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City of Choteau

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2014 MEETING

OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Present were Mayor Jack Conatser, Council Member Stewart Merja, Council Member Jill Owen and Council Member Rose Crawford. Council Member Dan 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, Rich Lusky of the Road Kill Car Club and Grant Stott and Cameron Stott of the Choteau Boy Scouts.

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 February 18, 2014 meeting was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Merja, Crawford and Owen voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

Mayor Conatser requested to be out of state March 14-17, 2014. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen. Council Members Merja, Owen and Crawford voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRANT STOTT'S COMPLETION OF EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Mayor Conatser asked Grant Stott to explain his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Stott explained that he went around town to the 19 city owned pieces of property and got GPS locations for each of them. This was a new requirement from our insurance company. Mayor Conatser, Finance Officer Rogers, Public Works Director Hirsch and Council all thanked Mr. Stott for completing the project.

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON REQUEST FROM ROAD KILL CAR CLUB FOR USE OF THE VISITOR'S CENTER PARKING LOT

Mayor Conatser reported that a letter has been received from Rich Lusky of the Road Kill Car Club requesting to use the Visitors Center parking lot for car shows this summer. Mr. Lusky explained that he would like permission to use it on the following dates:

June 11, 2014

July 9, 2014

August 13, 2014

The times will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. He is also looking at a potential car show on the 23rd of August. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Owen, Crawford and Merja voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that 7.2 million gallons of water were pumped and 3.1 million gallons were metered. The crew checked manhole lids and inventoried ones that need to be replaced. They cleaned sewer mains, hauled a load of recycling to Great Falls and plowed snow.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that our budget is getting tighter in streets with all the snow we have gotten. We are at 78 percent for the year. She reported that each year our gas tax money goes down and wages go up slightly. Gas tax money is no longer covering salaries. She stated that we

budgeted \$10,000 in case we come across a new dump truck. We may have to dip into that fund.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser reported that he will be in Bozeman for the next three days attending the Mayor’s Academy.

Mayor Conatser stated that he was approached a few times at the pancake supper telling him they appreciate how well the streets are being taken care of.

Mayor Conatser explained that he and Finance Officer Rogers attended a funding meeting in Great Falls last week. They were looking at other possible funding options. He reported that he had people asking how bad our sewer rates were going to be. He stated that we don’t know what our rates are going to be and won’t know until the project is complete. He explained that they are not going to be as bad as Belt at \$95 per month or Wolf Creek at \$85 per month.

ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2014

Name	Address	Description
None		

CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for February was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Merja, Crawford and Owen voted aye. Council Member Lannen was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Members Owen, Crawford and Merja voted aye. Council Member Lannen was excused.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer