

March 22, 2022
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on March 22, 2022. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the March 8, 2022 Council minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report on updates of Biegel's Bar. A man from the engineering company hired by Snowy Mountain Development had been at the property that day. He removed a thermostat, insulation and assessed the property. Council member Charley Bennett asked if the bids for the project excavation had been posted in the newspaper. Mayor Paul Otten stated that he believed Snowy Mountain Development had done so.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner gave a report on the library. The library fundraiser to match the Dennis Washington grant had been a success. The event had raised \$3000.

Ordinance Committee Chair Frank Brouillette gave a report. The decay ordinance was ready to present to City Council for first, second readings and approval.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. Charley would be returning from Arizona and reaching out to the contractors that put bids on the pool house renovation. Charlie believed the project would start in fall 2022 or spring 2023.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report on the Tree Board. Bob had purchased 5 pine and 5 spruce trees coming to \$1255. They would be planted at Deer Park and Chief Joseph Park. The Wind Farm would like to help plant them. This would take place either late April or early May.

Council member Ron Teig was not present to give a report on the Wetland Rail Trail.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Discussion took place regarding concerns about the City's utilities and the upcoming Farmer's Market this summer. Shauna Eagleton and Mariah Breeding were present to answer any questions regarding the Farmer's market set up. Bob stated that some of his concerns were with liability insurance and clean up.

Shauna stated that the set up is not at the picnic table pavilion so that it would not disrupt parties/events that are unrelated to the Farmer's Market. Bob stated that it was first come, first serve to use the pavilion. Council member Allison Jones asked if maybe Council should give formal approval for the Farmer's Market to use the area through the summer. Bob said possibly. Allison stated that the liability insurance for the event would be covered under the umbrella of the Chamber of Commerce's insurance coverage. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco asked about the trash disposal situation. Mariah stated that lined

trash cans were put around the event and the Mariah and Shauna put the bags in the park's dumpster at the end of the events. Mariah did not believe that the vendors acquired very much trash. The rodeo events were discussed and how they don't offer the City any additional funds for use of the park trash dumpster. It was agreed that the Farmer's Market was probably not using the dumpster enough to be a concern.

Bob stated that Public works employee Charlie Church had found trash on the ground after the event related to a children's craft. Shauna stated that vendors sign an agreement for conduct (ie picking up whatever they bring etc... Bob stated that the City and Farmer's Market organizers should keep in contact if any concerns came up in the future. Shauna mentioned that last summer some vendors were trying to use City electricity and tripped the breaker. She encouraged them to use their own generators or hook up to the County 4-H building electricity.

2) Paul presented the Council with documents for using a private courier program to ship sewer samples to Billings. The cost would be \$45/week and the pick up would be between 7-8am. Allison made a motion to approve the courier sewer sample service. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob made a report. RPA Engineering had a meeting with him. The lagoon propane tanks were low and the company that refills them would not come out until the gauge levels were in the "red". Chris from RPA said that there was contingency funds available for re-wiring. The UV building burns a lot of propane.

Bob stated that he thought the City-wide clean up days should be 5/20 and 5/21. That would be the weekend after the Chamber's city-wide yard sale. Bob stated that the rates at the dump would need to be raised to keep up with Republic's rate increase. Paul asked if maybe this time the City should order extra dumpsters.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco gave her report. She gave a correction to her report on 3/8/2022. The BARSAA funds had been incorrectly reported at the last meeting. The amount the City would receive in 2022 would be \$34,168.96. She had submitted the request this week. The funds would be held for a year to be added to next year's funds (as well as the City's 5% match), coming to approximately \$72,000 to be used towards repaving a road in town.

The City employees were renewing their insurance plan with MMIA during open enrollment. The option of Council being able to sign up for a plan as well (at their expense) had been brought up. Lara asked if that would be something that the Council would be interested in pursuing. The consensus was no.

The pool had 2 applications for lifeguards turned in. There would also be 3 returning lifeguards requesting employment this summer as well as the Manager, Heather Mysse.

Lara had passed her Pool Chemical Certification Test.

Dennis Washington Grant had offered a \$20,000 "challenge" grant towards the pool house renovations. Lara was waiting to hear back from the agency regarding the details of the offer. She wanted to know if Charley/Kiwanis's volunteer time could be considered towards the match. April 4th would be the date for shut offs for delinquent bills. Multiple letters and door hangers had been sent out to those who would be shut off.

The Auditor would be back the week of the 4th for completing her audit and exit interviews.

The Neptune meter reading software was found to not be compatible with the new office computers. The newer version of the program would need to be added. This month would more than likely have estimate readings.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Paul Otten gave his report. The Public Works Department had removed the basketball hoops at the east end court. The hoops would be moved to the skate park after some refurbishing. City Attorney Karen Hammel and Paul had run into issues regarding donating the requested land to the Hospital for their new cite. Frank stated that they should reach out to Pax, Kelly etc.. with any questions they might have. Paul stated that he had reached out to Dan Clark for some guidance with the situation. Paul would track down the deed documents at the County to see if there were any restrictions on the land's use. If so, a community vote would be needed to allow the land to be donated to the hospital.

Charley asked if the cement picnic tables had ever been ordered. Paul stated that he had not heard back from the company but that he would follow up with them.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be April 12, 2022 at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank asked if Jordan Sargent would be paying the vet bill that the City was having to pay for him. Paul stated that it was an issue the Sheriff/Judge/vet office would need to be more aware of in the future and that our ordinance states that the owner is fully responsible for any bills related to the charges.

Frank made a motion for claims (March 7th through March 18th) be paid. Jack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

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

Council Members Absent: Ron Teig

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

Public Present: Mariah Breeding, Shauna Eagleton

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer