

Harlowton City Council Minutes
May 25, 2021
Library Conference Room

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on May 25, 2021. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the May 11, 2021 Council meeting were approved with the correction of "950 lbs" changed to "1900 lbs".

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachel Moore asked that Central Ave be closed off on July 3rd from 8-11am for a "Color Run". Councilmember Frank Brouillette informed Rachel that there are forms in the City Hall to fill out and return for City Council approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) No news from SMDC regarding the City property formally known as Biegel's Bar. One of the top employees of the company, Kathie Bailey, had recently passed so they were dealing with that. Charley Bennett asked who would be in charge of bidding on the projects for former Biegel's Bar property. Paul stated that everything would be run through SMDC. Charley stated that Jimbo Fisk would like to bid on projects. Paul stated that they were not ready for that yet but when they were, he would let Charley know.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner stated that the Library had received a \$1000 grant from Town Pump to be used towards the Summer reading program. The library had been able to raise the matching \$5000.00 for the Washington Grant. Approximately 650 people had used the library last month.

Ordinance Committee chair Frank Brouillette stated that stray cat issues had been discussed. Allison Jones will create a survey for community input. The Committee will review feedback at the next meeting.

Council member Charley Bennett gave an update on the pool. The cameras had been installed, the gate was in and Thompson Pools would arrive the 7th of June to install solar blankets and the diving board. The heater was still missing. The boiler would continue to be used until the heaters are installed. June 15th would be the opening date for the pool. Drains should last 5-7 years. The pool's were installed in 2019. Paul asked Charley if the "main drain" signs were located. Charley stated that Thompson Pools had some for purchase.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report on the Tree Board. Holes had been dug for the new tree planting. There would be an 80% chance of rain the following day. If so, the planting would be done on Thursday.

Ron Teig stated that there was no news on the Wetlands Rail Trail.

NEW BUSINESS

1) New Pool Manager Heather Mysse and Charley presented to the Council regarding a proposed Community BBQ on June 1st at Chief Joseph Park. Originally Heather was there to ask for Council's

permission. Heather informed the Council that the date of the event would have to be changed because it coincided with other Community fundraising events. The new date was still TBD. Charley informed the Council that the Bair Grant had offered a \$30,000.00 “matching grant” for the pool. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco stated that Bair had offered to match any funds that the pool raised, even if it was less than \$30,000.00. Heather will fill out a form at City Hall to have permission to use the park for the BBQ when they are ready.

2) Charley presented to the Council regarding issues he had with the management of the pool. Charley stated that if anyone “hears any rumors” to please come to him directly.

3) A second reading was done of the Fire Pit Ordinance. Jack stated that Karen would need to assign a title to the Ordinance. Allison made a motion to pass the Fire Pit Ordinance. Jack seconded the motion. The Ordinance passed unanimously.

4) American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds were discussed. Paul stated that he and Bob would have a meeting with Chris Hayes of RPA on Friday to discuss Sewer projects to be done with the funds. Bob stated that during the water classes he recently attended in Great Falls, there were 3 classes regarding the ARP funds use. Bob stated that it would mainly be water and sewer but that a new computer could be purchased for the City office if it was used to manage City Water and Sewer related projects. Paul stated that they would have more information to present to the Council after the meeting on Friday.

5) Discussion took place regarding the proposed purchase of concrete picnic benches for Chief Joseph Park and campsites. Paul suggested that the City start off purchasing 2 handicap accessible ones and 2 at the picnic area. Bob stated that there were still 12 wooden tables in decent condition. Discussion took place regarding the concrete slabs that would have to be poured to support the new tables. Size and height of the slabs was discussed Discussion took place regarding transporting and placing the tables with a forklift.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report. The High School Rodeo would be in town this coming weekend. Bob and Jeff Perry had attend the Rural Waters certification program to renew their water/sewer certifications. Discussion took place regarding James and the tests that he had been struggling to complete. Bob stated that Great Falls was considering setting up a trade school/training center. Discussion ensued regarding concerns with the water certification tests and what will happen when Bob and Jeff retire.

MAYOR REPORT

Paul gave a report. Debra Davis would be moving over to the library in October to take Kathleen Schreiber’s position over and train someone. A new Deputy Clerk would need to be hired for the City office. In August an ad should be posted in the newspaper.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be June 8, 2021
at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion to pay claims from May 24th to June 4th. Jack seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

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

Council not present: none

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

Public Present: Kevin Knudson, Rachel Moore, Heather Mysse

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer