November 12, 2024

Harlowton City Hall

A regular meeting of the Harlowton City Council was held on November 12, 2024. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the October 22, 2024, Council meeting was approved as written.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Library: Councilmember Johnny Cooney stated that since HB355 went through and there are projects to be done, the library council would like to know if the bids are for the library to decide or for the city council to decide? Mayor Otten stated that the library board should be able to decide on those. Johnny then stated they have a new board member Katie Rein. Johny then stated the current members that are on the board.

Ordinance: has not met.

Pool: Council member Charley Bennett stated that the pool is shut down. He stated that the cameras are being worked on. The Kiwanis will be having an evening meeting at the Moose and they will be talking about the Pickle ball. November 26th.

Tree Board: Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated they had a monthly meeting, they elected positions. The tree Board is looking into doing an inventory, a web site that will mark each tree and give a history on that tree.

Wetlands Rail Trail: Mayor Otten stated he would like to have someone take that over since Roger stepped down. He stated that we can take it off the agenda until there is more going on down there.

Public Comment on above reports: none.

**UPDATE ON DECAY ORDINANCE COMPLAINTS:** Clerk- Treasurer Anita Leach stated that Bob came in and had us send a few letters pertaining to junk and or vehicle removal.

Public Comment: Julie Berg asked if a letter was sent to the house next to the credit union? Anita then stated that we need to discuss the decay letter then get them sent out.

**UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ITEMS:**

1. **Council to vote on decay letters.** Councilmember Frank Brouillette stated that we should go with it as it and if we decide to change it in the future we can. It’s not an ordinance. Councilmember Roger stated that the problem is with the inconsistency. Roger stated that’s why he thinks talking to people was always the best, but the letter as its written is good. Mayor Otten stated that people can come in and now file a complaint. Roger then stated that he thinks the people of Harlo will accept the letter. There might be a little trouble. Mayor Otten stated things are looking better then they were six months ago.

Councilmember Jack Runner made a motion to accept the letter. Councilmember Charley Bennett seconded the letter. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: none.

1. Miller/ Grant decision. Mayor Otten asked if everyone got a chance to read the email. Councilmember Frank Brouillette stated he agreed with the decision. Mao Otten stated he would claim a motion to accept MMIAs decision of no fault. Council member Frank made the motion. Councilmember Kathleen Schreiber seconded the motion. All was in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

1. First reading of Ordinance 2024-02 Urban Camping. Mayor Otten asked if the council has read it, and if they had any comments? Council member Jack Runner stated that in section 3, after October 1 until April 1, we can’t do it. Its winter months. Council member Frank Brouillette stated we had to put that in due to our other ordinance. Councilmember Charley Bennett stated that they just need to be flipped. Discussion then ensued on the rewording of the ordinance. Councilmember Johnny Cooney made a motion to accept the first reading. Councilmember Roger Kitts seconded the motion. All was in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Susan Beley stated she was confused and what’s the point? She stated that we had something in place for the winter, you don’t care if they are on the streets in the summer. So why write another ordinance? Public Works Director Bob Schuchard stated that the reason we are doing this is because we had some people camping on the rain trail. Susan stated that if they are doing that and you keep the dates there then they wont care. Councilmember Roger Kitts stated that we do care if they do that in the summer, we want to allow people to have guests in the summer on their own property. Discussion then ensued on a time frame.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Council to go over Utility Share applicants. Council member Frank Brouillette asked if we will be accepting other applicants? Clerk-treasurer Anita stated that some came in after we had the packets out. She stated there is about $7,000 in the fund at $50 a month through winter months. Councilmember Charley Bennett asked if we can just vote on all of them? Councilmember Frank Brouillette stated that he thinks we should approve all three of the applicants. Councilmember Kathleen Schreiber moved that we vote to approve all three applicants for Utility Share. Council member Johnny Cooney seconded the motion. All was in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Julie Berg asked if they can apply again after they have been accepted, can they apply again the next year? Clerk Anita stated that yes, each year they will need to reapply. Susan Beley stated that she was confused, is this for water? Council member Katheen stated that we try to help during winter months. Susan stated she has higher bills in the summer.

1. Appoint for Local Government Review. Mayor Otten stated we has five people turn in for the board, we drew three names out of a hat. The names we drew were Diane Jones, Joe Hagl and Lori Hoge. Mayor Otten stated that he needs a council member on the board, they can’t vote or be sworn in but just listen. Council member Frank stated he is interested but he needs a time frame. Discussion then ensued. Council member Frank stated he would do it. Mayor Otten then swore in Joe Hagl.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:** Bob Schuchard stated that Christmas lights were up on main street and all working. Carl Dishong is getting prices on an upgrade. The manhole in the highway is all filled out. Charlie Church will be back on the 18th from surgery.

**REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER:** Anita Leach stated that Jody Church has filled the dumpster down at the Olsen property twice, Brianna Dolbear will be taking care of the bill once we get it. Wheatland County Foundation awarded our utility share $800. Sarah is going to contact Rachael Moore with Clearway to see if they are going to help us out any with Utility Share. She stated that we are starting to work on clearing old files and sending out bills for the liquor licenses for the year.

**MAYORS REPORT:** Mayor Otten asked Katheleen Schreiber if she was going to be taking off this winter, she replied that they will only be going for a short time. Mayor Otten asked Charlie Benett when he was leaving, and he stated that he won’t be leaving until after Christmas and he stated he will be giving the council a letter, and that he will call in or zoom into the council minutes. Mayor Otten stated he has some inquiries on the lots on the west end about some building sites, he wants to talk to Kayle Allen and see how the water is doing now. Bob Schuchard stated that it would be in the best interest of the city to go through a winter and see how it goes when we can’t flush the hydrant.

**REPORT OF ATTORNEY:** Brent Brooks did a simple MOU on the roller being donated to the school. Mayor Otten stated its signed and already a done deal. Mr. Brooks stated that there are several criminal cases pending, lots of DUIs. Deputy-clerk Sarah found 6 more ordinances and got them to Civic Plus, he stated that he is finding more as well. There are 20 or 21 that hasn’t made its way to the internet version, it’s a tedious process but once it done it will be easier to find things online. Mayor Otten stated that we are only having one meeting this month and next month, how do we get the claims approved? Mr. Brooks stated we can do it though zoom, but you really need to have a public comment section, due to state statue. A discussion took place on a quick meeting to get claims approved in November.

**REPOSRT OF WCSO:** not in attendance.

**REPORT OF EMERGENCY MGMT, CODY NELSON:** Not in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ABOVE REPORTS:** none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA:** Susan Beley asked where the city was with the recycle guy to come and talk? Mayor Otten stated that we would be having one and we will get ahold of him to get him here. Susan stated that if you could get our bins back from west Yellowstone that the Key Club would help with them. She stated that we would really like our bins back. Discussion then on people putting their household trash in the recycle bins.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Recycling, utility share applications,

**CLAIMS:**

Council member Frank Brouillette made a motion to pass the claims. Council member Kathleen Schreiber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Jack Runner, Charley Bennett, Johnny Cooney, Frank Brouillette, Kathleen Schreiber, Roger Kitts

Council Members Absent:

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

Public Present: Susan Beley, Joe Hagl, Julie Berg

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Paul Otten, Mayor Anita Leach, Clerk-Treasurer