

City of Choteau
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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

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

Citizens present were Richard Lusky; Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; and Kevin Johnson and James Patterson of DOWL.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC HEARING - FY2016 FINAL BUDGET AND FY2016 ASSESSMENTS

Mayor Conatser immediately opened the public hearing.

Finance Officer Rogers went over the proposed budget changes. She is proposing to add \$12,000 to the legal fees budget and \$4500 to the sidewalk replacement project. She reported that the value of a mill has gone up \$500 from last year. She is recommending that the city not levy the full 92.48 mills but instead levy only 78.5 mills. This will reduce the revenue the city could collect by \$28,239.60. She also would like to transfer \$15,000 to Street Maintenance. With not levying all the mills, we will not be putting monies towards future capital improvements.

Council Member Merja asked if we are setting monies aside to replace a firetruck. Finance Officer Rogers replied that the fire department has a capital improvement plan and we put money away every year. The last truck purchased was in 2001. There is currently \$36,000 in the fund.

Mayor Conatser explained that the \$12,000 that is being added into the legal fees budget will help to cover the legal fees for prosecuting home owners with junk/scrap/garbage in their yards. He has spoken to and met with City Attorney Bill Bieler and Teton County Sanitarian Corrine Rose to help get this problem taken care of. She has received two different complaints about yards in Choteau. Mayor Conatser found two instances in our nuisance ordinances where this

can be taken care of. The reason for the \$12,000 is that City Attorney Bieler cannot prosecute someone that he has represented, it would be a conflict of interest. He stated that he will be canning and writing letters to the offenders. If it is not taken care of, a citation will be issued. If the citation is ignored, the city along with a deputy, will go to the property with a truck and loader and clean it up. The cost will be placed on their property taxes.

Being no further comment, Mayor Conatser closed the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2015 meeting was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Lannen, Merja and Owen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 801 - FY 2016 LEVY ASSESSMENTS WITHIN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Finance Officer Rogers reported that it includes a five cent increase in street lights and street maintenance.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 801 was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Owen. Council Members Lannen, Owen and Merja voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 802 - FY 2016 FINAL BUDGET

A motion to approve Resolution No. 802 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Lannen. Council Members Merja, Lannen and Owen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

VOTE ON DNRC GRANT AGREEMENT FOR PDL REPAIR

Finance Officer Rogers explained that this is a draft of a DNRC Grant Agreement. She needs council to authorize Mayor Conatser to sign the final document.

Council Member Merja asked if this is the next step. Finance Officer Rogers explained that Mr. Lindgren has hired a consultant. They have to bore three test holes at a cost of approximately \$17,500. If contamination is found, it will have to be dug out. The Petro Board will not pay anything until Mr. Lindgren has spent \$17,500. The grant is for \$15,000 so Mr. Lindgren will have \$2,500 out of pocket. After the initial payment, the Petro Board will step in and take care of the rest.

A motion to approve allowing Mayor Conatser to sign the DNRC Grant Agreement for Perri Lindgren was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen. Council Members Merja, Owen and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

VOTE ON REQUEST FROM NEW LIFE CHURCH - ARCHERY TRAINING

Mayor Conatser stated that the church is requesting they be able to use the city property behind the church to offer archery lessons on their Wednesday night kids program for the month of September. The lessons will be given by Jesse & Rose Crawford. There will be safety equipment available and they have gotten the OK from the Sheriff's Office.

A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Member Owen asked if there was an existing archery range that they could use. Council Member Merja stated that there is one by the Rodeo Grounds but they would have to either bus or walk the kids over there. Mayor Conatser explained the safety measures that will be set up. Council Members Lannen, Merja and Owen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

PAY REQUEST #1 - WILLIAMS BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION

Mayor Conatser introduced Kevin Johnson of DOWL. Mr. Johnson explained that there are three items that are pay items in the construction contract; Taxes/Bonds/Insurance, Mobilization and the entire rest of the facility. They have approved a schedule of values and those will get paid as a percent is completed. He stated that the first pay request pays Taxes/Bonds/Insurance in full, mobilization is 25 percent and a portion on the rest of the facility.

A motion to approve pay request #1 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen. Council Members Merja, Owen and Lannen voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

CHANGE ORDER - WESTECH

Mr. Johnson stated that WesTech is our equipment supplier for the project. He explained that in the original bid procurement, there was a bid alternate to replace the painted steel in the clarifier with stainless steel. He stated that the budget was for factory primed. He recommends that we go with the stainless steel. During the DEQ review, the aerator motors were upsized from 25 to 30 HP. The VFD motors were upsized from 30 to 40 HP. Lastly, the clarifier drive motors were able to be downgraded since the explosion-proof rating is no longer required due to the fact that they are no longer undercover. As everything was already in the budget, the total cost for the change order will be \$19,783.

At this point, Mr. Johnson gave an update on the project. He reported that the project is starting slow. Once the foundation work is complete, the work will pick up. On the administrative side, we are getting to the submittal stage. The equipment has to be checked against the specs that were written, that is taking a lot of time.

Mr. Patterson reported that he has had visitors on the site. Dignitaries from Washington, Mike Abrahamson from DEQ and a wage and hour inspector.

A motion to approve the change order was made by Council Member Lannen, seconded by Council member Owen. Council Members Lannen, Owen and Merja voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

NOTICE TO PROCEED - FABRICATION AND DELIVERY - WESTECH

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

CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for August was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Lannen. Council Members Owen, Lannen and Merja voted aye. Council Member Crawford was excused.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mayor Conatser reported that Public Works Director Hirsch has been busy getting water set up for the Forest Service.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Rogers reported that there will be a playground meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 3rd at City Hall.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Conatser stated the fire crews are in town. He spoke with incident command to let them know we are here if they need anything and stated that we should thank any firefighter we see for being here and helping.

Mayor Conatser reported that he received an email from Mary Sexton. She would like to have as many people as possible support the tax abatement for the Stage Stop Inn. The Commissioners will be meeting at 10:00 on Thursday morning.

ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR AUGUST 2015

Name	Address	Description
Frank & Stella Plachetka	22 4 th Avenue NW	Covered Porch
Lynn Brewster	219 6 th Avenue NE	Addition
Dave Yerk	509 1 st Avenue NW	Deck

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Lusky asked if he is on the list for needing his yard cleaned up. Mayor Conatser replied that if he is, he will stop by and talk to him.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. Council Members Owen, Merja and Lannen voted ae.

John W. Conatser, Mayor

Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer