

**City of Choteau**  
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**406-466-2510**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2015 MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

Staff present was Deputy Clerk Mary Corey and Public Works Director Kelly Hirsch. Finance Officer Jodi Rogers was excused.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; Ken Meyer and Ron Daley of the Choteau Baseball Commission.

**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 March 3, 2015 meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

**REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE**

Council Member Lannen requested to be out of state March 31 - April 4, 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**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**VOTE ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT - GROWTH POLICY UPDATE**

Mayor Conatser explained that the City will be working in conjunction with Teton County since we have a Joint City/County Planning Board. The contract would be with Kathleen McMahon in the amount of \$8530.00. The Growth Policy needs to be updated every five years. Doing this jointly will save the city a few hundred dollars each time Ms. McMahon comes to Choteau. He reported that \$5,000 of the \$8,530 cost will come from a Vibrant Futures grant. Council Member Owen asked if the \$8,350 is the city portion or if it will be split with the county. Mayor Conatser replied that it is our portion. Council Member Crawford stated that it is important to have the Growth Policy in place as this is how we are able to get some of our funding. A motion to move forward with the agreement with Professional Services for the Growth Policy update was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

#### DISCUSSION ON GOPHER PROBLEM

Ken Wilson explained that the Choteau Baseball Commission purchased a Rodenator system to kill gophers at the ball fields. It works with oxygen and propane to kill anything that is in the gopher tunnels. A wand is inserted into one of the holes and the gasses are ignited with a wireless remote. It should not affect the underground sprinkler system. They are also looking at the areas immediately surrounding the ball fields, the campground, park, soccer fields, rodeo grounds, Weatherbeater Building, etc. They are also looking at the possibility of allowing the city to use it. Mayor Conatser stated that he will contact our insurance company to make sure this would not be a problem. Council Member Merja stated that they might want to make sure the onlookers are not too close when they are operating the equipment.

Mayor Conatser stated that he has been looking at the Parks and Recreation budget. There are no extra funds this year but he is proposing to increase the budget by \$500 for the next fiscal year to help the Baseball Commission defray the cost of the equipment and keep our park in good condition. A motion to table the proposal until the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 2015 meeting was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The Law Enforcement Report for February 2015 was submitted for Council's review.

#### CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

The City Judge's report for February 2015 was submitted for Council's review.

## PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that the crew cleaned sewer mains, patched potholes and sent a load of recycling. He stated that by the end of the week they will have hauled 1100 loads of gravel and we sold 10 of the recycle binnies.

## FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Jodi Rogers was excused.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser reported that there will be a Zoning Board meeting tomorrow from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Conatser reported that he and Mayor Fifield of Fairfield are working together to facilitate an equipment exchange. They will be borrowing our little grader and we will be using their street sweeper.

Mayor Conatser reported that there will be a Sheriff's Office contract meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 10:00 at the Sheriff's Office conference room.

Council Member Merja asked if the City hired Asplundh to trim trees in Choteau. Mayor Conatser replied that they were hired by North Western Energy to trim the trees by the power lines.

Mayor Conatser stated that we need to revive the Parks and Recreation Board.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Melody Martinsen stated that the Fireworks Fundraiser will be held on April 4, 2015 at the City Park.

Council Member Owen reported that the Teton Pass Ski Resort will be closing on Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

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John W. Conatser, Mayor

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Mary E. Corey, Deputy Clerk