

CITY OF CHOTEAU

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2017 MEETING OF THE CHOTEAU CITY COUNCIL

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

Staff present was Deputy Clerk Mary Corey. Public Works Director Mike Maples was excused.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; Steve Dogiakos of the Choteau Chamber/Economic Development Workgroup; Kevin Johnson of DOWL; and Beth Barlow.

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 APRIL 18, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Lannen, Crawford and Merja voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

Council Member Merja requested to be out of state June 17 through June 25, 2017.

Council Member Crawford requested to be out of state May 22 through May 27, 2017.

A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Lannen, Merja and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WWTP UPDATE

Kevin Johnson reported that Williams Brother Construction started working on the drying beds on April 3rd. As of April 28th, they have completed one of the many concrete pours required to complete this work. Forms are ready for the additional pours the week of May 1st. It is expected that the deadline of six weeks for completion will be missed.

The remaining work includes fencing, final grading and gravel placement around the project site and general cleanup. The punch list is basically complete.

In a letter dated January 6, 2017, WBC was to have the main electrical switch gear at the treatment plant repaired in order to receive partial substantial completion. This has yet to be done. It is hoped to have it repaired this week.

Groundwater infiltration is extremely high, entering the treatment plant at 800 gallons per minute. The ten-inch pipe gathering flow from the east side of town near the baseball fields is completely full. We have never observed this from this side of town before. The city has identified several mains as major contributors to this high flow. Kevin is looking at different funding options.

On the west side of town, there is a residence with a sump pump located at 7th Avenue NW and 7th Street NW that is discharging water into the sewer. This was disconnected by the owner, with assistance from the city in December of 2012. It is discharging into the sewer again. The city has talked to the owner and this has been stopped.

The ditches around the north and west sides of the lagoon are full of vegetation and not allowing the area to drain. A hired/leased excavator is needed to complete the work and divert the ground water flows.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST MEETING DATES

Mayor Conatser stated that there is very little business that happens during the summer. He suggests that we have only one meeting per month. He proposes we have the meetings June 20th, July 18th and August 15th. Dan stated that the routine claims can be emailed and approved.

A motion to accept the dates as proposed was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Crawford, Merja and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 818 - PORT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Conatser stated that the Resolution No. 818 sets up a five-member board for the Port Authority. The citizens interested are:

Jim Lear - 1 year

Blair Patton - 2 years

Mary Sexton - 3 years

Corlene Martin - 4 years

Steve Dogiakos - 5 years

These would be staggered 5-year terms after the initial rotation.

A motion to approve the appointments was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. Steve Dogiakos reported that he has taken the liberty of creating an email newsletter list for the Port Authority. He will post it to the City's website so that people are aware of it. He has also created a Facebook page for the Port Authority. Council Members Merja, Lannen and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

VOTE ON STREET CLOSURE JULY 3RD - AMERICAN LEGION

Mayor Conatser stated that an application has been received from the American Legion, requesting to have 1st Avenue NW closed from 1st Street NW to 2nd Street NW for their street dance from 6 p.m. on the 3rd until 4 a.m. on the 4th.

A motion to approve the street closure request was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Merja, Crawford and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

VOTE ON STREET CLOSURE JUNE 17 & 18 - CHOTEAU SWIM TEAM

Mayor Conatser explained that the Choteau Swim Team is requesting to have 1st Avenue NW closed from 1st Street NW to Division Street NW from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on the 17th and from 12:00 p.m. until the meet is finished on the 18th of June for the swim meet. They would also like to have the alley closed between the pool and former nursing home building on the 18th.

A motion to approve the requests was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Crawford, Merja and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

CLAIMS

A motion to approve the claims for April in the amount of \$124,179.08 was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Lannen. Council Members Crawford, Lannen and Merja voted aye. Council Member Owen 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 was excused but left a written report.

He reported that they have been experiencing high ground water flows into the wastewater treatment plant. Because of this, they have had to manually assist the lift stations. The high flows are starting to ebb.

He stated that they have identified the issue with the grit system and have bypassed it until the manufacturer can rectify the situation. The lift station generator and transfer switch are working as they should. The UV system is working again.

The total solids and oxygen demand in the ditch seem to be rising. This would suggest that there is a rise in the bacterial activity and population growth.

We are still looking at about a 32 percent loss in the distribution system, down from 36 percent. The crew assisted with a service line repair but that only accounted for a 4 percent loss. The goal is to get the losses below 20 percent.

We received a grant from the Montana Land Information Act for GIS work. It will be used to secure a sub meter GPS for mapping, an additional iPad for data collection and contract assistance with setting up the various databases for the GIS system.

The community clean-up is going well. We have filled one dumpster so far.

The crews have been busy exercising water main valves, patching potholes, picking up branches, mowing city properties, grading alleys and re-routed a major sprinkler line in the park.

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers was excused.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Merja reported that there will be an ice cream social fund raiser for the playground on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the New Life Church. There will be a live and silent auction and games for the kids.

Council Member Merja also reported that there will be a circus in town next month. Pre-sale tickets are available. This is also a fundraiser for the playground.

Council Member Lannen reported that he attended an elected officials workshop in Billings. He stated that it was an excellent conference.

Council Member Lannen further stated that the infrastructure coalition went to bat for the gas tax increase but did not get what the cities and town were hoping for. He stated that this year we received \$19,461. It looks like we will get approximately \$50,000 next year. Our match for the money will be \$973.

Council Member Crawford stated that she will not be running for re-election. She further stated that she has enjoyed her time on the council but she is ready for other things.

Mayor Conatser reported that Sandy Lange passed away. He stated that she was on a lot of boards and the city was extremely lucky to have her. She will be missed.

Mayor Conatser stated that Lee Barhaugh has written a grant to get solar panels on the roof of the library. He further stated that he has contacted NorthWestern Energy to do an energy audit for the library.

Council Member Lannen stated that the City of Malta added a \$4 charge to each water base rate as an insurance program to help customers with service line issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beth Barlow stated that she has been visiting with the art community about purchasing the former Teton County Nursing Home. It is too much money for them to come up with.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Lannen, Merja and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Mary E. Corey, Deputy Clerk