

# **CITY OF CHOTEAU**

**PO BOX 619**

**CHOTEAU, MT 59422-0619**

**406-466-2510**

## **OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 8, 2017 MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

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

Citizens present were Micah Martin, Mark Major, Eva Anseth, Brian Carlson and Beth Barlow.

### **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 July 18, 2017 meeting changing September to June for the months of the minutes being approved was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

### **REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE**

None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE**

Public Works Director Maples reported that Williams Brother Construction is off site as of August 2, 2017. The punch list has been completed and everything is running good. They are pumping water from the lagoon to the drying beds. The lift station was plugged but is doing better with the higher flows. WesTech will be coming at the end of the month to flow test the ditch and we are still having programming issues.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

## VOTE ON PAY REQUEST #19 - WILLIAMS BROTHER CONSTRUCTION

A motion to approve Pay Request No. 19 in the amount of \$641,367.64 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford.

Council Member Owen asked about the clarifier covers not being complete. She asked if that has been taken out of the pay request. Public Works Director Maples replied that the pieces that were made don't fit. There is an issue with the fabricator but they do not know who gave them the incorrect information. They are working it out.

The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## VOTE ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 314 - LAND USE ORDINANCE

Mayor Conatser read proposed Ordinance No. 314. It states that the City of Choteau will follow federal guidelines for the promotion of health, safety and morals.

A motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance No. 314 was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## VOTE ON AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN QUIT CLAIM DEED - JUSTIN LEE, BURK LEE & BIELER

Mayor Conatser explained that years ago, the city acquired an alley with the Sherburne Addition. Our sewer currently runs down that alley. On the west side of the alley, there is a strip of land that was not included with the Sherburne Addition. The city is being asked to sign a Quit Claim Deed on the property (approximately 50 feet) west of the alley.

Public Works Director Maples asked how far west is it from the center line of the alley. Mayor Conatser replied that the alley is 12 feet. Public Works Director Maples stated that the crew pushes snow onto that property.

A motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## VOTE ON AUTHORIZATION TO PLACE DELINQUENT WATER CHARGES ON PROPERTY TAXES

Finance Officer Rogers explained that there are currently four customers that are having trouble paying their water bills. We are allowed by state statute to apply these charges to their property taxes. We have sent them letters giving them 30 days to rectify the situation and we have not heard from any of them.

A motion to authorize placement of delinquent water charges on property taxes was made by Council member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for July in the amount of \$805,711.91 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Maples reported that they fixed a large water leak by the elementary school. There was a large amount of water used for the month of July, we are still experiencing a loss of approximately 30 percent.

Public Works Director Maples stated that he is looking at a new way to rehab some of our streets. He explained that he has found a 2011 Road Hog Asphalt Grinder that will grind up the existing road bed, inject oil into the grindings and re-apply it. The equipment he is looking at is in Denver for a cost of \$40,000. He stated that Finance Officer Rogers is working on the possibility of getting a grant and a loan.

Public Works Director Maples reported that we are about ready to sign for the GIS grant.

## FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers stated that we received the assessments from the Department of Revenue. The mills went up slightly from \$2043, this year they are \$2060 per mill. She will be recommending that there be no increases this year on anything. We might have to do something on street lights next year, depending on what NorthWestern Energy does on their property taxes.

Finance Officer Rogers reported that we were approved for the TA grant for our sidewalk project. It looks like a year before we might be able to get started.

Finance Officer Rogers reported that she attended a meeting in Great Falls today. It was presented by the Local Government Center, the MMIA and the Montana League of Cities and Towns. Also in attendance were the some of the governor’s main department heads. She spoke with the Deputy Director of the DEQ who asked her to have Mike Maples call Mike Abrahamson to brainstorm on some ideas for the lagoon. She also made some good contacts for the Port Authority, the Chamber of Commerce and for the city.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

None

**ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR JULY 2017**

Name	Address	Description
Lisa Pieper	206 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SW	Fence
Jessi Collyer	704 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NW	Fence
Chad Peebles	311 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue NW	Fence

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Micah Martin asked if public input will be accepted on Ordinance No. 314. Finance Officer Rogers replied that there will be a public hearing. He asked if any of the members of council have read the 180,000 pages of documents on federal regulations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

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John W. Conatser, Mayor

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Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer