

City of Choteau
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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2017 MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

Staff present was Finance Officer Jodi Rogers. Public Works Director Mike Maples was excused.

Citizens present were Kevin Johnson of DOWL, Steve Dogiakos of the Tourism/Economic Development Work Group/Chamber and Rich Lusky of the Road Kill Car Club.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Owen, Crawford and Merja voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

Mayor Conatser requested to be out of state April 5-16, 2017. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Crawford, Merja and Owen voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE

Kevin Johnson reported that the letter Williams Brother Construction received on January 8, 2017 with a list of items that needed to be done in order to get partial substantial completion, has not been done. The last two items are programming on the HVAC systems and the main

electrical switch gear needs some programming done. As of now, the HVAC has been completed and the switch should be fixed tomorrow.

Mr. Johnson reported that Williams Brother Construction is back and they are starting on the drying beds. They will be pouring concrete Wednesday or Thursday and expect to have them done in six weeks. There are still some issues that need to be resolved.

Mr. Johnson stated that there is a pay request for Williams Brother Construction to be approved tonight. The punch list was not completed so liquidated damages have been deducted. There is also a pay request from WESTECH, they are basically done.

Mr. Johnson explained that the lagoon is taking in water, we need to get that under control. He stated that there is a ditch and a culvert around the lagoon, they are currently plugged and need to be cleaned so the water starts flowing again.

Mr. Johnson stated that eventually we are going to need to remove the sludge from the lagoon, we may have to work with the EPA to do it. He also stated that we need to reduce the I/I, it continues to be an ongoing problem.

Council Member Owen asked why Williams Brother Construction does not agree with the pay request. Mr. Johnson replied that DOWL has to follow the letter of the contract. He stated that they can object to it all they want but partial substantial completion was not achieved. He stated that they are holding \$300,000 and there is \$600,000 left of work in the contract.

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON CRUZ-IN EVENTS - RICH LUSKY

Rich Lusky requested to be able to use the parking lot at the Visitors Center for the Road Kill Car Club car shows from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on the following dates:

June 14, 2017

July 12, 2017

August 9, 2017

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

VOTE ON PAY REQUEST #18 - WILLIAMS BROTHER CONSTRUCTION

A motion to approve Pay Request No. 18 was made by Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Owen, Crawford and Merja voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

VOTE ON PAY REQUEST - WESTECH

Mayor Conatser directed council's attention to change order #1. He stated that that change to switch to stainless steel for the clarifiers was made before the project started. He appreciated the fact that there was not a change order every week.

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

VOTE ON AMENDED SERVICE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT - DOWL

Mayor Conatser stated that DOWL is asking to change the oversight at the Waste Water Treatment Plant because of the additional time it is going to take to finish the project. Finance Officer Rogers stated that Rural Development will also need to approve the request.

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

VOTE ON REVOLVING LOAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - EAST SLOPE VETERINARY CLINIC

Mayor Conatser stated that an application has been received from Craig Moore/East Slope Veterinary Clinic. It is the recommendation of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee to approve the loan.

A motion to accept the recommendation of the Revolving Loan Committee to approve the loan was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Owen, Crawford and Merja voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mayor Conatser reported that he spoke with Public Works Director Maples. They have been working on filling potholes. The patching machine has been rebuilt and is being used.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers stated that Mayor Conatser's as well as Council Members Merja and Crawford's terms are up this year. The date to file is April 20, 2017.

Finance Officer Rogers reported that there is a bill on the Governor's desk that will not require uncontested races to go to election, as long as there are no write-ins that have filed. We would have to do a resolution in order to not hold an election. She stated that we budget \$3000 for each election.

Council Member Merja asked if we have to put the Port Authority on the ballot. Finance Officer Rogers replied that state statute allows us to set up a Port Authority with 2 mills without having to have an election. She further stated that Mayor Conatser is working on putting the board together. Mayor Conatser stated that so far, we have Blair Patton, Mary Sexton, Steve Dogiakos and Corlene Martin. He is waiting for an answer from the other potential board member.

Finance Officer Rogers explained that the street budget is still at 60 percent used but we are over budget on fuel.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Merja reported that the playground committee met with the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus. The circus will be in town the 27th of June. The playground fundraiser will make more money from pre-sales but they will also raise funds from gate sales. They are looking at some more fundraisers.

Council Member Merja stated that he has gotten good feedback about the Port Authority.

Council Member Owen reported that she is looking into recycling electronics for the community clean-up.

Council Member Owen stated that last weekend was the final weekend of the ski run. She stated that they had a good year.

Mayor Conatser reported that there will be a swim meet in Choteau June 17 & 18, 2017.

ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR MARCH 2017

Name	Address	Description
Mark Donaldson	711 8 th Avenue NW	Deck
Douglas DuBois	850 E. Division Street	Fence

CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for March in the amount of \$172,140.25 was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Crawford, Merja and Owen voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Lusky suggested the City put the garbage containers in the Park. He was there with his grandchildren and they packed out a bag full of trash. He also stated that the kids missed the walking bridge.

Steve Dogiakos reported that the VisitChoteau.com website will hopefully be up by the end of the month, there are two excellent designs to choose from. It will also include a Choteau brand that can be used for any city correspondence.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Merja, Owen and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer