CITY OF CHOTEAU

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2023
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

Council Present: Mayor Chris Hindoien, Council Member President Steve Dogiakos, Council Member Steve Howard, and Council Member Stewart Merja. Council Member Sara Coccoli was excused.

Staff Present: Deputy Clerk Tom Frownfelder, Billing Clerk Shawna Jamison

Citizens Present: Melody Martinsen (Acantha), Rich Lusky

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hindoien called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 04, 2023, meeting was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

Council Member Howard will be out of state from April 28 – May 20, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON PAY REQUEST NO. 2 – PROSPECT CONSTRUCTION

The new water project for Waterline Replacement is in full swing, weather permitting. We received pay request #2 for 351,804.50 which will break out as $348,286.46 for the contractor Prospect Construction and $3,518.05 in MT Gross Receipts Tax. A motion to pay the request was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Howard. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON TREE BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Due to oversight, all members on the tree and sidewalk board have reached their term limit. There was a recent DNRC tree retreat that inspired some of the board members to revive the board and look for new members. Incumbent board members Corlene Martin, Sara Coccoli, and Karen Horn would like to renew their terms in addition to new members Jill Owen and Jennifer Swanson. This will be a three-year term beginning May 1, 2023. A motion to approve the 5 members was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON MAY 2023 COUNCIL MEETING DATE

Due to Clerks and Mayor attending Municipal Institute during the first week of May, we were potentially going to move the council meeting from May 2nd. Mayor Hindoien was going to be at the event on that day, but will now be in Choteau, so he suggested that we keep the same date.

Council Member Dogiakos requested that we discuss moving the July 4th meeting at our next council meeting.

CLAIMS

A motion to approve claims for April 2023, check #21810 – 21822, with a total of $360,542.97 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Dogiakos. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Reports for law enforcement, city judge, public works director, finance officer, zoning and building permits were reviewed by Mayor Hindoien; see council packet for full reports.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hindoien
- Mayor Hindoien will be meeting with our Civil Attorney starting May 1st for mediation on the Bumgarner case.
- The public works crew have found 3 new water line breaks that have been fixed.
- He had the pleasure of giving a presentation to the 1st grade class about how local government works.
- Mayor Hindoien has been working closely with the League of Cities and Towns during this legislative session. There have been several bills that will take away control from local government, moving control to the state. The Mayor and the League have been trying to keep these bills from passing.

Council Member Dogiakos
- The chamber is taking nominations for 4th of July parade grand marshal.
- The Lions Club is offering free calendars for new residents to be available at City Hall.

Council Member Howard
- Plumbing work has increased for the spring season.
- Also, as spring continues, there has been an increase in fires within the County, and one house fire in the city limits.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Lusky has been working on advertising for the July 2nd Car Show.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

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Chris Hindoien, Mayor   Tom Frownfelder, Deputy Clerk