

CITY OF CHOTEAU

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2023 MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

This meeting was held at City Hall and via ZOOM.COM.

Council Present: Mayor Chris Hindoien (Zoom), Council Member President Steve Dogiakos, Council Member Sara Coccoli and Council Member Stewart Merja. Council Member Steve Howard was excused.

Staff Present: Finance Officer Jodi Rogers, Deputy Clerk Tom Frownfelder

Citizens Present: Melody Martinsen (Acantha), Brian Colesworthy (CAPA), Rich Lusky, Fava Evensen

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED SUBDIVISION REVIEW FEES

Mayor Hindoien opened the public hearing at 5:30 pm. The hearing was conducted on the proposed Subdivision Review Fees. The fees would start immediately, and are only a pass-through for the purpose of offsetting the fees paid to Great West Engineering to process the subdivision reviews. There was no public comment. The public hearing was closed at 5:37pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 07, 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

None.

OLD BUSINESS

VOTE ON CODE RED ALERT SYSTEM

At previous meetings the Council has discussed options for a City owned public alert system. They looked at several different companies and seemed interested in the Code Red system by ONSOLVE. The concern for having the system stemmed from two incidences last summer when there was a grizzly bear in town. Some of the public felt that they were not sufficiently warned in a timely manner about the location of the animal. The system could also be used to send out additional alerts when needed. Council Member Merja questioned if the cost was worth the benefit of the system. Mayor Hindoien also feels that we have a good following of our Facebook page, among other interconnected Facebook pages, that we can fairly quickly get word out. A motion to not approve adopting the system was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Coccoli. The motion passed with Council Members Merja and Coccoli voting aye, and Council Member Dogiakos voting nay.

NEW BUSINESS

VOTE ON RES. No. 901 – ESTABLISH FEES for the SUBDIVISION REVIEW PROCESS

Resolution No. 901 establishes fees for services related to the review and processing of subdivision applications pursuant to the City's adopted subdivision regulations. A motion to adopt Res. No. 901 was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE APPLICATION RECOMMENDATION

The revolving loan committee has reviewed an application from Nicholas Lightner, owner, and operator of Montana's Premier Electric, who is asking for a \$20,000 loan to build a shop at 4061 US HWY 89 S. The committee members, through an email poll, recommend the City Council approve the loan. A motion to accept the recommendation and approve the loan application was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON WATER PROJECT PAY REQUEST #1 – PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

The new water project for Waterline Replacement is slated to begin next week. We received pay request #1 for \$319,200.00 for the contractor Prospect Construction. A motion to pay the request was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

CLAIMS

A motion to approve claims for March 2023, check #21758 – 21768, with a total of \$340,647.62 and one Electronic check #99998 for \$3,192.00 was made by Council Member Merja, seconded by Council Member Dogiakos. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Reports for law enforcement, city judge, finance officer, zoning and building permits were reviewed by Mayor Hindoien; see council packet for full reports.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hindoien had a meeting today with the Sheriff department, and the Mayors from Fairfield and Dutton, concerning the amount of local coverage that we receive, and if there is a need for additional local law enforcement. The Mayor said that of the calls they respond to, 39% are Choteau, 44% County, 10% Fairfield, and 5% Dutton. The City is actually getting more coverage than what we are paying for. There are also minimal budget dollars available to pay for additional coverage. The Sheriff department is hoping to be at full staff soon, which they are often understaffed, which should help with coverage.

Mayor Hindoien also said that Himself, Finance Officer Rogers, and the public works crew are headed to the annual Rural Water conference in Great Falls for the next few days.

Council Member Coccoli talked about the upcoming Soroptimist Art in the Park that is slated for Sunday, July 2nd.

Council Member Dogiakos said that the Lions Club calendars are now available. He also spoke of the T-Mobile grant that the Choteau Dog Park received.

Council Member Merja spoke about the Girls Allstar tournament where they placed 3rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fava Evensen requested the public works crew fix the drainage of water from the road at 1st Streat NE next to the Mormon Church and Rice Ave. Brian Colesworthy also asked about fixing the stormwater drain at 5th St NE and Main Ave N.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Chris Hindoien, Mayor

Tom Frownfelder, Deputy Clerk