

# CITY OF CHOTEAU

## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 07, 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 Sara Coccoli, Council Member Stewart Merja and Council Member Steve Howard.

Staff Present: Deputy Clerk Tom Frownfelder, Collette Anderson (Great West Engineering)

Citizens Present: Melody Martinsen (Acantha)

### 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 January 17, 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

### OLD BUSINESS

### PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Council Member Dogiakos wants to discuss a social media policy that has been talked about off and on over the last 5 years. There are new State policies concerning social media and free speech that we should be following. We receive quite a few comments on our Facebook posts, and we need to be following official guidelines when dealing with negative comments and users. Mayor Hindoien feels that the City already has the ability to handle internal employee situations using our current Personnel Policy. Deputy Clerk Frownfelder commented that in classes he has taken it is recommended to have at least general policy that states what social media platforms we will use, what types of posts we will process, and what rules we would follow. Council Member Dogiakos and Mayor Hindoien will work together to come up with a revised policy to bring back to the Council to vote at a later date.

## NEW BUSINESS

### VOTE ON ROAD KILL CAR CLUB'S REQUEST FOR CAR SHOWS IN VISITOR CENTER PARKING LOT

Rich Lusky wrote a letter to the Council asking permission for his car show group to hold their events in the visitor center parking lot on June 14<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> of 2023. He has had the same lineup of events for several years now. A motion to approve the events was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Dogiakos. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

### VOTE ON TASK ORDER #10 – UPDATE OF ZONING CODE

Deputy Clerk Frownfelder is working on updating the zoning code to help streamline the code, potentially making it less complicated and more straightforward. To help with the writing and legal guidance, we asked Great West Engineering to help with the document changes. They are designating this project with Task Order #10. A motion to approve the task order was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

### VOTE ON TASK ORDER #6 AMENDMENT 2 – PHASE 2 AND 3 WATER PROJECTS

Collette Anderson with Great West Engineering explained the amendment to the water projects. A motion to accept the amendment and approve the contract with Great West Engineering was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Coccoli. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

### VOTE ON REVOLVING LOAN FUND APPLICATION – 2 BUCKS INC.

John Buck, with 2 Bucks Inc., applied for \$20,000 for business support for the purpose of inventory and business improvement. The revolving loan committee gave a majority approval of the loan. A motion to approve the loan was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Coccoli. The motion passed with Council Members Dogiakos, Howard and Coccoli saying aye. Council Member Merja abstained.

### VOTE ON PERSONNEL POLICY CHANGE

Due to changes in Montana Code Annotated, the City's liability insurance company, Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority, is asking for us to update part of the personnel policy concerning firearms in the workplace. In the workplace violence section of our policies, page(s) 7, the city policy does not allow employees to bring personal firearms to work. This verbiage may violate

the new carry concealed laws passed by state legislators last spring. MMIA recommends adding the word “unauthorized” in front of weapons, or remove any reference to personal firearms, to comply with current MCA. A motion to approve the change in the personnel policy by removing the firearms paragraph was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Coccoli. The motion passed with all in attendance saying aye.

#### CLAIMS

A motion to approve claims for January 2023, check #21680 – 21720, with a total of \$74,393.34 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Dogiakos. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Hindoien reported to the Council that he has been working on creating a covenant with the home owners next to the platted city road 14<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, in the Country Club subdivision. The road is currently undeveloped, and the homeowners would like to guarantee that it remains undeveloped. If the homeowners agree to the covenant, Mayor Hindoien will put it on a Council Agenda for approval.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

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Chris Hindoien, Mayor

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Tom Frownfelder, Deputy Clerk