

City of Choteau
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**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2015 MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

Staff present was Finance Officer Jodi Rogers and Public Works Director Kelly Hirsch.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha, Sarah Converse of Sweetgrass Development 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 5, 2015 meeting was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON YIELD SIGNS ON 3RD STREET SW

Mayor Conatser stated that he and Public Works Director Hirsch discussed yield signs today. They decided that if we put up yield signs, it would become a superhighway. Council Member Crawford suggested using stop signs. It might make people go a different route if they have to stop. They discussed a 4-way stop at the mini park. Mayor Conatser stated that according to our code section 10-9-4, the council has the power to do it. Council Member Owen wondered if the stop signs might be better served away from the mini park since that area is already signed for 15 m.p.h. Once a few tickets are issued, people will get the idea. Public Works Director stated

that signs will not work unless they are enforced. His preference would be stop signs as opposed to yield signs. Council Member Owen asked Mayor Conatser if he had spoken with the Sheriff's Office about more patrols. He replied that he will be speaking again with Under Sheriff Gjerde on Thursday. After discussing it further, it was decided to leave the issue on the table until the next meeting. A motion to leave the item on the table was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

FIRST READING FLOODPLAIN UPDATE

Upon the first reading, a motion to approve the first reading of the Floodplain Update was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON APPLICATION TO CLOSE STREET JULY 3RD THROUGH JULY 5TH - LEGION

Mayor Conatser stated that an application has been received from the American Legion to close 1st Avenue NW between 1st Street NW and 2nd Street NW from July 3rd through July 5th. He and Council Member Owen feel that there should be limited hours as opposed to the entire time. He suggests the avenue be closed from 3:00 p.m. to 2 a.m. July 3rd and July 4th. A motion to accept the recommendation from Mayor Conatser was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR DNRC GRANT

Sarah Converse explained that Perry Lindgren called her to discuss a letter sent to him by the DEQ regarding the cleanup of his property here in town. Back in the 90s, tanks were removed by the previous owner and it was never closed out. In the meantime, Mr. Lindgren purchased the property. Consequently, Mr. Lindgren is responsible for the cleanup. As it is petro fund eligible, Mr. Lindgren would be liable for up to \$17,500 of the cost. Ms. Converse stated that the DNRC has a renewable resources grant that can be used to match the grant. The DEQ has approved an extension until August 30, 2015 with no further extensions to be granted. The grant must be applied for by a municipality, Sarah stated that she will write the grant and do her best to help him out. Mayor Conatser thanked her for her help. A motion to allow Sarah Converse to write the DNRC grant was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

DISCUSSION ON ANNUAL CLEAN UP

Public Works Director Hirsch stated that he thought there would be no problem with our request to be able to allow residents to take garbage up to the roll-off site at no charge. N.M.J.R.D.D. feels that we need to do as Conrad and Cut Bank do which is run our garbage truck around town to pick the stuff up and haul it to the roll-off site. Consequently, we have to change how we are going to do the clean-up. If we go with the containers, we will have to hold the clean-up for a longer period of time. Mayor Conatser stated that everyone on the board except Corrine Rose voted against the city's proposal, even our own city representative and county commissioner voted against it. He stated that the dump wanted everything uniform. He stated that if they wanted uniformity, we should be paying what Browning is paying, less per unit than what Choteau is paying. Council discussed possible dates and decided to hold the clean-up May 30th through June 6th, 2015. Mayor Conatser stated that he spoke with the Lions Club and they will be able to help man the sight. A motion to approve May 30th through June 6th as the clean-up dates was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for the first half of May was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

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

CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

There was no City Judge's report submitted.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that the crews cleaned some sewer main lines. One of them backed up and deposited sludge into a couple of basements. They cleaned curbs and gutters and sent a load of recycling. The parks crew, Gary and Greg, are back for the summer. He stated that he ordered trees to plant for Arbor Day. There will be one planted on May 27th at the courthouse at 3:45 with the boy scouts. The sidewalk construction project has gone out for bid.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that she was in Billings in school last week, there were real good classes.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser reported that Finance Officer Rogers and Deputy Clerk Corey have been certified as Certified Montana Municipal Clerks.

Council Member Merja encouraged everyone to attend the playground project meeting on May 26th.

Mayor Conatser reported that the bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant were opened this afternoon. The bids are as follows:

Swank Enterprises	\$8,978,000
Dick Anderson Construction	\$8,992,000
Sletten Construction	\$8,170,000
Williams Brothers Construction	\$6,875,434

Mayor Conatser thanked Ms. Martinsen for keeping a positive attitude in the paper.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Converse stated that there will be an announcement Thursday, May 28th at 9:00 a.m. at the Celtic Cowboy in Great Falls. She also stated that they will be hiring two people.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer