

# City of Choteau

PO BOX 619  
CHOTEAU, MT 59422-0619  
406-466-2510

## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2017 MEETING OF THE CHOTEAU CITY COUNCIL

Present were Mayor Jack Conatser, Council Member Stewart Merja, Council Member Dan Lannen and Council Member Rose Crawford. Council Member Jill Owen was excused.

Staff present was Public Works Director Mike Maples and Deputy Clerk Mary Corey. Finance Officer Jodi Rogers was excused.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; Steve Dogiakos of the Choteau Chamber/Economic Development Workgroup; Cole & Dusti Smith of Bomber Brothers Fireworks; Beth Barlow of the Choteau TBID; Paul Dreyer and Rich Lusky.

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Conatser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2017 meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Lannen, Crawford and Merja voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

### REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

Mayor Conatser requested to be out of state April 28, 2017 through May 5, 2017. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Crawford, Merja and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

## DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP DATES

Council discussed dates and decided to keep the same time frame as last year. Public Works Director Maples will call to get the dumpsters and he will see if he can get a container for scrap metal from Steel Etc. Council Member Owen left word that she is still working on being able to recycle electronics. Paul Dreyer stated that he will help with the electronics recycling.

A motion to hold the city-wide clean-up from May 20-28, 2017 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. Council Members Merja, Lannen and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

## VOTE ON FIREWORKS STAND - BOMBER BROTHERS - COLE & DUSTI SMITH

Dusti Smith explained that they have operated their fireworks stand at the Choteau Mountain View Campground for the last two years and would like permission to have the stand again. She stated that she understands the dates have changed that fireworks can be shot off and will make sure they put signs on their stand informing their customers of the change. She further reported that they donated a portion of their proceeds last year to the playground fund and will pick another organization to donate to this year.

A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Merja, Crawford and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

## DISCUSSION ON CHANGING OR CANCELLING THE MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING

Mayor Conatser proposed to cancel the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting as Jack, Jodi and Mike will be gone. Council Member Merja also stated that the claims will not be done either since it is so close to the beginning of the month.

A motion to cancel the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Lannen, Merja and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

## VOTE ON PROCLAMATION FOR CHOTEAU LIONS CLUB DAY

Mayor Conatser read the proclamation honoring the Choteau Lions Club for 90 years of service to the community.

A motion to approve the proclamation for Choteau Lions Club Day on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Crawford, Merja and Lannen. Council Member Owen was excused.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The Law Enforcement Report for March was submitted for Council's review.

#### CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

The City Judge's Report for March was submitted for Council's review.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS REPORT

Public Works Director Maples reported that:

- Williams Brother Construction is working on the drying beds.
- The grit system is running on auto at this time, he is cautiously optimistic.
- We are still having alarm problems, mostly with the lift station. It looks to be a wiring issue, he hopes to have Pfister Electric back on site.
- The switch gear and some of the surge protection for the headworks generator are still not complete. One of the components was incorrect and fried a couple of other components.
- They pulled and serviced the pumps at the influent lift station as well as installed a battery backup for the computer that runs it. They also installed new backup float switches.
- We are still experiencing high flows from ground water infiltration. We have not yet experienced an overflow of the lift station.
- We are still working on how to increase the bacteria population, it is a slow process.
- Ground water is still infiltrating the old lagoon, he is working on some ideas to fix it.
- The DEQ Opencut Mine Permit has been granted.
- We are still experiencing a water loss of 31 to 37 percent. They helped repair a service line last week, hopefully that was part of the problem.
- Most of the water valves have been exercised and inventoried.
- Both patchers and the grader have been out filling potholes and grading alleys.
- They have identified three lines with marked infiltration. He hopes to find two more then get them slip lined. His goal is to remove a minimum of 200 gallons per minute from the collection system.

Council Member Merja asked if the bridge that went over the creek behind the lean-to at the park was going to be replaced. Public Works Director Maples replied that it most likely would not. It was causing ice jams on the creek. Council Member Merja asked if he might consider a raised bridge with a hand rail in its place as the playground committee was wanting to use it in their design. They will get together and discuss it.

## FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

Finance Officer Jodi Rogers was excused.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Merja reported that he rode his bike around the disc golf course. There are currently 6 baskets up with one more to go up.

Council Member Merja stated that Choteau's first track meet went exceptionally well, there were about 320 athletes in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the new facility.

Mayor Conatser stated that the Port Authority is coming together. He will have more information at the next meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Conatser reported that there will be a POD exercise put on by DES on Friday, April 21, 2017 at the grade school gym from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. If anyone would like to be a volunteer or a victim volunteer, please show up at 8:00 a.m.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Dogiakos stated that Public Works Director Maples article about not flushing wipes into the sewer has been seen by just about everyone in Choteau. He further offered to help the city with setting up a Face Book page posting policy.

Melody Martinsen reported that the fireworks fundraiser netted \$7200 to \$7500 dollars, it was very successful.

Melody Martinsen stated that the Friends of the Library Pie Social will be on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Lannen, Merja and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

---

John W. Conatser, Mayor

---

Mary E. Corey, Deputy Clerk