

City of Choteau

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2024 MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

This meeting was held at City Hall and via ZOOM.COM.

Council Present: Mayor Chris Hindoien, Council Member Stewart Merja (Zoom), Council Member Heather McCartney-Duty and Council Member Polly Cunningham. Council Member Sara Coccoli was excused.

Staff Present: Finance Officer Tom Frownfelder, Public Works Director Colin Lightner, Collette Anderson (Great West Engineering).

Citizens Present: Brian Colesworthy, Rich Lusky, Melody Martinsen (Acantha), Earl Fellers (HL Ventures), Allana Ballard and Michael Myskewitz (Torgerson's Equipment)

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hindoien called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – ANNEXATION for KURT JOHNSON

The Public Hearing opened at 5:31pm.

The Zoning Commission Board has recommended annexing a piece of property currently owned by Kurt Johnson. He is putting through a boundary line readjustment for a piece of property west of the intersection of 10th Ave NW and 4th St NW.

Public Comment: Melody Martinsen from the Acantha verified which piece of property we were talking about. Brian Colesworthy from Teton County Planning verified that we are approving the annexation in coordination to approve the Municipal Facility Exclusion for the DEQ. This is correct, and the annexation will be void if the exemption does not pass, or if the boundary lines are changed.

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:32pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 05, 2024, council meeting was made by Council Member McCartney-Duty; with a second by Council Member Cunningham. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON AWARD OF 1B WELL SITE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Collette Anderson from Great West Engineering gave a synopsis of the water projects that we have completed (Phase 1A), and the additional projects to be completed over the next two years (Phase 1B and 2). The bid to dig the well for the City's new well site, part of the Water Improvement Plan 1B, was put out to bid earlier today. No bids were received by the cut off time. Though no bids were received we do have at least one contractor, HL Ventures, that is interested in the project. Due to the lower dollar amount of this phase of the project, Great West Engineering will solicit bids from several contractors, and resubmit approval if any bids are received.

A motion to table this agenda item was made by Council Member McCartney-Duty, with a second from Council Member Cunningham. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON REAPPOINTMENT OF ROSS SALMOND to the TETON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

We received a letter of recommendation from Nancy Moorhouse, Administrator of the Teton Conservation District. She recommended that we reappoint Ross Salmond for a 3-year term. A motion to approve the reappointment of Ross Salmond was made by Council Member Cunningham, with a second from Council Member McCartney-Duty. Motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON Res. No. 923 – ANNEXATION REQUEST FOR KURT JOHNSON

A motion to adopt Res. No. 923 was made by Council Member McCartney-Duty, seconded by Council Member Cunningham. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON PURCHASE OF NEW MACHINERY FOR PUBLIC WORKS – NEW GRADER FROM TORGERSON’S

Public Works Director Lightner would like to purchase a lightly used CASE Grader for \$246,500.00. Mick Myskewitz, from Torgerson’s, gave a quick presentation on the piece of equipment, which we have had the chance to test drive. We will trade in two pieces of city equipment, a John Deere Skid and a Fiat Allis Loader, for a credit of \$16,500. We have approximately 100K of Gas Tax funds that will be applied for a down payment. We will apply for an Intercap Loan from the Montana Board of Investments for the remaining balance. A motion to approve purchase of this piece of equipment was made by Council Member McCartney-Duty, with a second by Council Member Cunningham. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON RENEWAL OF WEATHERBEATER LEASE

The 40-year lease for the Weatherbeater building, located on City land, is ending at the end of this month. They would like to renew the lease for another 20 years. A motion to renew this lease was made by Council Member McCartney-Duty, with a second by Council Member Cunningham. Brian Colesworthy asked if the lease would allow for expansion of the building, as the Choteau Area Port Authority is looking at possible grants to improve the existing building. Mayor Hindoien expressed that if that time comes, he will gladly look at the lease and entertain the options of expansion. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

APPROVE ROAD KILL CAR CLUB EVENTS FOR SUMMER 2024

Rich Lusky spoke of the Road Kill Car Club, that he has been doing for over 15 years. For the Summer of 2024 he is planning 3 shows: June 12, July 10 and August 14. He is asking for permission to use the Visitor Center parking lot for the events, which run 6 - 8:30pm. A motion to approve his event use of the parking lot was made by Council Member Cunningham, with a second by Council Member McCartney-Duty. Motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

CLAIMS

A motion to approve additional claims for March 2024, check #22395 – 22422 for a total of \$16,846.15 was made by Council Member Cunningham; seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

REPORTS

Reports from City Judge, Public Works Director, and Zoning Administrator are available for review in the Council Packet upon request.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member McCartney-Duty

- She talked about the recent work session for animal ordinances. She said there was a good turnout, and believes they are making some headway on ordinance revisions. She should have a working draft after the 3rd meeting in April.

Council Member Cunningham

- The Wild Wings festival is this weekend, along with the Old Trail Museum Wild Game Feed.

Mayor Hindoien

- He mentioned that we will be looking for a new civil attorney as Jeff Hindoien has taken a new job and is resigning his position with the City.
- We are currently having our annual audit done. It is going well and should be completed by Thursday.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Colesworthy said that he will be following up with the DNRC for a report. They had to cancel the recent meeting on the floodplain. The next floodplain meeting will be on May 29th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm

Chris Hindoien, Mayor

Tom Frownfelder, Finance Officer