

**City of Choteau**  
**PO BOX 619**  
**CHOTEAU, MT 59422-0619**  
**406-466-2510**

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2015 MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

Staff present was Public Works Director Kelly Hirsch and Deputy Clerk Mary Corey.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha, Kevin Johnson and Jim Patterson of DOWL, Shane Dean and Jacob Konen of the Teton County Sheriff's Office, Jesse Crawford, Nate White and Micah Martin.

CALL TO ORDER

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

At this point, Mayor Conatser apologized to Nate White for his behavior at the last meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2015 meeting was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VOTE ON CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION - SIDEWALK PROJECT

A motion to approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## VOTE ON PAY REQUEST - RC SCOTT

A motion to approve the pay request for RC Scott was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## NEW BUSINESS

## DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON AMENDED COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mayor Conatser read the following proposed changes:

### Part V. Order of Business

10. **Unscheduled Matters:** An item that is NOT listed on the agenda for the current meeting may be discussed during the session at the discretion of the Council. However, the purpose of such discussion shall be to decide whether or not to schedule the item for discussion and vote on a subsequent agenda. As a general rule, no matter of significant interest to the public shall be decided by the council without prior notice to the public as a scheduled Council agenda item.

### Part IX. Addressing the Council Section 1.(additions to existing section)

With limitations, the public is invited to speak on any item under discussion by the Council after recognition by the presiding officer as described as follows: when addressing the council, a person must stand and be verbally recognized by the presiding officer. Once verbally recognized, the person must move to the podium and state their name. They must speak from then forward from the podium. Public comments shall not be in a question and answer format.

Public comment will be limited to 5 minutes. If a person feels that they need more time, they are encouraged to follow up during the week with a council member or the Mayor.

The public is reminded that the council members and mayor are part time positions and they do not have every ordinance or every past historical fact about the City at their fingertips. Therefore, if members of the public have questions, the council and/or mayor will take the questions under advisement and attempt to provide answers within a week.

Council Member Owen asked if the public can ask a question during the public comment period, doesn't that contradict the statement above. Mayor Conatser stated that questions may be asked but may not be answered right away.

A motion to approve the proposed changes was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## VOTE ON PAY REQUEST - WILLIAMS BROTHER CONSTRUCTION

A motion to approve the pay request for Williams Brother Construction was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## VOTE ON PAY REQUEST - WESTECH EQUIPMENT

A motion to approve the pay request for Westech Equipment was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Jim Patterson explained that the project is approximately 14% complete and they have used 19% of their time. The concrete is due to be poured soon. He stated that the contractor has quite a bit of material on site. The contractor is required to provide a paid invoice before they can be reimbursed. The concrete provided by Ramaker Swanson tested at 2,000 pounds per square inch, well above the requirements. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for October was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Hirsch reported that the crew has been busy cleaning and exercising water main valves, cleaned sewer main lines, vacuumed up leaves, worked on cleaning the shop and closed the park restroom and RV dump for the season. He further stated that the leak detection was done. They found three small leaks. The sidewalk project is done. Council Member Lannen asked if we usually purchase cold mix this time of the year. Public Works Director Hirsch replied that we did this time because of sewer and water main fixes that need to be patched.

## FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

None

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT

Council Member Merja reported that the playground committee is getting cost estimates on the two locations. He stated that the information about each site is on their website and has been sent out on Facebook. Over 1600 people have looked at it. So far, the comments that have been received want to leave it where it is. He stated that putting it at the current location would need to have handicapped parking. The location at the south side of the Pavilion would require removal of approximately five trees.

Mayor Conatser reported that Dan Isakson and Roy Deshner are working on getting their property cleaned up.

#### ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2015

Name	Address	Description
Seth Hodgskiss	203 Rice Avenue NE	Fence

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

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John W. Conatser, Mayor

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Mary E. Corey, Deputy Clerk