

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2014 MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Present were Mayor Jack Conatser, Council Member Jill Owen, Council Member Rose Crawford and Council Member Dan Lannen. Council Member Merja arrived at 7:20pm.

City staff members present were Public Works Director Kelly Hirsch and Becky Olsen.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha 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 April 1, 2014 meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Crawford and Owen voted aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

There were no requests to be out of state.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. FEMA Presentation

Mayor Conatser gave a brief recap of the FEMA presentation, which had taken place from 8:30am until approximately 3:00pm at the county annex. The presentation covered the regulations for flood insurance, location of the floodplain, and the consequences of building and /or living in the floodplain.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote on Choteau Country Club Lease. New business consisted of the discussion and approval of the Country Club lease. The 5 year lease was discussed by council. A motion to approve the lease was made by Council member Lannen and seconded by Council member Owen. All present voted aye.

Vote on Street Closure Application. The next order of business was the discussion of the street closure application by the Choteau Swim Team for the July 5th and 6th swim meet. Mayor Conatser explained that the street to be closed will be 1st Ave NW from Division south to 1st St. NW. Hours of closure would be from 7am until 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday. The concern was for the consideration of the neighbors on the block and the Methodist church congregation and whether this action would have a negative impact on these people. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting in order to gather more information.

Vote on Wastewater Treatment Plant Engineering Agreement. The Waste Water Treatment Engineering Agreement was discussed. Mayor Conatser asked if anyone had any questions on the agreement. He stated that the engineering firm, DowlHkm, is working to reduce costs and keep the project on track. They agreed to reduce the hours of inspection by 552 hours and will also likely

have an employee living in Choteau to reduce man hours. Council member Lannen made a motion to approve the agreement, and Council member Merja, who had just arrived, seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

Vote to authorize Mayor Conatser to sign TSEP and SRF Contract Agreements. The Council voted to authorize Mayor Conatser to sign the TSEP and SRF contract Agreements. Council member Merja motioned to approve and it was seconded by Council member Crawford. All present in favor.

Vote to change council meeting date from May 6, 2014 to April 29, 2014

Vote to change council meeting date from May 20, 2014 to May 13, 2014. Mayor Conatser stated that Council would need to approve a change in the Council meeting calendar due to city staff training commitments. The meeting dates would be changed as follows: May 6th meeting changed to April 29th and the May 20th meeting changed to May 13th. Council member Owen motioned to approve and was seconded by Council member Crawford. All in favor voted aye and none were opposed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Mayor Conatser read the law enforcement report which was provided by Undersheriff Gjerde. The report consisted of a breakdown of criminal activity and traffic violations in the city and county for the past month.

CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

The City Judge's report for March 2014 was submitted for Council's review.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that the crew changed out two meters, set up a meter on a hydrant for a construction crew, took water samples, turned the discharge back on at the lagoon, filled pot holes and applied fertilizer to the lawn in the city park. Mr. Hirsch also reported that offenders with community service time provided park clean-up.

FIREWORKS FUND RAISING REPORT

Fireworks report was given by Melody Martinson. She stated that the invoice for the advance payment to the fireworks vendor has been received, and will be paid by the claims process. The fund raiser for the fireworks fund is set for Saturday, April 19, 2014 at the Pavilion. Ms. Martinson is hoping to raise \$5000.00 during the four hour event. She also stated that the donation from the Smoker has covered this year with a donation of approx. \$10000.00. The Sons of the American Legion, who are sponsoring the

midget wrestling event, have also pledged some support for community events. The community groups who have always supported the fund are also still helping, i.e.; the Lions Club, Soroptomists, 4H clubs and others.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

No finance report was given.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council member Merja stated that there are two new bakeries starting up in Choteau.

Mayor Conatser announced that Earth Day is April 22nd and Rural Development will present a check to the city. There will be Rural Development VIP's present as well as some political figures. The Mayor asked all Council members to take part in the presentation at 1:00pm at the Council Meeting room.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melody Martinson provided the Mayor and Council members with some information about the Llewellyn report on the hospital and county nursing home financial situation. She gave information regarding the decisions of the auditors as to what has to happen to be able to retain hospital care, emergency care and geriatric care in our community.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04p.m was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. All in favor voted aye.