

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2016 MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

Staff present was Deputy Clerk Mary Corey and Public Works Director Lindsay Talkington.

Citizens present were Patrick Kruse of the Teton County Sheriff's Office; Eric Gunderson of the Teton County Airport Board; Beth Barlow of the Stage Stop Inn; Micah Martin and Nate White.

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 January 5, 2016 meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

Council Member Lannen requested to be out of state January 20-23, 2016. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VOTE ON PLEDGED SECURITIES

A motion to approve the pledged securities was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE

Mayor Conatser explained that each year we are required to update our Administrative Order on Consent by the 31st of January for the DEQ. A motion to approve Kevin's letter to the DEQ was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The law enforcement reports for November and December 2015 as well as the annual recap were submitted for Council's review.

CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

There was no City Judge's report submitted.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Talkington reported that the crew has been busy removing snow and sanding streets. He further reported that they dug a ditch up in the Country Club Addition to try to get rid of the excess water. They are currently sending it into the sewer. Council Member Owen asked if the water was tested for chlorine. Mayor Conatser replied that samples were taken at three different locations and it is definitely a spring. They are trying to figure out a long term solution for getting rid of the water. The mayor and council thanked the crew for all of their hard work.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers was excused.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser stated that there will be a conference in Bozeman in March if anyone would like to attend.

Mayor Conatser reported that he and Public Works Director Talkington will be sitting down with Jack Reiding. Mr. Reiding would like to start composting again.

Council Member Merja reported that there was a playground meeting last Monday. They are looking at different options for fundraising. He stated that two of the local auctioneers are willing to volunteer their time for an auction. He further stated that there will be a meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016. Before the meeting, they will be getting together with some of the other community groups to get some ideas.

Council Member Lannen stated that he and Mayor Conatser attended a meeting in Great Falls put on by the Montana League of Cities and Towns. He stated that there was a lot of good information and encourages others to attend in the future.

Council Member Owen stated that she has been working on recycling, hopefully in conjunction with our community clean-up day. She stated that she spoke with Pacific Steel & Recycling and Steel Etc. Of the two, Steel Etc. does not recycle electronics. She also found a gentleman in Billings that recycles textiles. She would like to have the community clean-up the same time each year. She also reported that getting a rail car from BNSF for scrap recycling will be expensive plus the scrap will have to be prepared before it is put into the rail car. Council Member Crawford stated that Pacific talked about getting a rail car up here so it might be a good idea to talk to them about it. Council Member Lannen stated that we do need to try to work with Steel Etc. They are going out of their way to provide us with recycling containers and emptying them for us. Council Member Owen further stated that she has received another compliment on the extended recycling hours.

Mayor Conatser reported that there will be a zoning meeting here on February 1st from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Gunderson expressed the need to replace Ray Anderson on the Airport Board. Mayor Conatser replied that he has a few names he is working on and hopes to have an answer soon.

Beth Barlow stated that there will be a tourism meeting at the Stage Stop Inn on February 4th at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Mary E. Corey, Deputy Clerk