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City of Choteau

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2014 MEETING

OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

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

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha, Steve Gjerde and Michael Stanhope of the Teton County Sheriff's Office and Jesse Crawford.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC HEARING - FY 2014 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Mayor Conatser opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Finance Officer Rogers explained the amendments that need to be made in the budget.

Mayor Conatser closed the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2014 meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Lannen, Merja and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

Mayor Conatser, Council Member Lannen and Council Member Merja requested to be out of state June 19, 2014. Council Member Crawford requested to be out of state June 20-23, 2014. Mayor Conatser stated that he will be gone four days in June but is unsure of the dates at this time. A motion to approve the requests was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Merja, Crawford and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ON RECYCLING

Public Works Director Hirsch explained that we will be recycling through Steel, Etc. They have already brought containers for us to use. We have filled some of the containers with paper and cans. Those have been hauled to Great Falls as well as our cardboard bundles. He hopes to transition to the new containers after the 4th of July weekend. The containers will be located between the City Shop and the Quonset hut. Initially the site will be manned to educate the public and then we will go to cameras. He is looking at being open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. He is also looking at compacting cardboard in one of the garbage trucks and driving it to Great Falls for recycling.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 784 - AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 BUDGET

A motion to approve Resolution No. 784 was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Lannen, Crawford and Merja voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO CLOSE STREET - RODEO GROUNDS

A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. Council Members Merja, Lannen and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO CLOSE STREET - AMERICAN LEGION FOR STREET DANCE

A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Lannen, Crawford and Merja voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON REQUEST TO BUILD NEW BUILDING ON WEATHERBEATER PROPERTY

Mayor Conatser explained that the 4-H is requesting to be able to put a scale near the Weatherbeater Building. He stated that it is in the flood plain but since it is an Ag building, it is exempt from floodplain restrictions. Council Member Merja asked where it would be located. Mayor Conatser replied that it will be just to the north and behind the main building. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Merja, Crawford and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

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

Mayor Conatser explained that we have been receiving a lot of complaints about gophers. He and Undersheriff Gjerde, with permission from Sheriff VanSetten, have discussed using deputies, on their own time, to drive a marked car, wear a Sheriff's Office shirt and badge and use air rifles to try to eradicate the gophers.

CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that they received a call to shut off water service to a residence, cleaned sewer main lines, patched potholes, worked on drainage issues with all the rain we have been having, mowed the parks and planted trees. He reported that we filled four containers during the community clean up and seemed to be very successful

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that there is an electrical outlet up by the Country Club that is not metered. The Chamber of Commerce would like to know if it would be possible to have a tree lighting ceremony the night of their Christmas party and maybe shoot off some fireworks. Finance Officer Rogers will be placing the request on a future agenda.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser reported that we had our Arbor Day celebration in the park at 1:00 p.m. on June 11, 2014 where they planted a tree. Dave Jones from the DNRC was in attendance.

Mayor Conatser stated that himself, Council Members Lannen and Merja as well as Levi Warehime will be taking a trip to visit some wastewater treatment facilities.

Mayor Conatser stated that the Stage Stop Inn will be holding an open house on Friday, June 20th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He encourages everyone to attend.

Council Member Merja is wanting to set up scan tags for the Chamber of Commerce to be put inside the Visitors Center. Finance Officer Rogers suggested he talk to Jennifer French.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Lannen, Merja and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Owen was excused.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer

