

December 12, 2022
Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on December 12, 2022. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed minutes from closed sessions on October 25, 2022.

Council member Kathleen Schreiber made a motion to pass closed session #1 minutes. Council member Frank Brouillette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council member Ron Teig made a motion to pass closed session #2 minutes. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Frank made a motion to pass closed session #3 minutes. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the October 25, 2022 Council meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

The Ordinance committee did not meet.

Council member Charley Bennett gave a report on the pool. Ron Fisher was working on getting permits for the pool house renovation work. Jimbo was continuing to work on the sewer line.

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 Wetland Rail Trail project. Bob stated that Jason Seyler at DEQ had reached out to him about grant writing and asked if anyone in house could do it. Bob stated that there was not. Jason stated that the DEQ would take it on going forward.

UPDATE ON PAST AGENDA TOPICS

Council members were asked to give updates on Decay Ordinance-related complaints from the community. Frank stated that at the end of October the residents were getting a dumpster. Paul stated that more trash was piling up out in front of the house. City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco stated that another resident had come in to submit a complaint about the same house. She had told the person that a complaint was already being followed up on by Council for the residence in question. Frank stated that he would follow up with the residents regarding the status of the dumpster.

Council member Charley Bennett stated that he had recently reached out to Larry Callant about getting funding for more dumpster to help clean up the City. He had not heard back yet from Larry but was hopeful.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) City Attorney Brent Brooks was present to give a breakdown of the Liberty Park quit claim deed. Brent stated that on Wednesday the Commissioners would review and approve the streets/lots for property turnover to the Hospital's new location. Brent explained that the City's quit claim deed would be turned over to the County. The county would then pass off the title to the Hospital along with the City's document. Brent was working on getting the documents to Lynn Grant as well as the people at Sweet Grass Title Company for review. Frank made a motion to approve the Liberty Park quit claim deed document. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Charley Bennett asked if there would be conditions included in the release of the property to the hospital stating that the land must be used for building a hospital only. Brent stated that those conditions could be included in the agreement between the City/County and hospital. Paul asked what would happen in 20 years if Wheatland Memorial decided to sell to Billings Clinic. Brent stated that those concerns could be addressed in the deed requirement as well.
- 2) Council reviewed Charley Bennett's request to attend council meetings via phone or virtually until Spring 2023. Frank made a motion to approve Charley's request. Kathleen seconded the motion. (Charley abstained from voting.) The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Discussion took place regarding the Auditor's updated bill which included increased hours as well as an increase in charges. Paul stated that since a majority of her audit was dealing with the water and sewer projects as well as the state and federal funding of these projects, he believed ARPA funds would be applicable. Council agreed that she should be paid from the ARPA funds.
- 4) Council reviewed a community member's request that the pool house be named "Charley Bennett Pavilion" in honor of the countless hours Charley has devoted to the pool as a council member. Lara read a loud the community member's letter (they wished to remain anonymous) and the Council passed around pictures of the pool house and other pool-related renovations that Charley had coordinated. Charley stated that he did the work because he wanted to and not for the recognition. The Council asked him if he would think of another way to commemorate his work. He said he would think about it and get back to them.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Bob gave his report. The department had hung Christmas lights and decorations. They were busy trimming trees. The dump truck had been delivered from California with damages. Pax fixed them and the City sent the bill to the previous owners for reimbursement. They decided to take the repair costs out of the shipping costs. The City would only pay around \$500 for the shipping costs after the repairs were deducted.

The public works department was starting the lead/copper utility line inventory on Harlowton residences. Bob and Jeff would be going to Great Falls to take a class on how to manage the process of taking pipe inventory. Bob expressed his concerns with the water fund being drained from the amount of hours being devoted to the inventory. He stated that there would be three stages to the inventory. The second stage would be to dig up by the shut off area and take inventory. The third step would be to dig up by the foundation. Paul stated that this inventory was due by October 2024 but that this would be a good time to start. Bob stated that it would be impossible to do while a water or sewer project was going on.

REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Lara stated that she would be resigning at the end of February 2023. Deputy Clerk Alanna Berg had expressed interest in the position of Clerk-Treasurer.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Paul Otten gave a report. FEMA meetings would take place in the spring. Although everything had already passed, the meetings would be about the new maps.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be Tuesday January 10, 2022 at 7:00pm.

CLAIMS

Frank made a motion to pass the claims 19731 through 19843. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM

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

Council Members Absent: Allison Jones, Jack Runner

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

Public Present: none

Paul Otten, Mayor

Lara Brisco, Clerk-Treasurer