

December 14, 2021
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on December 14, 2021. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the November 9, 2021 Council minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Susan Beley approached the Council regarding her concern with the message on the recent utility bills. She felt that the wording was unclear. Mayor Paul Otten stated that her comments would be taken into consideration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) There was no new news to report regarding the City property formerly known as the Biegels Bar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner stated that the Library had been going through some changes. There also had been a slight drop in the number of books being checked out this month.

Committee Chair Frank Brouillette stated that the City's Decay Ordinance was looked at and revisions would be done by City Attorney Karen Hammel to be presented at the 2/8/22 meeting.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. Thompson Pools would be out soon to finish up work. The blueprint for the pool house renovations was still under review. Hopefully that work would take place in Spring 2022. Charley would be donating his Council Stipend to fundraise for free swim in Summer 2022. Deputy Clerk Alanna Berg and City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco would help Charley create a raffle.

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. The DEQ work was on hold due to lack of truck drivers.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Mandie Reed presented an idea to the Council regarding using the old tennis court as a raised garden for the 4-H kids. Paul gave a tentative okay for the project to proceed.

2) The second reading of the Floodplain Ordinance was done. The Council voted on the Ordinance. Allison Jones made a motion pass the Ordinance. Ron Teig seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:1 with Charley voting against it.

3) The AMKO USDA loan refinancing was put to a vote. Frank made a motion to go ahead with the refinancing. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Mike DeBorde and Paxton Wojtowick presented to Council regarding setting up a long term lease agreement on City land. It would be a co-lease with Paxton taking over fully in the event of Mike's passing. The men are looking for a 20-25 year lease. Paul stated that there would have to

be an ad in the newspaper for two weeks. The issue will be addressed again at the January 11, 2022 meeting.

5) The Council discussed a large unpaid invoice billed to a person in town for work done by the Public Works Department involving the person's private sewer line. The bill is for \$3005.00. The person has been billed 3 times and also a letter was sent each time offering the option of a payment plan. The person is ignoring the bill. Jim Kalitowski asked if maybe a certified letter be sent out to them. It was discussed that the person might not "accept" the letter. It was decided that the City Attorney Karen Hammel would be contacted regarding the "next steps".

6) Paul presented the Council with a letter from an attorney, John Malanchuk, who was interested in pursuing a company, LB Foster, that was involved in the clean up of the roundhouse/railroad areas when it was being torn down. Discussion took place regarding if there was a "leg to stand on" against the company. Dan Edwards suggested that the City reach out to Jason Seyler at DEQ to see if this was a worthy avenue to pursue.

Discussion took place regarding who was "responsible" and what could be done at this point. Paul stated that he would give John a call and let him know that the City isn't interested in pursue legal action.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob gave a report. The Christmas lights were being checked and maintained regularly. Street signs were being updated. Bob had been working on the sewer permit renewal process. The UV building garage door would be delivered soon. The alarms at the lagoon had been going on still but "improving".

MAYORS REPORT

Paul stated that there had been a pre-bid drive around the area where the new drinking water lines would be going in. Bidding would start in January or February 2022. December 23rd would be the City Christmas party and Jim's "going away" party. The Council training would take place from 10am to 4pm on Thursday January 13th. Clyde Park and Moore would also participate. Approximately 17 people would attend.

CLERK-TREASURERS REPORT

Lara stated that since the warning of \$25 "door hanger fees" had went out on last month's bill, an overwhelming number of people had come in to set up ACH, payment plans and even catch up on their bills. Overall, Lara had seen a huge positive reaction.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be January 9, 2022
at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion for the claims from November 22nd to December 10th be paid. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

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

Council Members Absent: none

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

Public Present: Dan Edwards, Mike and Pam DeBorde, Mandie Reed, Susan Beley, Paxton Wojtowick.

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer