

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on March 23, 2021. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Council meeting were approved as written.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) Mayor Paul Otten updated the council on Biegel's Bar ownership transfer. The necessary paperwork had been submitted to the Wheatland County Clerk and Recorder's office. Lara was in the process of filling out the paperwork with Cathy Barta of Snowy Mountain Development Company.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner reported that the Library was preparing for an upcoming fundraiser at Gally's Brewery. The goal is to raise \$5000.00 to match a grant. The kitchen ceiling had recently been repaired.

Council member Frank Brouillette gave an update on the Ordinance Committee. The Committee went over the Fire Pit Ordinance one last time during the meeting earlier before presenting it to Council for the first reading. The Committee continued a discussion regarding dog licenses/vaccinations/fines. The Committee went over part of Chapter 17 of the Ordinance book. Continuation of chapter 17 and also chapter 18 would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Council member Charley Bennett was not on the phone yet at the time of the report on the pool. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco gave an update on the pool. Recently an Assistant Manager had been hired for the pool, Amber Clements. Also 4 lifeguards had recently accepted positions and employee packets had been mailed out. The new Manager, Heather Mysse, and Assistant Manager were scheduled to go to the Chemical training in Billings this upcoming Thursday and Friday. When Charley returns in early April there would be an orientation meeting for all new pool employees.

At this point in the meeting, Charley called in. He had forgotten about the time change in Montana the previous week. He added that he had heard nothing new from Thompson Pools regarding the materials ordered for the pool.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report on the Tree Board. Trees would need to be ordered in the next 2 weeks. Council member Ron Teig asked Lara about what needed to be done to move forward with applying for grants for the tree orders. Lara stated that after the last council meeting she had emailed him the necessary information for the City's Arbor Day account as well as the contact information for the person that could help. Ron said he would look into it. Lara told him to let her know if he needed anything else.

Ron Teig stated there was nothing new to report on the Wetlands Rail Trail. Movement on continuing the project would start in April.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1) Lara presented the Council with Resolution 2021-01, to request BARSAA funds. These funds would pay a portion of the outstanding Wharton Asphalt bill from last summer. Ron made a motion to pass Resolution 2021-01. Jack seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

2) Rob Elwood's request for Central/Division street closure on June 5, 2021 was presented to Council for approval. Kendra Galahan's wedding reception would take place that day at Gally's. Bob stated that cones would not be provided this time and would be Gally's responsibility since last time the cones were stolen and partially never retrieved. Charley made a motion to approve the street closure request. Council member Allison Jones seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

3) The first reading of the Fire Pit Ordinance took place. The second reading and approval will take place at the 4/13/2021 Council Meeting.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report. There had recently been a pre-construction meeting for the upcoming Wastewater Upgrade project. April 5<sup>th</sup> would be the official start. Certain sewer lines would be cleaned out as well while the crew was in town. Pace Construction would be doing it and would not charge extra for mobility. The sewer budget would need to be checked by Lara to allow for these extra expenses.

The new Mill property owner wants water but the line is severed. A new line needs to be put in but the owner does not want to be annexed into the City. Council member Jim Kalitowski asked if a well had been considered. Bob stated that the new owner is looking into it.

The pay station at Chief Joseph Park was in construction. Mayor Paul Otten stated that it would keep envelopes and payments protected while also making the payment station more visible.

Bob stated that on Monday some semi-trucks had come through town and parked on the curb of Central Ave, damaging some of the banners hanging from the light poles.

#### MAYOR REPORT

Paul informed the Council that he had not watched the recorded web meeting that Lara had sent links out for. The meeting is in regards to the American Rescue Plan and allocating funds to Cities and Towns. Jack had watched the meeting. Jack and Lara gave a summary of what the Act would entail and how it could impact Harlowton. Funding for water/sewer/broadband projects would be accessible as well as assistance with projects that had been impacted by COVID-19. Bob stated that during the toilet paper shortage, many rags were flushed and disrupted the sewer system. He stated that this would fall into the category of COVID-19 related impacts to the City.

Paul stated that an application for a loan with Tri-County Credit Union had been submitted and that the City was just waiting to hear back. The interest rate on the loan would be 3.9%. The loan would be to pay Wharton the remaining balance on last summer's invoice.

#### ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be April 27, 2021

at 7:00pm. The second reading of the Fire Pit Ordinance would be presented for Council approval.

#### CLAIMS

Frank made a motion to pay claims from March 8<sup>th</sup> through March 19<sup>th</sup>. Jack seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32m.

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

City Office: Mayor Paul Otten, City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco, Public Works Director Bob Schuchard  
Public Present: Steve Stewart, Dan Edwards.

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Paul Otten, Mayor

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Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer