

City of Choteau
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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2016 MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

Staff present was Utility Billing Clerk Rebecca Olsen. Public Works Director Mike Maples and Finance Officer Jodi Rogers were excused.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; Kevin Johnson and Jim Patterson of DOWL; Clayton Ketcham, Dru Hanson, Perri Lindgren, Sherwin Smith, and Tom Rogers of the Choteau Lions Club; Beth Barlow and Mary Sexton of Choteau Economic Development; Rich Lusky, Arlene Wolbaum and Nate White.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Conatser called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2016 Council meeting 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

Mayor Conatser requested to be out of state May 6-16, 2016. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE

Jim Patterson stated that the pay request is for a portion of the lift station wet well. The lift station structure has been placed but there is a lot of work left to go on it. Also the 10 inch forced main that will run from the lift station to the headworks building passed the pressure test. The contractors are about 56 percent on time and 44 percent on costs. They are still working four-ten hour days.

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON PAY REQUEST #6 - WES TECH EQUIPMENT SUPPLY CONTRACT

A motion to approve Pay Request #6 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON PAY REQUEST #9 - WILLIAMS BROTHER CONSTRUCTION

A motion to approve Pay Request #9 was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

UPDATE ON TOURISM BOARD - MARY SEXTON

Mary Sexton reported that they had a very successful workshop last week with the Department of Commerce. Items discussed included Branding for Tourism, Big Sky Trust Fund Grant Program, Questions and Answers with the Montana Department of Transportation specifically signage and sidewalks. They also discussed with MDOT the area around Freezeout Lake. Tourists are not familiar with the area and are parking in a hazardous manner. Signs indicating pullouts would help make it safer. She stated that there are a few groups in town looking at internet speeds, the possibility of a brewery, etc. They are looking at various ways to market Choteau as well as setting up a Port Authority.

CITY CLEAN UP DATES

Council Member Owen stated that the Community Clean-up dates will be May 14-21, 2016. The dumpsters will be located outside the Sheriff's Office, between the tracks. This year we will have separate containers for electronic waste and textiles waste. We will also accept appliances except refrigerators and freezers.

POOL FINANCIAL UPDATE - CLAYTON KETCHUM

Clayton Ketcham explained the financial status of the pool. He stated that payroll is the biggest expense. The Lions Club is having to supplement pool expenses from their accounts. Mr. Ketcham stated that the Lions Club would like to have the City consider helping with some of the expenses. He further stated that he would like to have someone from the City obtain their chemical license, good for five years, as it costs \$400 - \$500 each time they get a new pool manager. Mayor Conatser explained that this is a good time to discuss this as we will be starting the budget process soon. Council Member Lannen stated that the city will need to help. We are fortunate to have the pool that we have. Perri Lindgren stated that the Lions Club would like to be able to more than operate the pool. They would like to be able to help people purchase glasses and hearing aids.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

There was no Law Enforcement report submitted.

CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

There was no City Judge's report submitted.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Maples was excused but provided a written report. He reported that the crew has been picking up branches from the last snow storm, located a leak at the Weatherbeater Building, agreed to haul more gravel for Williams Brother Construction, mapped the boundaries of the gravel pit, worked on the road to the compost site, identified a water leak on Main Avenue at Bridges Coffee Shop, ordered trees, discussed some issues with Montana Rural Water and notified all that the Parks crew has started. Gary Britt and Greg Crabtree are back.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mayor Conatser stated that Finance Officer Rogers is attending Clerks's Institute in Billings.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser stated that the next meeting will be held on May 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in the Teton County Annex Building. They will be discussing the possibility of joint services.

Council Member Merja stated that he and Adam Woith worked last weekend setting the posts for the Folf Course.

CLAIMS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Arlene Wolbaum stated that she previously complained about a neighbor that has sheep and chickens in their yard. She asked if there has been any progress on made on the future of livestock in Choteau. Mayor Conatser replied that the only animals currently not allowed in the city limits by ordinance are pigs.

Nate White expressed concerns about too much lighting (playground, etc.) being proposed for Choteau. He also spoke about the possibility of a biking path in and around Choteau to bring people to town.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Rebecca E. Olsen, Utility Billing Clerk