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City of Choteau

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE FEBUARY 4, 2014 MEETING

OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Conatser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CLOSURE OF PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE NO. 308 - REVISING CHOTEAU CITY ORDINANCE 10-10-17 INVOLVING NO THROUGH TRAFFIC ON CERTAIN CITY STREETS AND AVENUES

Mayor Conatser asked if there were any more comments. Being none, he closed the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2014 meeting was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 308 INVOLVING NO THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC ON CERTAIN CITY STREETS AND AVENUES

Mayor Conatser read Ordinance #308. There were no comments.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 778 - ADOPTING ORDINANCE #308

Mayor Conatser read Resolution No. 778. Council Member Merja asked what is a truck over 8,000 GVW. Mayor Conatser explained that it is a truck that has a gross vehicle weight of over 8,000 pounds. Council Member Merja asked if that includes a one ton dually pickup that weighs over 8,000 pounds? Mayor Conatser explained that it depends on how they are registered.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 778 was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON ENGINEER RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE SEWER PROJECT TO SECURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Mayor Conatser explained that what this does is tell our engineer to go ahead and proceed with Rural Development for funding. He stated that on April 17, 2012, the City Council voted to go ahead but did not vote to procure the funding at that time. He stated that we will ask our engineer to oversee the funding for the project. Council Member Merja asked if a project needs to be picked before the engineer can go for the funding. Mayor Conatser replied that any project we pick, has to be in the PER that was voted on in April of 2012. If not, we have to go through the PER process again and could possibly lose our funding. Council Member Owen agreed that we need to move forward. Council Member Lannen stated that we are going to have to go with the wastewater treatment plant. They did look at other options but the treatment plant is going to be the least expensive. Mayor Conatser complimented Public Works Director Hirsch on all the work he did on researching other options.

A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Conatser reported that all of the board members are volunteers and each has a three year term, except for the animal control officer. All are incumbents except for Josh Van Setten who will be replacing Jack Conatser on the Board of Adjustments and Wendy Clark who will be replacing Connie Smith on the Tree & Sidewalk Board. Council Member Merja asked if the Animal Control Officer was a volunteer position also. Mayor Conatser replied that Undersheriff Steve Gjerde brought in a ticket sample and we are having them printed by the Acantha. He reported that Becky will write the ticket and the deputies will deliver it. Becky's appointment needs to be made official in order for Judge Howard to recognize the ticket in court. He further stated that her hours and wage will not increase because of the appointment.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that 8.2 million gallons of water were pumped and 3.3 million gallons were metered. The crew cleaned the UV lights, cleaned sewer mains, plowed snow, sanded streets, shoveled walks, picked up brush, hauled snow piles and took another load of recyclables to Great Falls.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that we have started on the Local Government Review. It looks like it is going to cost approximately \$13,000 to go through the entire process. She spoke with Clerk and Recorder Paula Jaconetty and it does not look like we will have to pay the postage for the ballots, just the ballots themselves. The resolution will be in the next council packet. Council Member Owen asked if the funds were not budgeted, where the funds are going to come from. Finance Officer Rogers replied that we can do a budget amendment at the end of the fiscal year.

Council Member Owen asked if the street lighting on the North Western Energy bill is for the Christmas lights. Finance Officer Rogers replied that it is for the street lighting and is on the bill every month. She explained that the Chamber of Commerce pays for the Christmas lights.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Merja reported that he will contact the Reiding's this week to talk to them about when we can get the compost out. He knows we will not be able to move it until the ground thaws. Public Works Director replied that it is already gone. Council Member Merja will continue looking for a new location but it looks like there is not much difference in DEQ regulations between the compost being in the city or out of the city limits.

Mayor Conatser again thanked Public Works Director Hirsch for all of the work he did trying to find a land application location. He looked at four potential land application sites and they have looked at using Poo-Gloos. They have exhausted their options and come back full circle to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR JANUARY 2014

Name	Address	Description
Janel Barr	101 4 th Avenue SW	Deck

CLAIMS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer