

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

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

Citizens present were Melody Martinsen of the Choteau Acantha; Kevin Johnson & Jim Patterson of DOWL; Beth Barlow of TBID; Nate White and Rich Lusky.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC HEARING - FY 2017 FINAL BUDGET AND FY 2016 ASSESSMENTS

Council President Lannen opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Melody Martinsen confirmed that the city could have levied 94.87 mills but are only levying 86 mills. Finance Officer Rogers explained that the levy amount would have been approximately 76 mills but the budget committee recommended starting a capital improvement for street maintenance.

Being no further public comment, Council President Lannen closed the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2016 meeting was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE

Jim Patterson showed photos of the wastewater treatment plant. He reported that approximately 36,000 yards of fill have been hauled. Of that, 16,000 yards went into the coffer dam. All of the electronic aerators and mixers are in the oxidation ditch, there will be some training on them to make sure they are properly installed and working correctly.

Council President Lannen asked how close they are on time. Mr. Patterson replied that today is day 401. Williams Brother Construction stated that if winter comes early, they may get the plant running except area C (sludge ponds and drying beds) and finish next year. Mr. Patterson stated that the sludge ponds and the overflow pond are due to be lined the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month.

Kevin Johnson reported that we need to get the work directive for the drying beds to Williams Brother Construction this week. Worst case scenario will be an additional cost of \$12,000. He does not agree with that cost and will negotiate with them, especially since it includes gravel that we do not want. He further stated that there will be some change orders coming and we may need to hold a special meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

### VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 808 - FY 2017 LEVY ASSESSMENTS WITHIN SPECIAL IMPROVMENTS

Council President Lannen stated that there have been no changes from last year's rates:

Street Lighting - .50 per front footage

Street Maintenance - .55 per front footage

Tree & Sidewalk - .27 per front footage

A motion to approve Resolution No. 808 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Owen. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

### VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 809 - FY 2017 FINAL BUDGET

Finance Officer Rogers explained that there is a typo in Street Lighting. In the expenditures she typed \$27,636, it should be \$47,636. She will make the correction.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 809 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

#### VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 810 - AMENDING INTEREST RATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Finance Officer Rogers stated that the original interest rate for the Rural Development loans were to be 2.68 and 2.59 percent interest. As of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the interest rate is down to 1.68 percent. Effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, the interest rate will be dropping to 1.3 percent. We are going to wait and close the loans in October. We are looking at a savings of over one million dollars over the life of the loans. She recommends we wait and not vote on the resolution. A new resolution will be in the next council packet.

#### VOTE ON PAY REQUEST #13 - WILLIAMS BROTHER CONSTRUCTION

A motion to approve Pay Request No. 13 in the amount of \$695,556.32 was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

#### CLAIMS

A motion to pay the claims for August in the amount of \$751,150.38 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Council President Lannen briefly went over the report Public Works Director Maples left for council. The crew patched potholes, cleaned gutters, flushed sewers, stripped gravel at the pit, trimmed trees, graded the school parking lots, graded alleys and improved the corner at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. The report showed that there is no more water coming from the "spring" on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. He also attended a demonstration in Fairfield of a water valve exercising tool. Fairfield and Choteau agreed to co-op and purchase one together.

#### FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

None

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

None

## ZONING PERMIT REPORT FOR AUGUST 2016

Name	Address	Description
Scot Sessions	206 Sherman Avenue	Garage
Butch VanDeRiet	805 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street NW	Fence
Ginger Weist	217 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW	Fence

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Beth Barlow thanked council for approving the TBID budget.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. was made by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Crawford. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

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Daniel J. Lannen, Council President

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Jodi L. Rogers, Finance Officer