

[Agendas Minutes](#)

[Mayor Council Members](#)

[Choteau Acantha Choteau Chamber of Commerce](#) [Choteau Jaycees](#) [Choteau Schools](#) [Montana Road Conditions](#) [State of Montana Tourism](#) [Teton County](#)

[Teton Pass Ski Resort](#) [Teton County Sheriff's Office](#)

[City Code](#)

**City of Choteau**

**PO BOX 619**

**CHOTEAU, MT 59422-0619**

**406-466-2510**

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2014 MEETING

OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

Staff present was Public Works Director Kelly Hirsch and Deputy Clerk Mary Corey. Finance Officer Jodi Rogers was excused.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha, Steve Gjerde of the Teton County Sheriff's Office, Cameron Stott of the Choteau Boy Scouts and Rich Lusky.

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 July 1, 2014 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

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Conatser introduced Cameron Stott. Mr. Stott reported that for his Eagle Scout project, he built four new benches for the City Park and also replaced boards on the existing benches. He stated that he had a lot of help and will be putting plaques on the benches as soon as they are done. Council thanked Mr. Stott for the hard work and beautiful job that he did.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 786 - SET SALARIES FOR CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

Council Member Merja stated that the date is incorrect on the resolution. Mayor Conatser replied that it is already changed on the signature copy. Melody Martinsen asked what the rate of the increase was. He replied that it comes to .50 cents per hour. Mayor Conatser explained that the wage increase totals approximately \$23,000 and is distributed amongst the 10 funds. Council Member Owen asked if the overtime reserve is in line with what it needs to be. Public Works Director Hirsch stated that it is the same every year.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 786 was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

PROGRESS REPORT ON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – DESIGN

Mayor Conatser explained that the report is a summary of where we are to date. The design is still not set in stone. There will be two buildings. One of them will house all of the pumping equipment. They have determined where the lift station will go. One issue that still needs to be addressed is the requirement for two sources of water for the facility. One will be non-potable for wash downs and the other potable water for an eyewash station and for use in the lab and bathroom areas. They are proposing digging a well for the potable water. Public Works Director Hirsch thinks we should be able to put in a sealed cistern for potable water. Council Member Merja asked if we would need to have the wetlands mitigated if we were to use either option. Mayor Conatser did not know but it was suggested the cistern could be put inside a building. Council Member Lannen asked what the cost would be if we were to trench in a city water line. Mayor Conatser stated that we had to provide an address to 3 Rivers as they will need to run computer and phone lines. He also discussed the preliminary numbers for gas/electric. He stated that using natural gas over propane will pay itself back in 14 years. They discussed easements for the gas line with the potential of putting in a large enough main to handle a potential subdivision. Kevin Johnson of DOWL HKM will be in Choteau the 5<sup>th</sup> of August to answer any questions and will be attending the council meeting that evening.

## CLAIMS

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

## APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO CLOSE STREET - OLD TIME FIDDLERS

Mayor Conatser explained that the Old Time Fiddlers are requesting to close 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW from Main Avenue N to the alley at Rex's on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The Law Enforcement report for June 2014 was submitted for Council's review.

Council Member Merja asked about the zero tolerance policy for stop sign violations. Undersheriff Gjerde stated that he would remind the deputies.

Undersheriff Gjerde reported that 37 gophers have been dispatched.

## CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

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

## PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that they picked up extra garbage over the 4<sup>th</sup>, worked on the new recycling area at the shop, swept streets, picked up branches, sprayed weeds and worked on the parks for the 4<sup>th</sup>. He stated that there is a disease called Fire Blight that is going through all the crab apple trees. All of the affected branches need to be pruned off and the trees need to be sprayed.

Council Member Owen asked if we would be able to put some signs at the former recycling sites stating that it has moved. She asked if we have set hours for recycling yet. Public Works Director Hirsch replied that they have not been set.

## FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

None

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser reported that NW Energy has awarded the City of Choteau \$5,000 to purchase trees. We will purchase them and they will reimburse us. They will also help us plant them. We are one of seven communities that received the award. Mayor Conatser stated that he offered some trees to the commissioners for the Courthouse. He does not know if they will accept or not.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 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

---

Mary E. Corey, Deputy Clerk