

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on October 12, 2021. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the September 28, 2021 Council minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paxton Wojtowick presented to the Council his idea to use the City property previously leased by Mike DeBorde as a junk yard. A privacy fence would be created. Mayor Paul Otten stated that DeBorde would be getting his property off the lot by the end of the month. After that, the Council would like Paxton to come back on the agenda to discuss his proposition.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) Mayor Paul Otten stated that there was no new news from Snowy Mountain Development Company regarding the City property formerly known as Biegel's Bar.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner stated that there was nothing new to report regarding the library

Committee Chair Frank Brouillette stated that the Floodplain and Decay Ordinances were discussed.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. The pool had been "put to bed" for the winter. One sand filter had been shipped. The heaters are in. Paul asked if the cover would be put on. Charley said no because 25 straps were broken.

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

Bob gave a report on the Wetlands Rail Trail. DEQ had done more soil testing and had not found any asbestos or petroleum. The samples were being sent to a lab for confirmation of this.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1) Traci Sears and Tiffany Lyden of the DNRC were present to discuss the new proposed floodplain map. They presented handouts to accompany their presentation.

Due to the 2011 flood, the maps were being revised. The new maps could be used for County disaster mitigation plans. The next step in approving the new maps would be public comment. Discussion took place regarding the culvert at the Jawbone dam and mitigation. Bob stated that the NRCS was currently doing a study on this area. Tiffany stated that the study for the map was only for Antelope Creek, not Jawbone. Tiffany explained the flood map and water flow simulation. The next step would be to discuss mitigation steps that the City could take to lessen the risk of flooding. Paul stated that this investigation would be paid for by the DNRC and that the City should push through with it. Tiffany presented a document for the City to fill out and return giving permission to continue the mitigation investigation process.

2) City resident Ron Swickard presented his concerns with the estimated \$37 price increase with the new water source coming to Harlowton. He wanted to know what offsets were available to bring down the price. Paul stated that Great West Engineering was looking into this.

Ron also expressed his concern over trees not being watered regularly and how the increase in water prices would also affect this.

Ron was concerned about the base rates and “snow birds” paying when not in town. Frank explained that the base rate was to pay the costs of maintaining the infrastructure, not the consumption of the water itself. Discussion took place regarding variable versus fixed costs.

3) The Council continued to review the proposed Water Authority documents for the new water source coming through Harlowton. Council member Jim Kalitowski stated that flushing hydrants would be costly. Bob stated that the pipes are what causes the dark water and that this probably wouldn't change with a new water source. He stated that water must be used frequently and that households with elderly people as well as smaller households (without children) do not use as much water. Bob stated that the magnesium in the wells also caused the dark color. Bob also stated that water testing might need to be done more frequently with the new water source.

Paul stated that when the Water Authority presents the official legal document to the City that the City would sign it.

4) Discussion took place regarding the current prices of City equipment rentals and how the costs compare to that of Lewistown Rental. Paul stated that the City might need to increase the prices of renting the equipment. Paul stated that the list would be reviewed, changed and then presented to the Council.

5) The second reading of the revised Chief Joseph Park Ordinance was presented to the Council. Charley made a motion to pass the ordinance. Council member Allison Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob gave a report. The pool had been winterized. The Public Works Department had been grinding stumps and doing road repairs. The road grater needed to be repaired again. The radiator and heater had broken. Two service lines had been put in last week. Friday they would be doing a water line repair.

#### MAYORS REPORT

Paul stated that Casino Creek had been very busy so the concrete benches would be delayed. A citizen was concerned with speeding on the road up to the Golf Course. Discussion took place regarding posting signs, including the ones like Broadview that light up. It was mentioned that the Sheriff's office needed to patrol the area more.

#### ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be October 26, 2021  
at 7:00pm.

Items to discuss:

- Floodplain document review
- Updated list of rental equipment.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion for the claims from September 27<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup> be approved for payment. Allison seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett, Jim Kalitowski, Jack Runner, Allison Jones, Frank Brouillette

Council Members Absent: Ron Teig

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

Public Present: Dan Edwards, Ron and Merilee Swickard, Tiffany Lyden, Traci Sears, Paxton Wojtowick

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Paul Otten, Mayor

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Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer