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City of Choteau

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 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, Roger Bridgeford of Montana Waste Systems, Jesse Crawford and Rich Lusky.

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE #308 REPLACING CODE 10-10-17 REGARDING THROUGH TRAFFIC

Mayor Conatser opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Conatser read the notice for the public hearing. Council Member Merja confirmed the location for 3rd Street SW as someone had asked him about trucks driving to Breen Tire. Jesse Crawford asked if the City had a map so the streets and avenues in question can be marked. Mayor Conatser replied that it was a good idea and we should be able to come up with something. He further stated that there will be signage to designate areas closed to through truck traffic.

Mayor Conatser stated the public hearing comment period will be open until February 4, 2014.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2014 meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PRESENTATION BY MONTANA WASTE SYSTEMS ON RECYCLING

Mayor Conatser introduced Roger Bridgeford of Montana Waste Systems. Mr. Bridgeford brought photos of a recycle bin they propose to use in Choteau. It is a two compartment, 30 yard container. They pick up the container and take it to the recycler who in turn sends us a check. He stated that we would need to have someone police the container to remove any non-recyclables and stop contamination. He is proposing Choteau have one compartment for newspaper/magazines and the other for office paper (no gray board). Public Works Director Hirsch asked about being able to recycle cans. Mr. Bridgeford stated that it would be up to us. Council Member Owen asked if all paper can be put into the same compartment. Mr. Bridgeford replied that it would devalue the office paper and make it mixed paper. Mr. Bridgeford stated that he can set the compartments to whatever we would like. Rich Lusky asked if we had any problems this last summer with campers contaminating the recycling bins. Public Works Director Hirsch replied that they never really looked. He stated that the only real problems is people would leave bags of cans outside the bins as they did not want to put cans in one at a time. Council Member Lannen asked what our cost for the container would be. Mr. Bridgeford replied that there would be a one time delivery fee of \$240.75, each time they haul it will be \$369.75 and there would be a daily rental fee of approximately \$2.00. Council Member Merja asked what the contract term would be. Mr. Bridgeford would like to have a 36 month contract but it is flexible. Mayor Conatser stated that we have about a month and a half to decide what we want to do and public comments or suggestions will be taken at the City Office during that time.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE #308 - CODE 10-10-17 THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC

Mayor Conatser read the proposed ordinance.

DISCUSSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW PROCESS

Mayor Conatser asked if everyone read the copy of the Charter that was in the council packet. He explained that the Montana Constitution requires local governments to have a review every 10 years. We are required to put the option to review or not to the voters. If they vote yes, a committee will need to be elected to look at our current form of government and make a recommendation to the voters. Finance Officer Rogers reported that we have two options to fund the review. One is a mill value and the other a flat dollar amount. Ten years ago, the budget for the review was \$4,000. This time we would have to pay for the elections, we did not have to 10 years ago. Each election costs approximately \$3,000. The first election will be a yes or no to the review. The second will be for people to sit on the board. If they decide to change anything, there would have to be another election. There is a \$250 fee for training each of the six people plus meals, mileage, etc. There would also have to be public hearings which have to be noticed in the paper. She is figuring a cost of approximately \$17,000 for the entire process. Mayor Conatser discussed our current charter that came out of the review 10 years ago. One major issue that was changed is a Mayor may no longer fire department heads. It now has to be a majority of the council. Finance Officer Rogers explained that this is only talking about our form of government, not that they don't like someone or how they do things, just the form of government.

NEW BUSINESS

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The Law Enforcement report for December 2013 was submitted for Council's review. Mayor Conatser stated that he is very pleased with the communication between the City and the Sheriff's Office.

CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

The City Judge's report for December 2013 was submitted for Council's review.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that there were a few meter checks, cleaned sewer mains, hauled recyclables to Great Falls, removed snow and picked up branches.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that the auditors were here for a day and a half last week. There will be a few procedural changes as we are a small office. Otherwise all seems to be working smoothly.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser reported that he and Kelly have been working with our engineer to come up with a wastewater plan.

Council Member Merja asked if a property can be removed from the City limits. Finance Officer Rogers replied that she will have to check into it but does not believe you can leave the city limits once you are annexed in.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Lusky asked if you have to be licensed to recycle. Finance Officer Rogers suggested he talk with the Teton County Sanitarian to see what the requirements would be.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer

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