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City of Choteau

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 MEETING

OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

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

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha, Sherwin Smith of the Choteau Lions Club, Undersheriff Steve Gjerde, Rich Lusky, Curly Anderson and Arthur Merja.

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 February 4, 2014 meeting was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

Council Member Lannen requested to be out of state February 27th to March 5th, 2014. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 780 - CALLING FOR AN ELECTION ON CONDUCTING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

Mayor Conatser explained that the review is mandated by the state and occurs every 10 years. It calls for an election asking voters if they do or do not want to conduct a local government review and establishing a study commission for a cost of approximately \$13,000.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 780 was made by Council Member Lannen. Council Member Owen asked if the ballot language can be changed. Finance Officer Rogers replied that it is boiler plate and comes from the Local Government Center. She stated that it is just the paperwork that goes to the Clerk and Recorder's Office to place it on the ballot. The original motion died for lack of a second. A motion to change the wording on the ballot to add the wording "*form of*" government of the City of Choteau was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye. A motion to approve Resolution No. 780 with the addition of the words, *form of*, was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 779 - ADOPTING THE MMIA REVISED AND RESTATED WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Council Member Merja asked for clarification of the agreement. Finance Officer Rogers replied that it is just making it so our Workers' Compensation will stay stable and carry a larger reserve with less fluctuation. Council Member Owen asked if it would change anything for our members. Finance Officer Rogers reported that it would not. A motion to approve Resolution No. 779 was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON REVOLVING LOAN FUND APPLICATION FOR BLAIR PATTON

A motion to approve the recommendation from the Revolving Loan Fund Committee for a loan of \$20,000 to Blair Patton was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Undersheriff Gjerde reviewed the Law Enforcement report for January 2014.

CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that the crew cleaned the UV lights, plowed snow, sanded streets, hauled snow and shipped a load of cardboard. Council Member Merja stated that there is a hump in the road at 6th Avenue SW just west of 514 2nd Street SW. It was not there on Saturday but appeared on Sunday. Curly Anderson stated that it is a frost heave. Council Member Crawford asked how long it takes to remove the snow piles. Public Works Director Hirsch stated that they are removed as soon as possible. She stated that in Wyoming they used to pile snow like we do and a lady hit one of the piles, not paying attention. The city was liable.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser reported that he and Finance Officer Rogers will be attending a funding workshop in Great Falls tomorrow.

Mayor Conatser thanked Curly Anderson for building and installing the coat rack in the meeting room. It is greatly appreciated. Mr. Anderson said he enjoys working with wood. He also stated that he sees hope in Choteau. He sees people picking up trash and wishes that more people would do it and volunteer in the community. Mayor Conatser thanked those that do volunteer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sherwin Smith reported that if the tennis courts are to remain the configuration they are now, the Lions Club is going to have to spend approximately \$20,000 to have a new deck put on. He reported that the tennis courts get minimal use but the basketball gets most of the use. He is looking at taking out the west court and possibly removing the backboards from the mini park, bringing them up here and we would instead have a full court for basketball. Once the tennis deck is gone, the cement would be revealed for the basketball court. They will also be working on re-fencing the west end of the courts with fencing from the old pool.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer