

City of Choteau

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1, 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: Deputy Clerk Tom Frownfelder

Citizens Present: Karla Doncaster, Bryan Haviland, Melody Martinsen (Acantha) and Brian Colesworthy Teton County Planner

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 July 18, 2023, meeting was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Coccoli. 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 DEPUTY CLERK POSITION

Deputy Clerk Frownfelder explained that after reviewing and updating the job description, the position would be posted internally for 5 days. The position is being offered at \$19-\$21 an hour based on experience. If the position is not filled internally then it will be advertised to the general public. Council Member Coccoli asked if there would be a hiring committee. Mayor Hindoien explained that there would be an Interview Committee consisting of himself, all department heads and two council members.

Council Member Dogiakos made a motion to accept the recommendation to start the hiring process. Council Member Merja seconded the motion. The Motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

CLAIMS

A motion to approve the claims for July 2023, Check #21985-22008, totaling \$113,064.35 was made by Council Member Dogiakos. Council Member Coccoli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye. Council Member Coccoli asked about the \$99.99 charge for the mayor's iPad. Mayor Hindoien stated that all council members will soon have iPads for their use as council members in efforts to help them with their email, zoom calls and retaining public information.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Merja

He stated that the bears are out and to be careful.

Council Member Dogiakos

- Choteau Lions Club Trip of the Month tickets are still available.
- The tennis courts project is coming along nicely. They are working on an expanded grant to help cover costs.

Council Member Howard

- Council Member Howard stated that there are some dry wells around town. He also stated that replacing the water lines is decreasing ground water.

Council Member Coccoli

- Council Member Coccoli was wondering about getting new streetlights. Mayor Hindoien stated that we are still working with Northwestern Energy on a plan which is almost complete.

Mayor Hindoien

- Mayor Hindoien said that the new budget is almost set. We are waiting on the MILL values.
- He reviewed the dates for public hearings on budget. Choteau council meeting will next meet at the pavilion on August 15th for the public hearing.
- There will be a public informational meeting on August 16th concerning the new flood plain.
- Mayor Hindoien also stressed that with school starting soon that we all need to be careful of pedestrians and cyclists.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karla Doncaster

- Karla Doncaster shared her notice of the words “hot tea” in the spelling of Choteau. There is a saying “Can U C the Hot Tea in Choteau”. She sees patterns in words which brought a paradigm shift in her thoughts. She sees risks and threats here in Choteau that everyone cannot see. Karla offered for us to come to her house to have tea with her and to discuss this further.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Chris Hindoiem, Mayor

Tom Frownfelder, Deputy Clerk