

April 12, 2022
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on April 12, 2022. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the March 22, 2022 Council minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: City Court Clerk Susan Beley stated that the Auditor had been in town and had not audited the City Court for the second year in a row. Susan was concerned that this would leave the City Court vulnerable. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco stated that she would be in contact with auditor Sharon Tripp and would let Susan know what Sharon said.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) Biegels Bar was in the process of being demolished. A main beam was holding up the progress. The weight would have to be removed from the beam and the beam would need to be cut. The beam was partially in the wall of the Toggery building and City Hall.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner had nothing new to report on the Library.

Ordinance Committee Chair Frank Brouillette gave a report. The Ordinance Committee would be moving forward with the "Big Timber Rules and Regulations" policy book. They would look over Title 11 of the Ordinance book at the next meeting.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. Carl wired the heaters. The goal was to get water in the pool soon for the lifeguards to be trained in June. The solar cover would be done in May. The rebuilding of the pool house would probably not start until fall.

Public Works Director Bob Schuchard gave a report on the Tree Board. The trees had been ordered and he was waiting on the nursery to call to pick up. The Wind Farm would be helping plant the trees.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1) Charley Bennett was sworn in in person. The original swearing in had taken place via zoom. City Attorney Karen Hammel and Wheatland County Clerk and Recorder Mary Miller had requested that he be sworn in in person when he returned from Arizona.

2) Discussion took place regarding the water engineer procurement process and the bids. Great West Engineering had been the only bid. Paul passed around packets from Great West Engineering regarding their bid. Discussion took place regarding the City's long-standing relationship with the company and their satisfaction with the jobs Great West had worked on. Council member Kathleen Schreiber made a motion to continue using Great West Engineering for the water projects. Charley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Paul stated that the Decay Ordinance was ready to be approved by the Council to move forward for 1st and 2nd readings. He asked that the Council read the document before the next meeting on April 26th. Jack made a motion to proceed with the process of reviewing the Decay Ordinance at the next meeting as the first reading. Kathleen seconded the motion the motion passed unanimously

4) Morrison-Maierle Systems had presented a few proposals for the City to officially use them for offsite backup as well as cyber security and IT for five City computers. Paul passed around the proposal for the council to review. It was discussed how this almost \$700 a month would be paid for. Lara stated that she was going to see if ARPA funds could be used to pay. Frank asked if the decision could be tabled until either it was decided if ARPA funds could be used or finding another way to pay. Lara stated that she would look into this and have the information ready by the next council meeting.

5) Paul addressed putting the land up for bid again that was previously leased by Gary Olson. Gary presented to the Council to discuss how he had used the property. He had divided the property into sections and had horses grazing in them. To prevent over-grazing, he would move them around. He discussed the different types of noxious weeds in the area and what the horses had done to keep the weeds down. Discussion took place regarding creek access and floodplain lines on the property. Paul stated that there would be a four-year lease with conditions to allow development of the land if needed by the Wetland Rail Trail Project. Discussion took place regarding the need for housing in Harlowton and the possibility of selling those lots in the future for homes to be built. Charlie made a motion to advertise the land in the Times-Clarion. Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6) Discussion took place regarding a cycling project traveling through Montana. City Deputy Clerk Alanna Berg was called to inform the council regarding the unique request. The group of cyclists would be traveling through Harlowton on Monday June 20th. They would come fully equipped with porta potties and porta showers. They had already signed up to use the park pavilion and put down a payment for holding the pavilion. They would have approximately 50 to 75 tents at \$10 per tent. They were asking if they could pay ahead of time for their tents to be staying the night at Chief Joseph Park. Frank made a motion to allow the pre-payment for the tents camping. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7) Discussion took place regarding Juneteenth being a federal holiday and whether the City employees should have the day off paid. Frank stated that all other federal holidays were observed by City employees and that this should be too. Lara stated that she had asked the other Montana clerks on listserv and half said they do observe it half said they don't observe it. They suggested asking the Council. Kathleen made a motion to allow Juneteenth to be a paid City employee holiday. Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8) Discussion took place regarding the skate park concrete and what would be needed to repair the area to make it safe. Lara had researched with the MMIA insurance and was told that any changes made to the area must be done by a professional skate park builder. If they were not done by a certified skate park builder then the liability insurance would not cover the park. Frank stated that Roger Kitt was interested in helping with upgrading and repairing the skate park. He would be in touch with the City. Discussion ensued regarding the basketball courts, who owned them, and who was responsible for maintaining them. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the concrete replacement in the skate park. Bob said that patching would not be enough. Discussion

took place regarding having local children do the fund raising to help with the cost of repairing the skate park.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob made a report. Four concrete tables had been installed at the park. The Roundhouse area was being worked on. Seven more tanks had been pulled. They were in the process of leveling the ground in the area. They would look into the options of land farming where Bob would till with a grader monthly. The payment for the services would be included in bids for the project.

The City Public Works Department is in need of a new dump truck. Discussion took place regarding the cost to replace the current dump trucks and whether a new or used option would be better.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco gave her report. The lifeguard interviews will take place Monday April 18th. Charlie, Heather and Lara would do the interviews. There would be 7 kids being interviewed.

A spokesperson for Senator Tester's office would be in town on Wednesday April 20th to discuss affordable housing options.

Lara was in the process of attempting to access the ARPA reporting website. It had been difficult to verify identities to allow access to the website.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Paul Otten had nothing new to report. Everything had been discussed already during the meeting.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be April 26, 2022 at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion to pass the claims from March 21, 2022 to April 8, 2022. Jack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

Council Members Present: Charley Bennett, Jack Runner, Kathleen Schreiber, Frank Brouillette

Council Members Absent: Ron Teig, Allison Jones

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

Public Present: Susan Beley, Gary Olsen, Chad Roelfs

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer