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## **City of Choteau**

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**CHOTEAU, MT 59422-0619**

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 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 Finance Officer Jodi Rogers and Public Works Director Kelly Hirsch.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; John How of KLJ; Paul Wick, Teton County Planner; Jim Hodgskiss, Teton County Commissioner; Deven Merritt of Sweetgrass Development; Jay Dunckel and Rich Lusky.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Conatser called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - SWEETGRASS DEVELOPMENT - SARAH CONVERSE

Mayor Conatser introduced Deven Merritt and John How representing Sweetgrass Development. Ms. Merritt introduced John How of KLJ who gave a power point presentation on the Regional Impact Assessment that was started two years ago.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2014 meeting was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ON SUBSTITUTIONS OF COLLATERAL NOTICES

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.

OPEN AND VOTE ON PAVILION CLEANING PROPOSALS

Mayor Conatser asked Council Member Lannen to open the two bids that were received. Council Member Owen asked how long the contract would be for. Finance Officer Rogers replied that it would be for one year. Council Member Lannen reported that the bid from Lyle Arps was for \$250 per cleaning or \$1500 per year. He reported that the bid from Mary Corey was for \$100 per cleaning plus \$55 each for the two window cleanings for a total of \$710 per year. Council Member Owen asked if there is a conflict of interest. Mayor Conatser replied that there was not, Mary Corey is an independent contractor. Finance Officer Rogers stated that the two bids submitted were sealed. They were never handled by Mary, only by Becky. Finance Officer Rogers wants to make sure that everyone knows that the process was handled professionally and securely as possible. A motion to accept the proposal from Mary Corey for a one year term was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

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

CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that they fixed another water leak, it was approximately five gallons per minute. He stated that the leak detection person did not locate it correctly so they dug up more street than was necessary. He will work on getting some money back or something. He further reported that the water tanks were cleaned and inspected, they have been working on the lagoon dike road and they shipped a load of recycling. He reported that the leaf pickup started yesterday. They are noticing a lot of sticks in with the leaves. These need to be removed as the vacuum will not pick the larger ones up and the smaller ones damage the impeller. They will not pick up piles that contain branches. Council Member Owen suggested we put a note on the residence to inform them the branches need to be removed.

#### FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that she and Mayor Conatser attended the Montana League of Cities and Towns Conference in West Yellowstone. They spent a lot of time with our engineer and the different funding agency representatives. It was a good conference.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Lannen reported that the recycling center was not open at 10:00 last Saturday morning.

Council Member Owen reported that she went to a recycling gathering in Fort Benton two weeks ago. They shared information about what their communities are doing. She thanked Public Works Director Hirsch and staff for making it possible. There was a woman there from the DEQ representing Conrad. She praised N.M.J.R.D.D., specifically Ron Collyer, for his cardboard recycling efforts. Council Member Owen feels that the city takes care of the trash, they should also take care of the recycling. It should not have to be a volunteer effort. Mayor Conatser stated that Public Works Director Hirsch has mentioned to him a few times about the possibility of approaching N.M.J.R.D.D. for a rebate since we are not bringing as much garbage to the landfill.

Mayor Conatser reported that he and Finance Officer Rogers did spend a lot of time with the different funding agencies as well as our engineer. He stated that it was well worth the trip. He explained that there were a lot of council people there and encouraged our council members to attend.

Mayor Conatser stated that we had someone drop off some limbs and branches in the avenue in front of the City Office. He reported that they received a citation for littering. Public Works Director Hirsch stated that he thinks the person that did it had it on the boulevard and expected the city to pick it up during the leaf clean-up. Since it was not picked up, they decided to bring it to us. He explained that people need to understand that branches need to be cut to the proper size and placed in the alley for the semi-annual alley clean-up.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Wick stated that he is looking forward to seeing the report from Sweetgrass Development, especially how we can make the most use out of it. He thinks that updating both the City and County Growth Policies is the logical thing to do.

Jim Hodgskiss stated that he too feels that it is in the best interest of the council members to attend the conventions, if for no other reason than to develop relationships with counterparts in other communities.

Rich Lusky thanked the City for working with him getting his yard cleaned up.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. 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