

September 13, 2022
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on September 13, 2022. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the August 23, 2022 Council meeting were approved as written.

The minutes of the September 6, 2022 FY 22-23 Budget Public Hearing meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council member Jack Runner stated that there was nothing new to report on the library.

The Ordinance committee did not meet this week.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. The pool was officially closed and getting prepared for Thompson Pools to come winterize it. Charley has spoken with Jimbo Fisk about doing some work in the pool house renovations. It was agreed that Jimbo should come in before the floor epoxy was completed.

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

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

UPDATE ON PAST AGENDA TOPICS

Council members were asked to give updates on Decay Ordinance-related complaints from the community. Frank stated that ownership of the Peck property had changed hands. Sarah Peck evicted the current residents that were cleaning up the property. The process of following up on the clean up would start over, unfortunately. Frank stated that he would follow up.

Paul stated that the Senior Center/Brouillette issue regarding the structural soundness of a shared wall was still ongoing. The City had received a name/number from Snowy Mountain Development Company for a structural engineer that could help evaluate the wall. The City had forwarded the email to Bill Jones but had not heard back. Jack stated that City Attorney Karen Hammel had told him that both property owners would have to share the cost of the structural engineer. Paul stated that they would wait to hear back from Bill Jones.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Bids for the sale of City property S22, T08 N, R15 E, 103428 9.83 acres (Formerly RR RW).
The first bid opened, from Chad Roelfs and Boyd Burroughs, was \$21,000.00. The second

- bid opened, from Tom Keating, was for \$7001.00. Frank made a motion to accept the bid from Boyd/Chad. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Bids were opened for the property lease known as the "Old Lagoon". The first bid, from Doug Pierce, was for \$715.00/year. The second bid, from Chad Roelfs, was for \$1800/year. The third bid, from Shawn Peters, was for \$1035.00/year. Frank made a motion to accept Chad's bid. Allison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 3) Bids were opened for the old air compressor. The first bid, from Pete Heal, was for \$521.00. The second bid, from David Melius, was for \$1501.00. The third bid, from Brent Williams, was for \$1785.00. Frank made a motion to accept the bid from Brent. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 4) The Council reviewed a street closure request from the Chamber of Commerce. The closure would be October 8th for a "Fall Festival". The event would be all day on Central Ave from the corner of the Chamber park (old Chevron station) up to the Perkins Funeral Home. Chamber Director and Council member Allison Jones stated that it would have a hay maze, as well as a pumpkin pie and chili cookoff. Paul asked if alcohol would be served. Allison said she wasn't sure but probably that should be an option. Charley made a motion to allow the street closure request. Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 5 votes (Allison abstained due to a conflict of interest).
 - 5) The library basement leak and repair plans were discussed. Librarian Tina Peterson was present. She stated that the leaks were coming through the East wall of the basement and there was an electrical panel close by the area. Charley stated that putting dirt in and then a concrete pad with a slope might work. Tina stated that the problem had become more apparent with the heavy rains in June. Paul stated that the following day (9/14/22) Tina should show the area to Dean Sorensen when he comes to do the front door. Paul stated that Dwayne from Do-All Construction would also be in town the following day and could look at the outside area. Jack stated that the library's 2221 funds from the County were set aside for the City's management of the building. Currently there was around \$70,000.00 available. Jack stated that black mold was also visible in the areas leaking and should be addressed soon. Discussion took place regarding where the water was entering the wall from. Discussion took place regarding a lack of lighting in the basement area being discussed. Jack stated that the process of fixing the building should be on the Council to approve and not the Library Board. Bob stated that the overall issue with drainage in the alley has been an ongoing problem. There was no where for the water to go.
 - 6) Discussion took place regarding the Solid Waste fund going in the "red". Charley stated that Ryegate had a good "set up" and that maybe they should go check it out. He stated that Forsythe also had a good set up. Charley also suggested that funds could be requested from grants from Bair/Callant to help support the dump. He suggested looking into federal funding options. Bob stated that most people call for appointments during the week to free up their weekends to themselves. He stated that Charlie Church goes to the dump numerous times a week for these appointments and that maybe the appointment times should be limited to one day a week with a blocked off time.

Discussion took place regarding other options of metal recycling to cut down on the frequency of Republic's pick-ups. Paul suggested that Charlie get set up with a schedule for appointments only on a certain day and to advertise it online.

- 7) Discussion took place regarding the ARPA MAG (Minimum Allocation Grant) funds for additional sewer lines to be replaced during the next phase of the sewer project. RPA was setting up the application for the MAG funds as well as committed funds from the County's ARPA funds to be used towards the project. The County would be pledging \$200,000.00 in addition to the eligible funds of \$240,000.00 for the City from the ARPA MAG. Lara stated that the City still had around \$211,000.00 of the local fiscal funds still available in the ARPA checking account. Paul stated that the City's own local fiscal funds should be held on to since they didn't need to be spent until 2026. He was concerned that other things might come along that would be ARPA- fund eligible and he didn't want to use it up too soon. Discussion took place regarding other ways that the City could use the funds. Jack asked if the funds could be used so that later on utility bills would not need to increase as much. Paul stated that it could be. Paul stated that Chris from RPA could possibly attend the 9/27/22 meeting to answer questions. Lara stated that the application for the ARPA MAG was due 11/1/22. Lara would reach out to Chris about the meeting on 9/27/22.
- 8) *The following issue was concerning a City Employee and so the meeting went into a closed session. The public present were asked to leave the room. The closed session lasted from 8:06pm until 8:56pm.*

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob gave his report. Phase 5 of the Water Upgrade project had started this week. So far it was going well. Bob expressed concern with the Roundhouse area being targeted for vandalism and illegal dumping. He asked if the gate should get locked again. Paul stated that it should.

Bob stated that the building shared between the City and Times-Clarion was having issues. The City's portion had its roof repaired but the Times-Clarion side was still damaged. He asked how to navigate this since there were two owners of the building. Paul stated that he would ask Karen.

Bob stated that there were issues with the applications for the open public works positions. One applicant had a recent felony show on the background check. Another applicant was dealing with a seconded DUI and currently had no driver's license. Lara stated that the second applicant's background check was "pending" and that she would need to check again in a few days to see what came up.

Bob stated that the engineers on the water line wanted to hire someone local to handle managing the line. He was hoping that the new City employee might be willing to do it and then the wages could be a little higher that are offered.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco had nothing new to report.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Paul Otten Gave a report. Richard Egebakken had given a formal resignation from City Court Judge as of 12/31/22. Discussion took place regarding who would take his place. There would be an election in November to determine that.
Brent Brooks would be submitting a contract Friday 9/16/22 for the City as the new City Attorney.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be September 27, 2022 at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion to pass the claims from August 22- September 9. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM

Council Members Present: Allison Jones, Charley Bennett, Jack Runner, Frank Brouillette, Kathleen Schreiber, Ron Teig

Council Members Absent: none

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

Public Present: Boyd Burroughs, Chad Roelfs, Joe Brouillette, Dan Edwards, Tina Peterson

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer