

# **CITY OF CHOTEAU**

**PO BOX 619**

**CHOTEAU, MT 59422-0619**

**406-466-2510**

## **OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2017 MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

Finance Officer Jodi Rogers and Public Works Director Mike Maples were excused.

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha, Jesse Crawford, Richard Fry, Mark Major, Rich Lusky, Beth Barlow and Dan Clark.

### **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 September 19, 2017 meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

### **REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE**

Mayor Conatser requested to be out of state from October 11-24, 2017. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **VOTE ON REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - TRACY LOHMAN**

Mayor Conatser stated that a revolving loan fund application has been received from Tracy Lohman of Eastside Fitness. She is requesting a loan of \$1500 to purchase a furnace. A motion to accept the recommendation of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee and approve the request was made by Council Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. Council Member Lannen stated that he is going to be hard headed and insist that the person requesting the loan should attend the council meeting. Council Members Owen, Crawford and Merja voted aye. Council Member Lannen voted nay. Motion carried.

## CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for September in the amount of \$45,522.83 was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

## PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report as submitted by Public Works Director Maples:

1. Update on waste water treatment plant:
  - a. Influent flows continue to grow as the water table rises and infiltration of the collection system increases. Currently we are averaging 367 gallons per minute, 59% increase since the lowest average in August, 2017.
  - b. Ditch biology appears to be slowing down, partially due to cooler temperature and increase dilution of sewage from ground water infiltration. It also appears the biology may be approaching a slightly older age class than is preferred. We have increased wasting of sludge in an effort to decrease sludge age. Sampling results remain excellent—September 19, 2017 was Ecoli of 1.0 CFU/100mL, BOD of 6 mg/L, and Total Suspended Solids of Non- Detectable. September 26, 2017 was Ecoli of <1.0 CFU/100mL and we are still waiting on the BOD and TSS results.
  - c. We have spent more time with WesTech fine tuning the data trending software. We are getting close to an acceptable final product.
  - d. The lift station pump that suffered a warrantied seal failure and damaged shaft is still at Xylem getting rebuilt. We expect it's return in the next 7-10 days.
  - e. The analysis of the sludge from the lagoon is done. The numbers are relatively benign with no alarming values. Preliminary calculations suggest we have approximately 40,000 yards of sludge with a total available organic Nitrogen content of 113,886 pounds. That equates to approximately enough fertilizer to supply one application for approximately 680 acres, at the agronomic rate for alfalfa.
  - f. We finished insulating the three manhole structures that experienced freezing last winter.
2. In the month of September, we pumped approximately 10,946,000 gallons of drinking water from the Richem Facility. Metering accounted for 8,462,035 gallons. Another

65,850 gallons were used by the Fire Department and the Bulk Water Sales facility. Overall, we had a 22% loss. Same as last month!

3. In regards to streets:
  - a. I am still on the pursuit of an asphalt grinder. Long story short, I am putting the used grinder in Denver on hold and pursuing the potential of partnering with the town of Fort Benton on a grinder they recently purchased brand new. Last week I joined the Fort Benton public works crew on a grinding project. It is an impressive piece of equipment which would work very well to conduct full depth reclamation of the streets in town that have lost their base, resulting in ruts, potholes, and overall deterioration. The partnership will probably cost the city slightly more than a used machine. However, the used machines are of unknown quality and older, with less abilities, performance and safety features.
  - b. The motor for the loader is installed and running good.
4. Flushing of the sewer mains is almost complete. We would have finished last Friday. However we encountered a sewer line so infested with tree roots that it took most the day to saw them out. We will complete the job this Thursday.
5. City crews worked this morning clearing last night's snow. Plowing was limited to Main Street, around the School and hospital and a few of the busier streets.
6. Compost situation: as reported last meeting, we were asked by the land owner to cease using the property for grass and leaf composting. I spoke with the DEQ regarding permitting a piece of city property for a composting site. After several rounds back and forth, it became apparent no suitable piece of city property within the city limits exists for a compost site. We plan to construct a "Leaf and Grass Clipping Transfer Site". It will be located adjacent to the recycling area at the city shop. It will consist of two (2) 16' x 16' x 8' tall, three sided bins for leaves and grass. When the bins are full we will haul to a composting site outside of city limits. We hope to begin construction this week and have it ready shortly.
7. Today I spoke with the GIS consultant regarding our Montana Land Information Act grant. Processing the grant has been moving very slowly and finally appears to be available. Next Wednesday, we will actually begin work organizing the existing data and structuring new databases for water, sewer, streets, trees, etc.
8. We have had the normal mix of everyday tasks like recycling, water shut offs, water meter repairs, water sampling, waste water sampling, garbage collection, line location requests and mechanical repairs.

## FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers was excused.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Lannen reported that he attended part of the Montana League of Cities and Towns Conference last week in Great Falls. He reported that it was an excellent conference and stated that if anyone gets a chance to watch a documentary titled "Charged", they should. It was done by a young man in Livingston. He further reported that there will be changes to the gas tax this year. We will have to apply for it, have a project in mind, have it approved by the

Department of Transportation as well as have matching funds. If there is a big project, the funds can be held for up to five years.

Council Member Lannen reported that the Governor was also there talking about the budget and cuts. He has a very positive attitude and is trying to push for a special session.

Council Member Owen reported that she attended the Leadership and Board Training with Dan Clark of the Local Government Center. She stated that the training was very good and very helpful.

Mayor Conatser asked council if they had read the proposed cell phone ordinance he passed out at the last meeting. Rose had not received it as she was not at the last meeting and none of the other council members had read it yet. Mayor Conatser asked council to read it and if they can, speak with some of the Fairfield residents about how it is or is not working for them.

Mayor Conatser reported that he also attended the Montana League of Cities and Town Conference. He highly recommends to any current or new council members that can attend, do. It is well worth the time.

Mayor Conatser stated that at one of the upcoming council meetings, business licenses will be discussed.

Council Member Lannen stated that he golfed with the city manager from Whitefish on Wednesday. He asked for a copy of our marijuana ordinance.

Mayor Conatser explained that the back of our agenda now has the council rules and procedures.

Council Member Merja stated that the school is looking at drug testing athletes and students that participate in extra-curricular activities. The school is taking comments on the proposal.

#### ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

Name	Address	Description
None		

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Fry stated that he is not allowed to drive a car because he might have seizures. The VA will come to Choteau to take him to doctor appointments but they will not come get him if he has things to return things to the VA or other errands to do. He would like to see if maybe Teton County would give the former nursing home van to the City. The City could then transport people one time per week to Great Falls to allow people like himself to run errands.

Beth Barlow thanked the Mayor and Council for helping to sponsor the board trainings at the Stage Stop Inn.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Owen. 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