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## **City of Choteau**

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**CHOTEAU, MT 59422-0619**

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 MEETING

OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

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

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha 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 October 21, 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

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE TETON MEDICAL CENTER BOARD

Mayor Conatser stated that there is a letter of support in the council packet for the Teton Medical Center Board. He reported that he attended an emergency meeting of the board last Thursday. They had received a letter of intent to work with Benefis on a possible buyout. He stated that the intent of the letter in the packet is to show council's support of the board members. He explained that one of the board members came into the office today and asked him not to send the letter because it was felt that they were undeserving of it. Council Member Lannen stated that he liked the letter. All it does is support the board, it does not support one decision or another. He will sign the letter. Council Member Owen thinks it is fine to show council's support. Council Member Crawford stated that she likes the letter, we do need to keep our hospital. Council Member Merja thinks it is necessary to send the letter. This shows our support for whatever decision they make. We need to keep the hospital. Mayor Conatser stated that he cannot think of a worse thing to happen to Choteau than to lose the hospital. A motion to send the letter to the board was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

DISCUSSION ON COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES

Mayor Conatser stated that there is a set of Council Rules and Procedures in the council Packet. He explained that the City already has rules and procedures we follow, this will just put it in writing. He explained that he looked at four different models and decided that the ones from Cut Bank are the closest to our current procedures. Council read through the list and made a few changes. A motion to approve the Council Rules and Procedures with the edits presented in the packet and the change to our agenda format was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

CLAIMS

Council Member Merja asked if the N.M.J.R.D.D. charges are for the year. Finance Officer Rogers reported that it is. He then asked about the deposit refund check for the Trinity Lutheran Church. Finance Officer Rogers replied that they rented the Pavilion for the Lutefisk dinner and instead of giving us two checks, they gave us one. A motion to approve the claims for October was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that the MMIA and the Local Government Center will be holding a meeting in Great Falls on December 11, 2014. She encouraged all council members to attend. She reported that she has been working on the annual report and that the auditors will be here in a month or so.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Lannen reported that he heard Lauren Engineers is pulling everything out of Bynum. Council Member Merja stated that the cranes are gone as well as most of their equipment. Finance Officer Rogers stated that if the pipeline ever goes through, things will most likely change.

Council Member Crawford asked if there is a proper side of the street to rake leaves to. Finance Officer Rogers replied that if all of the neighbors are raking to the boulevard, that would be the place to rake them. It is easier on the leaf crew to have all the piles together.

Mayor Conatser explained that the Zoning Board will be going through the new zoning to make it usable.

#### ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2014

Name	Address	Description
Robert Jensen	207 Rice Avenue NE	Garage

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Lusky asked if this year is the last sewer rate increase. Finance Officer Rogers replied that it is the last of three. Council Member Merja stated that we do not know what the increases are going to be since we don't know what the final cost of the project is going to be. The rates will be based on how much money we have to borrow.

Rich Lusky stated that he had someone complain to him that they do not have a sidewalk or trees but he still has to pay for them. Finance Officer Rogers explained that they walk on the sidewalks and there are trees all over town.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

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John W. Conatser, Mayor

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Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer

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