

Harlowton City Council Minutes  
December 8, 2020  
Library Conference Room

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council, held December 8, 2020 opened at 7:06 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the November 10, 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. City Attorney Karen Hammel had sent an email to owner Steve Olsen on Monday, December 7, 2020. They are waiting for a response. The Mayor stated that the email should be okay because Karen and Paul had recently met with Olsen to discuss the conditions of the contract. By the beginning of the new year 2021 the process of ownership transfer should be completed.

Regarding the City Ordinance for a Chief Joseph Park stay limit, the Ordinance Committee will be following up with Karen regarding the draft.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner gave a report about the Library to the Council. The Library has recently purchased a set of High School Annuals from Bill Jones. March 2021 is the Library Fundraiser. There are still a strong number of people checking out books from the Library regularly.

Council member Rob Elwood reported that the Ordinance Committee met this week. They Committee went over Chapter 13 of the Ordinance book. The development of a Parks and Recs department was further discussed. A list of pros and cons will be created to present to the County Commissioner. The Committee is still waiting on a response from Karen regarding a draft of the Chief Joseph Park stay limit ordinance.

Council member Ron Teig gave a report on the Wetlands Rail Trail. The area is being excavated again. Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that there had been a delay during the excavation.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave an update on the Tree Board. North West Energy had recently removed trees and cut others back around power lines.

Council member Charley Bennett did not have anything extra to add to his report about the pool. Later in the meeting he discussed a work proposal from Thompson Pool. He asked to wait until later in the meeting to talk about it.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1) A Public Hearing was held for anyone interested in commenting on the proposed Sewer Rate increase. No members of the public attended the meeting to intentionally discuss the proposal. Paul briefly went over the rate increase reasons and costs.

- 2) Resolution 2020-23 was presented to the Council for approval. This Resolution is a formal adoption by the City of the proposed Sewer rate increase plan. Ron made a motion to approve the Resolution. Rob seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 3) Resolution 2020-24 was presented to the Council. This Resolution regards the bonds that would be needed to fund the Sewer project. Jack made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-24. Ron seconded the motion. The Resolution was passed unanimously by Council.
- 3) Resolution 2020-25 was presented to the Council by City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco. The Resolution is regarding a suggested budget amendment coming from the Accounting Consultant, Magda Nelson, who has been assisting Lara with completing the FY19-20 AFR. Jack made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Ron seconded the motion. Resolution 2020-25 was passed unanimously.
- 4) Charley presented a document to the Council regarding the costs of using Thompson Pools to sandblast and epoxy the pool next year. He asked that 50% of the total cost be paid to Thompson Pools to allow the City Pool to be put on the 2021 waitlist. Charley stated that the epoxy would last 5-10 years or possibly longer, but due to the rough Montana winters, it was hard to determine. The total costs of the work would be \$38,750.00 with 50% (\$19,375.00) due up front.
- 5) Paul asked Allison Jones if she knew anyone interested in the pool manager position. She said that she might know some people interested in the Assistant manager position. A Pool Manager hiring committee was assembled of Council Members Rob Elwood, Frank Brouillette and Jack Runner. The group will work on questions for the interviews as well as organizing a time and place for the interviews.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report. An antenna had been replaced and the wells had been running properly. Sewer lines have been being jetted. Trees have been being trimmed back. A house on A Ave was not connected to the City sewer line and over the past week it had been set up. The owners of the house will repair the sidewalk where construction was done.

Council member Jim Kalitowski asked Bob whether or not the City was responsible for the damaged curb in front of the Post Office where an accident had occurred last week. Bob stated that sidewalks and curbs are the owner of the property's responsibility. The City has an Ordinance stating this. Further discussion ensued regarding state owned highway curbs and snow removal responsibilities. Because there are many different damaged sidewalks around town, Rob suggested that a sidewalk committee be assembled to manage the issue.

The damage of a handicap accessible sign in front of the Post Office was mentioned as well. The bottom half of the sign has been removed by someone (presumably the Post Office).

#### MAYOR REPORT

Paul informed the Council that a Floodplain meeting would take place on the following day, Wednesday 12/9/2020. Also, Jim and the Mayor would be doing a zoom meeting regarding the water authority later that day, 12/9/2020.

#### ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be December 22, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Frank requested that the issue of when the last raise for the City Judge and Clerk was be looked into. He would also like to look into raises for them both, if possible.

## CLAIMS

Council member Frank Brouillette made a motion for the claims from November 23, 2020 through December 4, 2020 to be approved for payment. Ron seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously by council.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

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

City Office: Mayor Paul Otten, City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco, Public Works Director Bob Schuchard

Public Present: Allison Jones, Officer Elmer from the Wheatland County Sheriffs Department

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Paul Otten, Mayor

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Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer