

City of Choteau
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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21, 2016 MEETING
OF THE CHOTEAU CITY COUNCIL

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

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

Citizens present were Beth Barlow of the Choteau Tourism & Economic Development Committee; Mike Mills and Dave Gibson of 3 Rivers Communications; Gordy Loverink of the Choteau Visitors Center; Jim Patterson of DOWL; Micah Martin and Nate White.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 7, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON TBID SUPPORT - TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - BETH BARLOW

Beth Barlow explained that she has been trying to contact Mr. Gunther, owner of the Gunther Motel and Big Sky Motel. He is trying to sell his properties and is not interested in participating

at this time. The Stage Stop Inn is the only one that will be participating. Trustees will be Beth Barlow, Tom Frownfelder and Gordon Loverink. Barb Bouma will also be an active participant.

The Stage Stop Inn will collect a one-dollar fee per stay per night fee, excluding monthly rentals. Quarterly reports will be given to the City with the check. A resolution of intent will be presented at the next meeting. The Stage Stop Inn would start collecting fees the first of August.

Council Member Merja asked what they are planning to do with the money. Ms. Barlow replied that they will be presenting a budget and work plan. They will be working on promoting Choteau, could be used for the walking path, beautify Main Avenue, etc. They would present a request to the City for any project requested.

A motion to move forward with the TBID process was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION WITH 3 RIVERS COMMUNICATIONS - MIKE MILLS

Mike Mills explained how the internet is currently obtained, wireless, phone line or fiber optics. Choteau currently has copper (phone line) connections to homes. Problems can be broken lines and filters. The best way to obtain the internet right now is hard wired into a modem but most people want wireless. He stated that wireless AC is the new big thing. Most new phones and tablets are compatible but it has trouble penetrating walls.

Mr. Mills stated that Netflix uses a lot of bandwidth. The use of other devices (computers, cellphones, tablets, etc) slows everything down. Users need to call 3 Rivers if they are having issues. He explained that he can get more bandwidth to customers, it is just a matter of costing more money.

Mayor Conatser asked when fiber optics will be available in Choteau. Dave Gibson replied that it will not be in five years but if a Choteau business wants it they can do it. But, they have to prioritize with all of their customers, especially the rural customers.

VOTE ON APPLICATION TO CLOSE STREET - AMERICAN LEGION POST #6

Mayor Conatser stated that an application to close 1st Avenue NW between 1st and 2nd Streets NW for the night of July 3, 2016 was received from the American Legion. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$495.34 was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The Law Enforcement Reports for April and May 2016 were submitted for Council's review.

CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

There was no reported submitted.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS REPORT

Public Works Director Maples reported that the crew patched potholes, trimmed trees along Main Avenue, swept streets, worked on flushing the sewer mains, moved all the grass and leaves to the compost site, fixed a leak on Main Avenue N in front of the library and cleaned up limbs from the last storm.

Mr. Maples further reported that on the 17th of June, 280 goats were released into the 5-6 acre area north of the Richem pump house to eat the grass and noxious weeds growing there. He is also working with the DEQ on updating our gravel pit permit. Williams Brother construction continues to haul gravel for the waste water treatment plant.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that she is working on year end.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Merja reported that the Disc Golf sign is up. He further reported that the playground drawing is almost complete.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Micah Martin presented a gift to the council of books and discussed the denial of the fireworks stand at the last meeting.

Nate White likes the idea of using the goats to control the grass and weeds. He further stated that he is organizing a community information meeting and would like council to participate. He feels that it will benefit all of Choteau. He would like to meet with the Mayor to discuss it.

Jim Patterson stated that about 9000 cubic yards of gravel have been removed from the pit for the coffer dam, they are having trouble with getting laborers, the mason will not be here until next week.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer