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## City of Choteau

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2014 MEETING

OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

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

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha, Undersheriff Steve Gjerde and Rich Lusky.

### 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 March 4, 2014 meeting was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Crawford, Merja and Owen voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

### REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

Council Member Lannen had spoken with Mayor Conatser and requested to be out of state March 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 for a last minute work conference.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

### NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COLLATERAL

Finance Officer Rogers explained that our deposits at the bank are over the \$250,000 FDIC guarantee limit. The substitution of collateral guarantees our funds over the FDIC limits.

### DISCUSSION ON ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION AT CITY CAMPGROUND

Mayor Conatser explained that we have two bids for the electrical work we would like to do at the campground, with Council's approval. He and Public Works Director Hirsch are looking at having 16 electrical hook-ups installed. He further stated that the City has received two letters of support. One from the Choteau Chamber of Commerce and the other from Ron Daley of the Choteau Baseball Commission. He has received complaints from people about the lack of electrical hook-ups. Council Member Crawford asked if there has been any opposition from the Choteau Campground. Mayor Conatser replied that they are in business and should treat it as such. He stated that there will be a fee and will be similar to the campground in Valier. Council Member Merja stated that the two bids are for a different number of hook-ups. Mayor Conatser replied that the bids are going to be re-done once the locations are determined. Council Member Crawford asked when we need to have the project done so we can be ready for the ball tournaments. He replied that the tournaments will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends of June.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Undersheriff Gjerde reviewed the Law Enforcement report for February 2014.

### CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

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

### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that the crew replaced the UV lights, plowed and removed snow, pruned trees in alleys and around signs and hauled a load of recyclables to Great Falls. They did an inventory of all the trash containers to find ones that need to be replaced.

## FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that the siding and roofing being replaced on City Hall is because of the hail damage two years ago. She further reported that the PALS of the Pavilion have decided not to do the overhangs right now. Public Works Director Hirsch has to go down before a function and try to remove the ice. She reported that she, Mayor Conatser and Public Works Director Hirsch have decided that as the City, this needs to be done. There is too much liability. She stated that we will hopefully not have to borrow money to get this done.

Finance Officer Rogers reported that the audit is complete with no findings. She stated that she has heard grumblings about our website. She asked if there are any changes or corrections that need to be made, they need to call the office and let us know.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser reported that sometime before the first of April, there will be a funding meeting held by Rural Development and all council members will be required to attend. It may be as little as 48 hours notice.

Council Member Merja stated that the bears are out.

Mayor Conatser stated that there is going to be an informational meeting for contractors on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Topics will include Zoning Codes, Set Backs, Variance Procedures, Permit Procedures, Project Start-Up, Fees and Work Inspections.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Lusky asked if he could attend the Contractor's meeting. Mayor Conatser replied that it is a public meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Merja, Crawford and Owen voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

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John W. Conatser, Mayor

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Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer

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