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City of Choteau

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16, 2015 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 Kelly Hirsch.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; Lindy Troy & Brooke Richins, playground organizers; Steve Gjerde of the Teton County Sheriff's Office; JC Ellender representing Cole & Dusty Smith; and Rich Lusky.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC HEARING - FY 2015 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Mayor Conatser opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Finance Officer Rogers stated that we received a \$5000 local grant to help cover the cost of updating the Growth Policy so she increased the planning budget. County Fire reimbursed the city for utilities etc so she put those funds in capital improvements for a new fire truck. She is waiting for the NW Energy bill to arrive so she will know how much, if any, she will need to increase the street light budget, it looks like street lighting may need to be increased next fiscal year. In street maintenance, there were more potholes and streets fixed so there were more materials purchased. The GOB sewer was paid off so the money goes into the general fund, the same with the GOB fire truck. There were a few extras done in the Pavilion so that money is being transferred out of capital improvements to Capital Improvement Pavilion. The \$2000 in solid waste is monies coming in from late fees.

Mayor Conatser closed the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES



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June 2, 2015 meeting was made by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting

aye.

REUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 794 - AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 BUDGET

A motion to approve Resolution No. 794 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON AUDIT CONTRACT

Finance Officer Rogers explained that the contract amount with the new auditor will be lower than the last firm. The new auditor used to work for the Department of Administration and is very good about answering questions. She knows a number of communities that use him and they are all happy with him. A motion to approve the new audit contract with Strom and Associates was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUEST TO RUN FIREWORKS STAND IN CITY LIMITS - COLE AND DUSTY SMITH

Mayor Conatser stated that a request to run a fireworks stand in the city limits has been received from Cole & Dusty Smith. JC Ellender stated that Cole & Dusty are teachers wishing to make some extra money this summer. They would like to sell the fireworks at the Chateau Mountain View Campground. Mayor Conatser asked if they have insurance. Mr. Ellender believes they do and will provide a copy of the certificate. Council Member Merja asked what the zoning is at the campground. Council Member Lannen replied that it is zoned Highway Business. Council Member Owen asked if there was any concern with the Booster Club. Finance Officer Rogers replied that selling fireworks is their only fundraiser for the year. A motion to allow Cole & Dusty Smith to sell fireworks in the City Limits was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Member Merja requested they provide proof of insurance. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

There are a few different items that need to be addressed on the winning bid documents from RC Scott Enterprises. One page is in need of a signature and a couple of white out corrections need to be initialed. A motion to accept the bid from RC Scott Enterprises for the sidewalk project, with the appropriate corrections, 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 June was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

There was no Law Enforcement Report submitted. Undersheriff Gjerde stated that the deputies are now spending more time in town and less on the highways. Mayor Conatser stated that the coverage over the last year or year and a half has been a lot better and thanked Undersheriff Gjerde.

CITY JUDGEØS REPORT

The City JudgeØs report for May was submitted for councils review.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORØS REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that the crew has been busy patching potholes.

FINANCE OFFICERØS REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that we need to start scheduling budget meetings. The same committee as last year agreed to do it again.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser stated that he received a letter from Lindy Troy that was too late to make the agenda. She is requesting the city to allow The Party Place/Kids Fun Zone to set up a carnival in the proposed location of the new playground the 3rd through 5th of July. Moms for the Park would receive the first day of earnings to go towards playground equipment. In discussing the



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meeting to vote on it. The meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m.

Council Member Lannen asked how we were coming on the sewer project. Finance Officer Rogers replied that she met with a lady from Rural Development yesterday to work with her on how all this is to be reported. We are waiting for the bonds to be approved.

Mayor Conatser reported that there will be a Zoning meeting at 7:00 a.m. on the 23rd.

Mayor Conatser reported that weed letters will go out tomorrow. He stated that we may have to use local lawn care services this year as our crew is trying to keep up with City property.

Mayor Conatser stated that the Tree & Sidewalk Board agreed to the proposed tree removals in the park for the new playground. The trees will be removed on an as needed basis.

Council Member Merja was asked if the playground was going to be done by next year for the baseball tournaments. He also was asked if there is anything that can be done about the aphids at the campground. Short of spraying every tree in town, that is not even guaranteed, there is nothing that can be done.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ellender discussed the possibility of asking the State to put up a sign in Wolf Creek, near the Augusta turn off sign showing the way to Glacier Park. It would benefit both Augusta and Choteau. He thinks the request would hold more weight coming from the Chambers of Commerce in both communities as well as the mayor and council.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer