Harlowton City Ordinance Committee Minutes

January 11, 2022

Harlowton City Hall

6:00PM

**Minutes:** Minutes from the December 14, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment:** none

**Update on Past Agenda Topics:** The topic of Recreational Marijuana dispensaries was brought up. Discussion took place regarding if someone can open a dispensary in town. It was stated that a referendum would be needed since Wheatland County had originally voted it down. Medical Marijuana would be ok though.

**Business:**

1) The revised Fire Pit Ordinance was discussed. Jack stated that if the sections regarding the concern with open burning had been fixed, he would be ok with it getting a first reading with the Council on 1/25/2022. He stated that he wanted the Fire Department and Police Department to have “something to work with”.

2) Frank stated that the Decay ordinance was not on the agenda but that in the minutes of the last meeting it was stated that it would followed up on in this meeting. Frank asked Karen if the revisions would be ready at the 2/8/22 meeting. Karen stated that her revisions would be done sooner but had not been done yet. She had been dealing with dog attacks and City Court related items. Discussion took place regarding criminal activity, dogs, injuries, and the upholding of City ordinances. Karen stated that a dog had been confiscated and destroyed for an attack. Frank asked if the fines of the City ordinance had been upheld by the Judge. Karen stated that they were not. She stated the medical bills were charged to the owner. Frank asked if it was too late to fine the dog owner. Karen stated that it was too late. Karen stated that they were fined for not having a kennel license with the City but that the Judge dismissed this because the homeowner was not the dog owner.

Discussion ensued regarding details of the injuries and who would pay the vet bill on another case regarding animal cruelty.

At this point City Clerk-Treasurer Lara Brisco asked if the Ordinance committee was agreeing that the first reading of the fire pit ordinance should be put on the City Council meeting for 1/25/22. The committee all agreed that it was.

Discussion took place regarding the frustrations over City ordinances not being upheld.

Frank asked if someone could be hired to do ordinances or “fix” old ones. Karen stated that it was the committee’s responsibility. Discussion took place regarding outdated ordinances and codifying.

Karen stated that the dates of meetings were not correct for the meetings (Ordinance says every 1st and 3rd Tuesday but in reality it’s every 2nd and 4th Tuesday). Frank stated that past ordinances had been lost by a previous City Attorney.

Karen stated that public comment will be interesting on the Decay ordinance. Discussion took place as to whether the decay ordinance meeting should be separate from the Ordinance meeting. Bob stated that they should have a revision available at the public meeting for when people ask what the “plan” is. Karen stated that it should be made clear that a special effort would be made by the Council to consistently enforce the new revised ordinance.

Discussion took place regarding how to actually enforce the ordinance. Paul stated that landlords would be held responsible. Discussion took place regarding what was most important to focus on (tall grass? Junk?) Karen stated that it couldn’t make things harder on City Employees. The court should get involved to enforce it.

The Water/Sewer Regulations book was mentioned. It had taken a back seat to the Floodplain ordinance. The last portion had not been reviewed. The Committee would review the last section at the next meeting. After, they would present the document to the Council.

Jack asked Karen if the revisions to the decay ordinance would be ready by 2/8/22. Karen stated that they would be. Frank stated that the document would be reviewed then and the public hearing would come at a later date after the review.

Allison suggested that at the next meeting the Ordinance book be reviewed and a “plan” created for tackling it.

Karen stated that the decay ordinance revisions would be ready at the next meeting.

Items on the next Meeting’s agenda include:
Continued discussion of the Decay Ordinance

Continued review of Water/Sewer Regulations binder

Review of Ordinance Book

Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

Committee Members present: Allison Jones, Jack Runner, Frank Brouillette

Committee Members absent: none

City: Paul Otten, Lara Brisco, Bob Schuchard, City Attorney Karen Hammel, Deputy Clerk Alanna Berg

Sheriff’s Office: none

Public Present: none

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Frank Brouillette , Committee Chair Lara Brisco, City Clerk-Treasurer