

Harlowton City Council Minutes
November 10, 2020
Library Conference Room

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. Paul presented the Council with a letter drafted by City Attorney Karen Hammel. The letter will be present to Biegel's Bar owner, Steve Olson. Paul stated that the goal of the City is to obtain ownership transfer by the end of the year 2020. Snowy Mountain Development Corporation will be assisting the City with the process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Rob Elwood reported that the Ordinance Committee did meet this week. The Ordinance draft of a Chief Joseph Park stay-limit was discussed. There are a few more changes to be made to the draft before submitting it to the Council for approval. The Ordinance Committee also went over Chapter 12. Rob notified the Council that he would be typing up a letter of resignation due to moving out of the City boundaries. He will be presenting the letter at the next meeting. He would leave it up to the Council to decide on a date for replacement.

Council member Jack Runner gave a report about the Library to the Council. Nothing new was reported since the last meeting. The Library Committee will have a meeting next week.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a statement on the pool. The pool cover is currently being repaired. Paul stated that a contract with Dave Lode to do some work on the pool had been signed. A paint color still needed to be decided.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard was not present to give an update on the Tree Board. He is on vacation this week.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1) Chris Hayes from RPA was present at the meeting. Chris is the Project Engineer for the Sewer upgrade. Chris explained the reasons for the proposed Sewer rate increase. Chris reviewed the proposed Resolution 2020-22. Chris gave a summary of the Sewer project's history, progress and future. The next phase of the project includes replacing existing pumps with self-priming pumps, a telemetry system and a UV building among other upgrades. Chris stated that Dick Anderson Construction was the lowest bidder on the project and that the construction would start in May 2021. Because the lowest bid was still higher than the Engineer's projected budget, a loan would be necessary to complete the project in concurrence with grants. A sewer rate increase would be necessary for the Citizens of Harlowton in order to finish the project as well as to create a reserve.

A letter will be mailed out on 11/16/2020 to everyone paying for utilities in Harlowton. There will be a Public Hearing on December 8, 2020 to further discuss these changes. A motion was made by Jack to approve Resolution 2020-22. The motion was seconded by Council member Frank Brouillette. The Resolution was passed unanimously.

2) Mandie Reed from the Wheatland County Community Foundation requested that the Council approve plans for a New Year's Eve Firework show. Paul submitted her letter of request to the Council for approval. Rob made a motion to approve Mandie's request. Council member Charley Bennett seconded the motion. Frank abstained in voting due to being a member of the Wheatland County Community Foundation. All other members of the Council present approved the request.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard was not present at the meeting to give a report.

MAYOR REPORT

Paul informed the Council that he had been in contact with Dan Clark from the Montana Leagues of Cities and Towns. He had reached out to Dan regarding when the City could vote on a new government change. The year 2024 is when the City is due again for any changes in government. The process must be started early and Ordinances are required.

Paul notified the Council that Bob had approached him last week with concerns about water samples not getting to Billings for testing in time. It was discovered that UPS is using Harlowton as a "training spot" for new drivers. The route these drivers are taking causes the samples to not be shipped to Billings within the 24 hour time limit that is needed to have accurate test results. The Council then discussed different methods to get the samples to Billings. The options included expedited shipping with the USPS, using Fed Ex instead of UPS, or even having someone personally drive the samples down to Billings. It was decided that Paul would ask the USPS if they could do expedited shipping.

At this time Charley remembered something he forgot to mention during his Pool updates. He presented a printout of a camera system with a monitor and 60-day recording loop that does not require internet. He suggested that it would be a good option to use during winter months when the pool was not in use.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be December 8, 2020 at 7:00pm. The meeting that would normally be scheduled for November 24th was cancelled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday week.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion for the claims from October 23rd through November 6th to be approved for payment. Jack seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously by council.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett, Rob Elwood, Jim Kalitowski, Jack Runner, Frank Brouillette

City Office: Mayor Paul Otten, City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco

Public Present: Chris Hayes, Project Engineer for Sewer Upgrade, RPA

Not Present: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard, Council member Ron Teig

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer