

# Public Notices

Legal Public Notice — FINAL REPORT

## HARLOWTON, MONTANA CITY GOVERNMENT REVIEW COMMISSION

February 20, 1996

This Study Commission had the privilege of working during turbulent times for the City of Harlowton. With the crisis of the dump closure and recent development of zoning ideas, the city has been under extreme criticism. We feel this led to the public's request for this commission. These issues always led to vigorous conversation between the commission members, but we also tried to steer away from them as we felt they were beyond the commission's scope of responsibilities. This did, on one occasion, attract members of the public to our meeting.

This commission would first like to comment on the 1984-86 report and the progress the city has made since that time. Increased usage of the library facility was one of their concerns. The library has had extensive remodeling and made handicap accessible from the rear. We would also like to point out that a vast majority of this work has been accomplished through grants, donations and volunteer work rather than draining city funds. Continual involvement in this effort seems apparent through advances in available computer technology and other items of "the future."

The dump has been closed and this commission feels it should and will in all likelihood remain closed. The city council, along with the Wheatland County Commissioners, did a great deal of research in the matter and we feel they made the decision that best suits this community.

It is noted that the combined city-county law enforcement system is continuing to try to provide better service. Improvement is noted in animal control measures and we would like to stress continuation of this effort.

This commission would like to commend the council for increased interest from the community in sidewalk repair and lighting districts. We hope for continued cooperation and progress.

The council has also stressed community involvement in the zoning process. This commission believes in some sort of zoning and hopes the council continues to support community involvement in this.

There was serious discussion between the members of this commission concerning the city theatre. One thought was coordinating with the local theatre groups with the hopes of obtaining grant monies with which to repair the structure. Possibly, a stage could be built in front of the screen to be used for local productions. This commission feels that the theatre has been a part of Harlowton for such a long time, that allowing further deterioration would be a considerable loss to the community.

Given the variety of historical groups at work in the community, this commission feels the need for them to work together more often. Unity provides strength, and we believe there would be more support if they worked more closely with Chamber of Commerce and City personnel.

This study commission has been somewhat disappointed in the lack of public input and attendance at our "open" and "public" meetings. We suggest that the voters take greater interest and become better informed at all levels of government and then become more involved.

As did the previous commission, we also feel that the mayor/council form of government is the most efficient for Harlowton. There was some discussion concerning the availability of the mayor. Generally, it was found that there is nearly always a councilman or the city clerk available to take care of whatever might come up. We recommend that no changes be made in the existing form of government.

*Therefore, we, the undersigned City of Harlowton City Study Commission, do propose that no change be made in the current form of government. We do hope that consideration be given to the suggestions made in this report.*

Under authority of Section 7-3-187, Annotated Codes of Montana.

LAURA DeBUFF, Chairperson  
IRENE SCHUCHARD, Member  
ROBERT E. WILLEMS, Member  
FRANK HUTTON, Ex-Officio