was no report on the Wetlands Rail Trail.

NEW BUSINESS

1) The Ordinance Committee did not have a draft of the Chief Joseph Park stay-limit available yet to present to the Council. They are projecting to have the document at the next council meeting.

2) Paul and City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco presented the Council with Resolution 2020-21. This Resolution would request gas tax funds from a BARSAA grant. The City is requesting approximately \$30,000. Rob made a motion to pass the Resolution 2020-21. Frank and Charley seconded the motion at the same time. The motion was passed unanimously.

3) Charley requested from the Council that he be allowed to attend meetings via teleconference phone from November 2020 through March 2021. Rob asked what Charley thought would be a reasonable amount of time to allow for returning in case of an “emergency”. Charley stated that he would like 5 days notice, at least. Rob made a motion to pass Charley’s request. Council member Jim Kalitowski seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard reported to the Council that the Water Project would be re-starting this week. It had been put on hold due to snow the last few weeks. The Public Works Department had spent the last few days plowing the roads from the snow. A discussion took place regarding the “Snow Route” signs posted on Central Ave. The signs request that people park parallel to the curb during times of snow removal, but there had been some people still parking sticking out into the street. The Council discussed how to get the word out to people to prevent citations from being given. Lara will be posting on Facebook and Dan Edwards from the Times-Clarion stated that he would include it as part of his story.

A discussion also took place regarding businesses on Central Ave keeping the sidewalks in front clear of snow. The Council discussed how if someone doesn’t want to do it themselves, the City will contract it out and charge them for it.

MAYOR REPORT

Paul informed the Council that the November/December meetings would include discussion about raising the City’s sewer rates to support the cost of the upcoming phase of the Sewer upgrade project. The rate is currently \$31/month but it would be going up to \$35/month and increase by 2% each year for five years. The City currently has 557 hookups. The loan for the wastewater improvement project and grants will not be enough to cover the costs. The increase in rates will cover the difference. The job will be 121 days long, starting in Spring 2021. A Public Hearing with Engineers from RPA will take place at the November 10, 2020 meeting to discuss the rate increase.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be November 10, 2020 at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank motioned for the claims from October 12th through October 23rd be approved for payment. Charley seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously by council.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett, Rob Elwood, Jim Kalitowski, Jack Runner, (via phone), Frank Brouillette

Employees Present: Bob Schuchard

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer