

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2016 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 Finance Officer Jodi Rogers. Public Works Director Mike Maples was excused.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; Richard Neal II and Mike Maeder of Liberty Fireworks; Cole Smith of Bomber Fireworks; Darrell Smith of the Choteau Mountain View Campground; James Patterson of DOWL; Marion Passmore and Jennifer Stutz of Stutz & Passmore; Beth Barlow of the Stage Stop Inn; Lorraine DeBruycker and Julie Shepherd of the Choteau Booster Club; and Rich Lusky.

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 May 3, 2016 and May 19, 2016 meetings 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

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE

Jim Patterson reported that Williams Brother has the project 48 percent completed and has used 63 percent of the time. They have had staffing issues and some delivery problems. They installed the piping to and from the scum and site lift stations; formed and poured the flow channels through the headworks building; leak tested clarifier #2; formed and poured the oxidation ditch outlet box; installed the electrical conduit around the pump building and oxidation ditch; formed and poured the concrete pads for the generator, transformer and main switch gear; installed the 14" influent line to the oxidation ditch and modified the UV inlet/outlet splitter box.

Mr. Patterson further reported that Williams Brother is building an earthen coffer dam (at their expense) in the lagoon to allow the work in Area C (sludge ponds and drying beds) to proceed concurrent with work in Areas A and B. This should speed up the project completion. They will need the City to pump out approximately two million gallons of water into the old lagoon. Finance Officer Rogers asked if we can use our time and equipment towards our \$140,000 match. Mr. Patterson replied that we could. Mayor Conatser stated that we will need to have the trucks that are hauling gravel use a different road than Airport Road.

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON PAY REQUEST #10 - WILLIAMS BROTHER CONSTRUCTION

Council Member Lannen asked what the Department of Revenue Gross Receipt Tax is. Finance Officer Rogers explained that they have to pay a one percent tax directly off the top of what we are going to pay them.

A motion to approve pay request #10 was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON SOROPTIMIST 4TH OF JULY REQUEST

Mayor Conatser reported that a letter was received from the Choteau Soroptimists. They are requesting assistance in renting port-a-potties for the park during the Summer Festival on July 2, 2016. They are asking for a donation of \$125 to help cover the cost of one.

Mayor Conatser stated there is also another note in the packet stating that the City owns and maintains the restrooms across the creek in the campground. There are three stalls for women and three for men.

A motion to deny the request was made by Council Member Merja seconded by Council Member Lannen. Council Member Merja stated that he does not want to set precedence, we do

not have the funds to be able to help everyone. Finance Officer Rogers does not want to set precedence also. She stated that the City does a lot over the 4th. We pay the crew overtime to dump containers and clean restrooms. Council Member Lannen stated that we do a lot already. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON FIREWORKS STAND AT MOUNTAIN VIEW CAMPGROUND - COLE & DUSTI SMITH

Cole Smith thanked council for allowing them to have the stand last year. This year they would like to give back to the community and make a donation to the playground fund.

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

VOTE ON FIREWORKS STAND NEXT TO ECONOWASH LAUNDRY MAT - RICHARD NEAL II

Mayor Conatser stated that a request had been received to have a fireworks stand next to the Econo Wash laundry mat.

Mike Maeder of Liberty Fireworks stated that he has been in the business for 27 years. He stated that they were originally going to work with the school but they had already made other plans. He stated that they have a one million dollar insurance policy.

Council Member Merja asked if the proposed stand is 30 feet from the public roadway and 50 feet from the nearest residence. Mr. Maeder replied that it is. Council Member Merja then asked if he had spoken to the other business owners in the area, the ones that park behind the building. Mr. Maeder replied that they have a signed contract with the property owner. Mr. Neal stated that he spoke with them.

Jennifer Stutz questioned that they spoke with the other building owners in the area. She stated that no one had spoken to them or the other neighbors. Mr. Neil replied that he had spoken with Black Sheep Sports. Ms. Stutz asked when to which he replied it was just before the meeting. Ms. Stutz stated that she does not wish to have the stand there. She explained that if one of the buildings catches fire, all of them will go up. She further stated that they are not just businesses, one of the buildings has apartments upstairs. How are they going to be 50 feet from the building. She asked the City deny their request.

Julie Shepherd explained that the letter sent by Mr. Neal to the City stated that the school was on board with their donation, Mr. Neal had not spoken with the school before that letter was written. Mr. Neal attempted to dispute that fact. Ms. Shepherd stated that the school already runs a

fireworks stand and donates 100 percent to the Booster Club. This is their sole fund raiser. Mr. Maeder stated that they would donate 10 percent to the school. Ms. Shepherd stated that there is already one other stand in town, they lost 30 percent in sales last year, 10 percent would not make up for that. Mr. Maeder then stated that they can get excellent wholesale prices.

A motion to deny the request because of input from the community was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. Council Member Lannen does not like where the stand would be located. It is too close to the bars. Council Member Merja was concerned about it being so close to the street dance on the night of the 3rd. Council Member Owen wants to support the Booster Club. She feels there are enough stands in town already. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATION - CHAD EKEGREN

Mayor Conatser explained that Mike Maples is currently on the Zoning Board. He feels that it would be a conflict of interest for him to remain on the board.

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

VOTE ON MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION OF CITY ATTORNEY

Mayor Conatser stated that City Attorney Bieler is starting to run into conflicts of interest with some clients and feels it would be better if he were to step down as City Attorney. It is his recommendation to hire Stutz & Passmore effective July 1, 2016.

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

VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 804 - MODIFY CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FEES

Mayor Conatser explained that Resolution No. 804 would eliminate the 35 percent residential building plan review fee and would raise Mr. Harlan's residential fee to 85 percent with the City getting the remaining 15 percent. It does not affect the commercial building permits.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 804 was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for May in the amount of \$490,486.46 was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Public Works report included: trimmed trees, patched potholes, planted 11 trees, cleaned areas of the park, swept streets, helped replace a water service line, started flushing the sewer system, mowed grass, manned the city wide clean-up operations and transferred leaves and grass to the new compost site. He further reported that Charles Joslyn and Levi Warehime attended water operator training in Great Falls provided by Montana Rural Water.

Council Member Merja stated that he has received more compliments about Mike being out working with the crew and how friendly everyone is.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that she is working on the budget. She stated that the Mayor and Council will need to prioritize projects such as the walking path, bridge that needs to be fixed, etc.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Merja reported that he thinks he will have everything ready for the next meeting so he can live stream it. He will be streaming to the Choteau Acantha Facebook page and archiving it to YouTube.

Council Member Owen reported that the clean-up was a success. The electronics will be recycled in California and the plastics will go to China. She was hoping we might be able to figure out a way to take care of the electronics more than one time a year. She also hopes to keep the dates pretty close each year. Mayor Conatser thanked Dan Isakson for taking all of the appliances to Great Falls for recycling.

Mayor Conatser stated that he received a letter from Rick Kerr II expressing concerns about the length of time people are allowed to sell and shoot off fireworks. He is concerned about the dog population and how it affects them.

Mayor Conatser reported that he and Public Works Director Maples received a thank you card from the Teton County Conservation District for helping them with the kids cleaning up the park.

ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR MAY 2016

Name	Address	Description
Terri Tew	314 1 st Street NE	Fence
Dennis Blauer	405 E Division Street	Garage

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beth Barlow of the Tourism and Economic Development board stated that they are looking to set up a Port Authority in Choteau. They will be proposing a 4 mill levy and will have a joint city/county meeting to discuss putting it on the ballot in November. With the funding, they would hire a person to promote Choteau and Teton County and hopefully help Choteau grow.

Beth Barlow stated that they are applying for a grant for tourism marketing. She is requesting a letter of support and hopefully a donation to go to the matching funds portion of the grant.

She would also like to be on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss a TBID (Tourism Business Improvement District). She will need to work closely with the City as the monies would run through the City. If approved, it would assess a one dollar per night stay fee to promote tourism. It would affect only the Stage Stop Inn, Big Sky Motel and the Gunther Motel.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer