

# City of Choteau

## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 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 (Zoom) and Council Member Sara Coccoli. Council Member Howard was excused.

Staff Present: Deputy Clerk Tom Frownfelder and Utility Billing Clerk Shawna Jamison

Citizens Present: Karla Doncaster, Phyllis Bechtold, Melody Martinsen (Acantha), Rose Carlson, Polly Cunningham and Rich Lusky

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### OPEN PUBLIC HEARING- FY2024 Budget and FY2024 Assessments

- Mayor Hindoien opened the Public Meeting for the FY 2024 Budget and Assessments at 5:32pm. Mayor Hindoien informed the public property owners that their property taxes would be going down due to the addition of commercial property in Choteau. The city received 99.79 mills last year compared to 79.12 mills currently.
- Northwestern Energy is reviewing new rates and plans for additional street lighting. We will be looking at a potential increase in the SID rate for streetlights due to the possibility of additional lighting installed and increase in electric rates.
- Mayor Hindoien reviewed the possible creation of a city police department. Council Member Merja said it was previously estimated at the cost of \$1000 per household.
- The public hearing will stay open until September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, when we will take additional public comments and close the hearing.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 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

None

## NEW BUSINESS

### VOTE ON AUTHORIZATION TO PLACE DELINQUENT WATER/GARBAGE CHARGES ON PROPERTY TAXES

Deputy clerk Frownfelder wrote a letter requesting to put up to \$3,044.71 of delinquent charges onto property taxes. Council Member Dogiakos made a motion to approve placing delinquent charges on property taxes. Council Member Coccoli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

### VOTE TO APPROVE TBID FY2024 WORK PLAN

Council Member Dogiakos made a motion to approve the TBID FY 2024 work plan. Council Member Coccoli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

### VOTE ON TBID BOARD APPOINTMENT

Council Member Dogiakos made a motion to approve the appointment of Diane Gollehon to a four-year term. Council Member Merja seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

### VOTE ON PAY REQUEST #6 – PROSPECT CONSTRUCTION

We received pay request #6 for the water project for Waterline Replacement. The request is for \$401,703.18 which will break out as \$397,686.15 for the contractor Prospect Construction and \$4,017.03 in MT Gross Receipts Tax. Council Member Dogiakos made a motion to pay Prospect Construction on request #6. Council Member Coccoli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

### VOTE ON RESOLUTION NO. 906 – BANK SIGNATURES

Council Member Dogiakos made a motion to approve Resolution No. 906. Council Member Merja seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

## CLAIMS

A motion to approve the claims for August 2023, Check #22009-22029 and electronic ck#99993, totaling \$434,834.53 was made by Council Member Merja. Council Member Coccoli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Merja

He stated that he had heard that some wells had gone dry in the northeast part of town.

Council Member Dogiakos

- Choteau Lions Club Trip of the Month tickets are still available.
- The tennis courts project is coming along nicely. They are going to put up the fence this week and then start pouring the cement.

Council Member Coccoli

- Council Member Coccoli had questions about the city public works employees working on the tennis courts and the ownership of property. Mayor Hindoien stated that when all is said and done that the tennis courts belong to the city as well as the bandshell and swimming pool, though there are civic organizations that pay for the maintenance of the facilities.
- Hot air balloons are coming this weekend. They are hoping for 4 total. Rides will be dependent on the weather.

Mayor Hindoien

- Open house tomorrow, Wednesday Aug 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Pavilion to go over the flood plain map. Also, to answer questions on property taxes.
- City of Choteau received a Certificate of Appreciation from Alluvion Healthcare for our community involvement.
- We have received complaints about smells of trash and animal feces around town.
- Fruit is falling so please be Bear Aware and pick it up.
- Any letters sent to the city and its employees, including the council members and the mayor, are public record and cannot be confidential.
- School is coming so please watch for young walkers and bike riders.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Lusky

- Roadkill Car Club had a good turnout this summer season with the car shows. He thanked the city for the use of the parking lot. Rich also mentioned that his well was one that ran dry last week and that Mike Maples and the city were immediately willing to help to get him water. His water did come back on within 24 hours.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

---

Chris Hindoien, Mayor

---

Tom Frownfelder, Deputy Clerk