

**City of Choteau**  
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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2016 MEETING  
OF THE CHOTEAU CITY COUNCIL

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

Staff present was Public Works Director Mike Maples and Finance Officer Jodi Rogers.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; Jim Patterson of DOWL, Rich Lusky and Paul Dreyer.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Lannen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 4,  
2016

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 meeting was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Owen, Merja and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jim Patterson of DOWL reported that the sludge ponds are lined but the PVC liner has not yet been tested. The Solar Bee Aerators have been installed, they will help cut down any odors. Mike, BJ and Levi came out to the site and received some training on them. They are working on the piping in the pump building, doing ductwork on the air handling units in the headworks

building, plumbers are working inside the headworks building, the doors and windows are in and they are starting the interior painting. Their tentative start date for building two of the drying beds is next week. He reported that the tentative startup process will begin sometime the middle of November. Training will also begin at that time.

Public Works Director Maples asked with that startup date, where do the pumps fit in. Mr. Patterson replied that he has not heard yet. Mr. Maples reported that a letter has been sent by the City Attorney with no response yet. The City Attorney then called Williams Brother Construction who in turn called Barry Curtis. Mr. Curtis replied back that they have been talking to Weir Pumps who may send a rep here to tear the pumps apart and visually inspect them. If that does not happen, Williams Brother Construction will load the pumps up and take them to Salt Lake City.

## NEW BUSINESS

### VOTE ON ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT AMENDMENT - DRYING BED DESIGN MODIFICATION

Council President Lannen stated that the modification papers are in the council packet. We are proposing changing from sand drying beds to concrete drying beds. The net deduct or credit from Williams Brother Construction for the modifications to the drying beds is \$8916 which includes accounting for material produced by the local aggregate supplier specifically for this project, most of which will still be incorporated into the project. The total additional design cost for the modifications is \$6989. Thus, the net deduct to the overall project for this modification is \$1,927.

A motion to approve the drying bed modifications was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen. Council Members Merja, Owen and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

## CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for October in the amount of \$2293.40 was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Owen, Lannen and Merja voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

There was no Law Enforcement Report submitted.

## CITY JUDGE'S REPORT

There was no City Judge's Report submitted.

## PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS REPORT

Public Works Director Maples reported that leaf pickup has started. David Duffner suggested we use the garbage pickup schedule for the leaf pickup so citizens will know when their leaves will be picked up, it is working great. He reported that the gravel pit has some minor issues that needed to be fixed for the DEQ, he has not heard back from them yet to know if the corrections have been accepted. The radar speed signs have been installed and are working great, most people are slowing down.

The crew has been cleaning up the gravel pit, graded alleys, widened some alleys for the garbage truck, worked on the city shop improvement project, plowed and removed snow. The valve exerciser arrived today.

Mr. Maples discussed developing a GIS mapping database for the city's sewer, water, trees, sidewalks, etc. He stated there is grant monies available for the project.

Mr. Maples reported that Steve Dogiakos set up a Facebook page for the city. The page will be informational and not allow comments at this time.

## FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that she received an email from the Department of Revenue. It stated that they had reached a property tax settlement with NorthWestern Energy. It means the city needs to make a decision as there is a reduction in the value of our mills. We can request to have the valuation re-done but it is only a difference of \$2,064. If we did that, we would need to re-do our budget. Doing that would also mean having public hearings. Council discussed the issue and decided it was not enough money to worry about and to leave the budget as is.

Finance Officer Rogers stated that when she was at the League of Cities and Towns Conference, they discussed a Department of Transportation grant possibility for a sidewalk going from Paul Dreyer's residence, following 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW to the NE side of town.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Merja stated that he spoke with some of the TBID board members about some ideas for the money. He stated that they were receptive and would like ideas to be presented quarterly.

Council Member Merja encourages anyone with questions about the port authority to talk to the Teton County Commissioners. Melody Martinsen suggested also speaking with Lyle Hodgskiss, Paul Wick or watch the informational video put out by Steve Dogiakos on Facebook.

Council Member Owen stated that she received a comment on the railroad crossing on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NE. BNSF has been working on the tracks and left a large hole. The resident was able to reach someone and hopefully it will be fixed soon.

Council Member Lannen stated that he is going to look into our water rights.

Council Member Lannen reported on some of the classes he attended at the League of Cities and Towns Conference.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Melody Martinsen stated that as of 1:06 p.m., Fish, Wildlife and Parks has re-opened Eureka to camping.

Paul Dreyer stated that the electronic signs are up and they are making a huge impact. He suggests adding rumble strips prior to the sign. He stated that something should be done also at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, maybe speed bumps. He further stated that the stop signs are not being utilized. Maybe painting stop lines would help. He would also like to see sidewalks going to the school. Finance Officer Rogers stated that Bozeman has put up a six-foot high pylon in the middle of the street with a speed limit sign next to it. It is working very well.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Owen, Merja and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

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Daniel J. Lannen, Council President

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Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer