

City of Choteau
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**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2017 MEETING
OF THE CHOTEAU CITY COUNCIL**

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

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

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; Kristi Kline of Montana Rural Water Systems; Steve Dogiakos of the Choteau Chamber/Economic Development Workgroup; Paul Wick, Teton County Planner; Paul Dreyer; Nate White, Jeanette (Tootie) Rasmussen and Sandra Dogiakos.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Conatser called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENTATION ON WELL HEAD PROTECTION DOCUMENT - KRISTI KLINE -
MONTANA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS**

Kristi Kline gave the final presentation on the updating of our Wellhead Protection Document.

Paul Wick gave a presentation on the GIS maps available on the Teton County website and showed the different layers that were available. He also discussed the possibility of linking the maps to the City's website and Facebook page.

PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDING FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

Mayor Conatser opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m. Being no further comment, Mayor Conatser closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2017 meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. Council Members Lannen, Owen and Merja voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

Council Member Lannen requested to be out of state March 29 through April 9, 2017. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen. Council Members Merja, Owen and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VOTE ON SECOND READING ORDINANCE #312 - AMENDED FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

Mayor Conatser explained that the only part of the ordinance being changed is the section on when fireworks can be discharged, the date of sales is not changing. The new hours would be 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. from July 1st through July 2nd and on the 3rd and 4th from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m. the following morning.

Paul Dreyer asked how the ordinance was going to be enforced. Mayor Conatser replied that the Sheriff's Office enforces state codes. It is tough to get any more coverage than that with what we are paying them. He stated that he would try to take care of it himself. He will also bring up the issue at the next contract meeting.

Finance Officer Rogers stated that we can put the information out on the city's Facebook page, our web page and in the Acantha.

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 312 was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Lannen. Council Members Owen, Lannen and Merja voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON WELL HEAD PROTECTION DOCUMENT - KRISTI KLINE - MONTANA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

A motion to approve the Well Head Protection Document was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen.

Council Member Merja asked who will be monitoring the items on the Action Item Table. Ms. Kline replied that both she and the Council will be monitoring it. It is a volunteer plan.

Council Members Lannen, Owen and Merja voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.
VOTE ON RESOLUTION #814 - 2017 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM APPLICATION

A motion to approve Resolution No. 814 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen. Council Members Merja, Owen and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

VOTE ON REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - SATYA YOGA STUDIO

Mayor Conatser stated that an application has been received from Satya Yoga Studio for a loan of \$4500.

A motion to approve the recommendation of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen.

Council Member Merja stated that he will see about adding wording in the application about the loan requestee coming to the council meeting that the loan request is being discussed. He stated that it is the job of the loan committee to reach out to the applicant if they have any questions.

Council Members Merja, Owen and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 816 - INTENT TO CREATE LOCAL PORT AUTHORITY

Finance Officer Rogers stated that the two mills would not be funded until the next budget period.

Steve Dogiakos asked if it were possible to create the board even though it will not be funded until the next fiscal year. Mayor Conatser replied that it would.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 816 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen.

Council Member Merja asked how many people would be on the board. Finance Officer Rogers replied that it would be a five-member board with staggered terms and will be an appointed board.

Mayor Conatser stated that this is a good opportunity to create a board that can bring growth to Choteau. He further stated that we could possibly, in the future, make Fairfield part of the Port Authority and help them too.

Council Members Merja, Lannen and Owen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

There was no Law Enforcement Report submitted.

CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

There was no City Judge's Report submitted.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS REPORT

Public Works Director Maples reported that the grit system will hopefully be working on automatic tomorrow. The issues with the generator transfer switch have not yet been resolved, representatives should be onsite next week. He reported that we had a power outage last week, the only issue was the computer. He will talk with Xylem about installing a battery back-up. He explained that the re-boot time for the computer is about a minute. Given current flows he said it would be best to avoid not pumping for any period of time.

Public Works Director Maples stated that we are still experiencing high flows from ground water and we are still having issues with growing bacteria. The bacteria has plateaued at about 1/3 of the needed population. The learning curve is steep and the time to effect is slow.

Public Works Director Maples reported that the overflow pond liner is detached and floating. He further stated that the Open Cut Mine application came back with two deficiencies that have been addressed.

He reported that the crew is done moving snow, have started patching potholes, grading alleys, sweeping streets and exercising water main valves. He is also looking at alternatives to patching potholes and chip sealing streets.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that the financials are in the council packet. She stated that we will not be getting the cost of living increase (3 percent) on our entitlement money from the state.

Finance Officer Rogers stated that the Fire Department Relief bill that she helped with passed and the Governor has signed it.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Owen asked if we have handouts for customers that want to build fences.

Council Member Owen asked if we are going to have the community cleanup this year. All agreed that we would. It will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Council Member Merja stated that the playground committee is working on fundraisers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Owen, Merja and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer