

January 25, 2022
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on January 25, 2022. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the January 11, 2022 Council minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner was not present to give his report on the library.

Committee Chair Frank Brouillette stated that City Attorney Karen Hammel had done a revision of the City's Decay Ordinance. The Committee reviewed the revised document and would continue to do so over the next few meetings.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. Thompson Pools was in town working.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard was not present to give a report on regarding the Tree Board.

Council member Ron Teig stated that there was nothing new to report regarding the Wetlands Rail Trail.

NEW BUSINESS

1) The hospital had called Monday, January 24th and asked to reschedule their presentation to a February meeting.

2) The first reading of the Fire Pit Ordinance took place. The second reading and vote would take place at the February 8, 2022 meeting. Charley asked if the Sheriff's office had a chance to review the document. Paul stated that he would take it down there for them to look at.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob was not present to give his report. (He was at a water break in town working). Paul stated that there was issue with a lack of options for taking sewer samples down to Billings on Monday mornings. Bob had been taking them himself because of a lack of options. UPS would not get the samples to Billings in enough time. The testing company was looking into a courier service but there was nothing in the works yet. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco stated that the Deputy Clerk, Alanna Berg, was open to taking them down. Lara stated that the Public Works Director should not have to do that when there were other employees available to do the run. Discussion took place regarding other options for transporting the sewer samples.

CLERK-TREASURERS REPORT

Lara stated that a fundraiser for the pool to match the Bair grant had started. The fundraiser is using Charley Bennett's council stipend to purchase a gift card to Chico Hot Springs. The fundraiser is being promoted as a weekend getaway. It is enough for two people to have a overnight stay at a cabin, a steak dinner and two massages at the spa. The fundraiser had already earned \$375 in sales but would need \$425 to break even. It ends 2/24/22. Lara and Alanna would be selling tickets on 2/2/22 at the Kiwanis Bingo night pool fundraiser.

Lara had submitted all the requested documents to AMKO to move ahead with the next steps in the loan refinance. She was waiting to hear back from AMKO.

Lara was preparing documents for the 2/14/22 audit.

The W2 and 1099 files had been submitted to the state and IRS this week.

Lara and Alanna would be shutting the office down Thursday to install the new computers and transfer all the software.

Lara would be going to Billings the following day to set up a City credit card with First Interstate Bank. They were requiring her to do it in person.

MAYORS REPORT

Paul stated that the MSU council training had went well. Council member Kathleen Schreiber stated that she the clarity on handling enforcement of a decay ordinance had been helpful

Paul stated that Dan Edwards was working on getting an original Harlowton Japanese town boxcar moved back to the Roundhouse. Dan was working with DEQ and Snowy Mountain Development Company (SMDC) to attain grants for the project. Discussion took place regarding the Japanese families that had lived in Harlowton and WW2.

Paul stated that Pioneer would be coming out in mid-February to remove the buried fuel car at the Roundhouse.

Paul presented a letter to the council that he had received regarding an independent insurance company that would cover the cost of home water breaks. The company, Serve Line, was endorsed by Rural Waters. Discussion took place regarding past companies that had approached the City for endorsement. The Council agreed that they would prefer to not endorse independent companies because of the risk involved. People would think the City was responsible if the company did not come through.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The second reading of the Fire Pit Ordinance and a vote will take place at the next meeting.

The Hospital possibly would reschedule their presentation for February 8th.

The next council meeting will be February 8, 2022
at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion for the claims from January 10th through January 21st be paid. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett (via phone), Kathleen Schreiber, Allison Jones, Frank Brouillette, Ron Teig

Council Members Absent: Jack Runner

City Office: Mayor Paul Otten, City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco,

City Employees absent: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard,

Public Present: Dan Edwards

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer