

City of Choteau

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JULY 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 Stewart Merja, Council Member Steve Howard, and Council Member Sara Coccoli.

Staff Present: Finance Officer Jodi Rogers, Deputy Clerk Tom Frownfelder, Utility Billing Clerk Shawna Jamison

Citizens Present: Karla Doncaster, Phyllis Bechtold, Rich Lusky, Chris Carter

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 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 Sara Coccoli will be out of state August 3-11. Council Member Steve Howard will be out of state August 3-15.

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON RESOLUTION 904 – SALARIES AND COMPENSATION

Council Member Dogiakos made a motion to increase wages by 4%. Council Member Merja seconded the motion. The Motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON PAY REQUEST NO. 5 – PROSPECT CONSTRUCTION – WATER

Council Member Dogiakos made a motion to pay request no. 5. Council Member Howard seconded the motion. The Motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION – SRF WATER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS

Council Member Dogiakos made a motion to approve Resolution 905, Council Member Merja seconded the motion. The Motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON NEW CITY CLERK/FINANCE OFFICER

Mayor Hindoien proudly and reluctantly accepted current Finance Officer Rogers resignation effective September 8, 2023. Mayor Hindoien also appointed current Deputy Clerk Tom Frownfelder to replace FO Rogers, with the Councils approval. Council Member Dogiakos made a motion to accept FO Rogers resignation, Council Member Coccoli seconded the motion. The Motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye. Council Member Merja made a motion to appoint the current Deputy Clerk, Tom Frownfelder, to City Clerk/Chief Finance Officer effective September 8, 2023. Council Member Dogiakos seconded the motion. The Motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

CLAIMS

A motion to approve the claims for June and July 2023, Checks #21925-21984, totaling \$1,019,472.47 was made by Council Member Howard. Council Member Dogiakos seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Reports for law enforcement, city judge, public works director, finance officer, zoning and building permits were not reviewed, but are available in the council packet.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Merja

- He said everything was much quieter in his neighborhood now that Prospect Construction was done in the area.

Council Member Dogiakos

- Best 4th of July ever according to Council Member Dogiakos. He also mentioned that the Choteau Lions Clubs members are selling the new Trip of the Month tickets.

Council Member Howard

- Council Member Howard said the water project is going well. They had a false report of a water main break. It turned out to just be a valve not closed. He also would like the council to discuss having an in-house building inspector in the near future. A concrete demo will be starting on the tennis courts soon, hopefully by the end of the week.

Council Member Coccoli

- Soroptimist Fair went well. Though in the future, she would like parameters for food vendors in the park during their event. She mentioned that the hot air balloons are coming August 18th. They are hoping to have 6 balloons total.

Mayor Hindoien

- Mayor Hindoien said he has not received any complaints on the water project recently. He also gave a brief synopsis on the new flood plain. He will be working closely with DNRC and the county commissioners concerning this matter. He also spoke briefly about the property assessment letters that were sent out to property owners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karla Doncaster

- Karla Doncaster shared her background in human resources and said she wants to share her skills to help with the prosperity of the city.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Chris Hindoien, Mayor

Tom Frownfelder, Deputy Clerk