

City of Choteau

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3rd, 2023 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 (on Zoom), Council Member Steve Howard and Council Member Sara Coccoli.

Staff Present: Finance Officer Tom Frownfelder, Deputy Clerk Terah Henry

Citizens Present: Jenny Lee, Phyllis Bechtold, and Heather McCartney-Duty joined at 5:50pm.

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 September 5th, 2023, council meeting was made by Council Member Coccoli. Council Member Merja seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hindoien requested to move the next council meeting from October 17th, 2023 to October 24th, 2023 due to the Finance Officer and Deputy Clerk being out of town.

VOTE ON RES. NO. 910 – CANCELLING THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 GENERAL ELECTION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

The November 07, 2023, General Election of Certain Municipal Officers has been cancelled due to all three open positions being non contested. Council Member Merja made a motion to pass and approve Res. 910. Council Member Coccoli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

VOTE RES. NO. 911 – RESOLUTION TO ANNEX JENNY LEE PROPERTY

Council Member Merja made a motion to pass and approve Res No. 911. Council Member Coccoli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

A brief discussion followed concerning whether the property is vacant. Part of the property is already in city limits. Phylis Bechtold asked if the city was responsible for bringing water to the property. Jenny Lee mentioned that this spot was picked as it was the closest to connect to city services.

VOTE OF STREET CLOSURE – AMERICAN LEGION REQUESTED THE STREET TO THE WEST OF THEM BEING CLOSED OCTOBER 7TH, 2023.

Council Member Coccoli made a motion to approve the street closure request. Council Member Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Council Member Merja made a motion to approve the appointment of Heather McCartney-Duty to fill the interim position that Steve Dogiakos vacated. Council Member Coccoli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye. Heather was sworn in over zoom and will sign the paperwork in the office at a later point.

NOMINATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT – FROM NOW UNTIL END OF 2023

Council Member Howard nominated Council Member Merja as the Council President. Council Member seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

CLAIMS

A motion to approve the claims for September 2023, Check #22063 - 22115 totaling \$327,171.03 was made by Council Member Coccoli. Council Member Merja seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Coccoli said the Tree and Sidewalk Board is making progress. They have a five-year plan and a mission statement in the works. They are planning a work meeting on October 12th at City Hall. There has been good mapping and organization compared to previous years. Council Member Coccoli asked if the streets in the SW corner are done for the season. They are not ~~chop~~ chip sealed yet. That work will be done in the Spring.

Mayor Hindoien will have correspondence at next meeting for the council to look over. Dog issues continue to be a big problem. Mayor Hindoien says the city is looking at removing old or incorrect ordinances. Next week are the League of Cities and Towns meetings in Helena. Mayor Hindoien is also working on following up on correspondence. It takes time to research before responding. The city had a meeting for the substantial completion of the water project with Prospect Construction.

Harvest Festival is this Saturday, October 7th at the Legion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02pm

Chris Hindoien, Mayor

Tom Frownfelder, Finance Officer