

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2, 2015 MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

Staff present was Public Works Director Kelly Hirsch and Finance Officer Jodi Rogers.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha and Brooke Richins of the Playground Project.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING - 2014 MONTANA DNRC FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE**

Mayor Conatser opened the public hearing at 7:00.

Mayor Conatser made sure everyone has read the ordinance. Being no comments, Mayor Conatser closed the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2015 meeting was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

**REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE**

Council Member Merja requested to be out of state June 19-27, 2015. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## VOTE ON PLAYGROUND DESIGN - BROOKE RICHINS

Ms. Richins stated that design day was last week. The proposed location will be on the east side of the Pavilion, the tear drop shape piece of property near the walking path. There will also need to be some trees removed. Some of them need to be removed anyway as they are dead or in fear of falling. She stated that they have raised almost \$4000 in the last week. They have started a fundraiser selling fence pickets and are also looking at other fundraisers. At this point, she showed a picture of the proposed design. Council Member Owen asked if the grass would need to be removed. Ms. Richins replied that it would and will be replaced with ADA compliant materials. Finance Officer Rogers stated that the proposed area has a sprinkler system. Various members stated that it would have to be removed. Council Member Merja asked Public Works Director Hirsch if there is a drawing of where the sprinklers are. He replied that there is. She stated that all of the work will be done by volunteers. She stated that she is trying to get hold of Paul Wick on Flood Plain issues. She mentioned that she has had people ask what will happen with the existing park. If council agrees, they would like to raise the money to put a sand volleyball court there. Finance Officer Rogers stated that the existing playground is unsafe and according to our insurance company, should be removed. Council Member Owen asked if the new playground will be covered under our insurance, Mayor Conatser replied that it would be. What would happen is, when the playground is built, it will be given to the City and our insurance will cover it. Council Member Owen asked about maintenance. Ms. Richins replied that they will receive a packet after the playground is done with annual maintenance suggestions. She thinks there might be volunteers to do that. Council Member Owen stated that something should be put in place to make sure it is done. Finance Officer Rogers stated that the committee should stay active for a while to address these issues. Ms. Richins stated that the materials that will be used will last 30 plus years.

A motion to approve the playground design and location was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## VOTE ON SECOND READING FLOODPLAIN UPDATE

A motion to approve the second reading of the floodplain update was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON YIELD SIGNS ON 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET SW

Mayor Conatser stated that he spoke with Undersheriff Gjerde. He has not seen a police report to know if they have been down there or no. He explained that he has been down there quite a bit and has not seen a patrol car. Council Member Crawford also went and checked out the situation. She feels that what we need are stop signs at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW and the one at the Mini Park. Hopefully they will start using 7<sup>th</sup>. She also went down 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW and you can see all the way down the street. There are no parked cars or anything to hide a child that might run out into the street. Council discussed the issue further and decided to place stop signs at the Mini Park. A motion to make the intersection at the Mini Park, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SW and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW, a 4-way stop was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## NEW BUSINESS

### VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 793 - ADOPTING 2014 MT DNRC FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 793 was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

### VOTE CONFIRMING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR WASTEWATER PROJECT

Mayor Conatser asked if there were any questions on the additional funding. Finance Officer Rogers reported that we are looking at the possibility of another \$400,000 from SRF in forgivable loans. A motion to approve the additional funding from Rural Development was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

### VOTE ON RECOMMENDATION OF AWARD TO WILLIAMS BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENT UPON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SRF CONCURRENCE

A motion to award the contract to Williams Brothers Construction contingent upon Rural Development and SRF concurrence was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Member Owen asked what would happen if Rural Development and SRF do not concur. Mayor Conatser replied that we don't do the project. She stated that would not be very likely. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for May 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 Hirsch reported that the crew has been busy fixing a water leak, cleaned the UV lights, swept streets & gutters, cleaned out storm drains, sent a load of recycling, hauled brush and manned the community cleanup dumpsters. Council Member Owen asked if there had been any problems. He replied just the people that are bringing large loads of junk. Mayor Conatser stated that he spoke with Ron Collyer of N.M.J.R.D.D. and he got him to agree to not charge the city for tonnage, just the trucking.

#### FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers stated that we have had the same auditor for a number of years. She has been approached by another auditor that is less costly and used to work for the Department of Administration. He currently audits Fairfield and Conrad is looking at using him. Finance Officer Rogers stated that she feels he will be more helpful when we have questions and he will be very thorough. Council stated that it should be her decision, whoever she feels more comfortable with and can get the help she needs.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser reported that they had their first board meeting with Benefis Teton Medical Center. He stated that the representative from Benefis is impressed with Choteau, our city and our people.

#### ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR MAY 2015

Name	Address	Description
None		

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. 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