

January 11, 2022
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on January 11, 2022. The meeting opened at 7:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the December 14, 2021 Council minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment on items not on the agenda.

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 system was currently being updated.

Committee Chair Frank Brouillette stated that the first reading of the Fire Pit Ordinance would be ready for the January 25, 2022 meeting. The committee is looking into the process of codifying past ordinances and will also be taking a look at the existing decay ordinance at the next meeting.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. The solar cover had been ordered. Esther Fischer was waiting for more information regarding the pool house plans.

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

Councilmember Ron Teig stated that there was nothing new to report on the Wetlands Rail Trail.

NEW BUSINESS

1) The Mayor position as well as the Council members up for re-election and a new Council member were sworn in. Paul had Charley, Allison, Frank and new council member Kathleen read the oath of office and sign. Frank had Paul read the oath of office and sign.

2) Phil Wilsman had been put on the agenda but had been able to attain signatures from Karen Hammel and Paul prior to the meeting. The signatures have to do with the sale of some property that he had acquired from the Creamery by his house.

3) Paul opened the bids for the City property for a 20 year lease on the dump road. Paxton Wojtowick and Mike DeBorde put a bid in for \$400/year for 20 years. Kevin Knudson put a bid in for \$425/year for 20 years. Discussion took place regarding the fact that only Mike (as the previous land lessee) could out bid Kevin. The bid could not include Paxton, as he was not on the previous lease for the land.

Discussion took place regarding how to handle the issue of Paxton not being on the lease. Paxton and Mike had planned to have the lease together in order to create a junk yard. Mike put a bid for \$450/year and Frank made a motion to accept the bid. Jack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion continued regarding how to involve Paxton and what would happen if Mike passed away. Paul stated that the lease would cease and the land would go up for

bid all over again. Paul stated that legally, according to Karen Hammel, only Mike's name could be on the lease and that the lease would need to include fencing guidelines, etc... Mike did not like the idea of Paxton not being included. Paxton stated that it was "better than nothing". Mike agreed that he would "try it". Paul stated that the new lease would start February 1, 2022. Mike and Pax left the meeting at this point.

(Mike later re-entered the meeting during the Clerk-Treasurer Report time. He stated that Paxton was very upset and he was as well. He would not pursue the new lease and would pass it to Kevin Knudson. Paul stated that the vote must be rescinded. Jack made a motion to rescind the previous vote giving the lease to Mike DeBorde. Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ron then made a motion to accept Kevin's bid of \$425/year for 20 years. Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.)

4) Paul presented the council with the situation of Stichin Dream. The property had been sold but the new owners had backed out before putting the City's utility bills in their name. The bill incurred a \$140 charge for two months. The balance stayed on the previous owner's (Sheila Crow) account. Sheila had asked Paul if the Council would consider waiving the charge to her account. Discussion followed amongst the council regarding past situations that were very similar in circumstance. The past examples showed that the previous owners paid those bills regardless. Bob stated that everything couldn't be forgiven. Especially with the new water source coming in and the City being responsible for paying the bill. Frank made a motion that the City's policy for the owner paying the bill (no matter what) be enforced. The previous owners (Sheila Crow) would be responsible for the bill. Allison Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5) City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco presented Resolution 2022-01 proposing FY 2020-21 Budget Amendments, as advised by accounting consultant Magda Nelson during the AFR. Jack made a motion to pass Resolution 2022-01. Allison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob gave a report. The UV building pipes had broken during the sub-zero weather a few weeks ago. The joint split. The PWD had been busy with snow removal and 7 water breaks (residential) and pipes needing to be shut off.

Discussion took place regarding the pipes at the Hospital breaking.

Paul stated that Chris Hayes at RPA had given a proposal for fixing the issues at the UV building and that RPA would be taking care of it.

CLERK-TREASURERS REPORT

(At this point Mike DeBorde re-entered the meeting and rescinded his bid. See above for details.)

Lara had nothing new to report.

MAYORS REPORT

Paul stated that there had been a meeting regarding the proposed hospital plans. It would now include 18 beds, 13 going to the nursing home. Dan Edwards stated that the beds were expanded based on community input. Paul stated that it would be \$16 million to build the new hospital. Bob asked about the plans for the water and sewer. Paul stated that it was still being looked into. Kathleen asked what would be done with the old hospital building. Frank stated that the County would make that decisions.

The Council/Mayor training would be on Thursday at 10am.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be January 25, 2022
at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion for the claims from December 11th to January 7th be paid. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett (via phone), Kathleen Schreiber, 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, Deputy Clerk Alanna Berg

Public Present: Dan Edwards, Mike and Pam DeBorde, Paxton Wojtowick, Phil Wilsman

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer