

CITY OF CHOTEAU

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JUNE 06, 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, and Council Member Sara Coccoli. Council Member Steve Howard was excused.

Staff Present: Deputy Clerk Tom Frownfelder

Citizens Present: Karla Doncaster

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 May 16, 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 PAY REQUEST #4 WATER PROJECT – PROSPECT CONSTRUCTION

We received pay request #4 for the water project for Waterline Replacement. The request is for \$509,963.10 which will break out as \$504,863.47 for the contractor Prospect Construction and \$5,099.63 in MT Gross Receipts Tax. 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.

VOTE ON CHANGE ORDER #1 – WATER PROJECT

Per request of the City of Choteau, we are proposing the following change to the water project. “Removal of Type A surface restoration from Alternate 1 (Bid Item 216) to instead have the Contractor restore the trench excavations with a Type C gravel surfacing.” “On 4/12/23 a conversation with the Engineer and the Public Works Director indicated that the Owner is interested in deleting the HMA trench patching scope of work from the project, and instead having the Contractor put back gravel patch so that the city’s crews can later remove and replace the entire roadway with chip seal.” A motion to approve the change order was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Merja. The motion passed with Council Member Dogiakos and Council Member Merja voting aye, and Council Member Coccoli voting nay.

VOTE ON JOINT CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY AGREEMENT

Whereas the cities of Choteau, Fairfield and Dutton have resolved to enter into a contract with the Teton County to establish joint city-county libraries in Choteau, Fairfield and Dutton, they have established new regulations for forming the board of trustees. There was concern that one city would have more members than another, so they further defined how and where the members would be appointed. A motion to approve the Joint City-County Library Agreement was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Coccoli. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON STREET CLOSURE REQUEST – CHOTEAU AMERICAN LEGION

The Choteau American Legion requested to close the block in front of their establishment along 1st Ave NW (between 1st and 2nd Street) on two days; July 2nd between 10am and 7pm, and July 3rd from 7pm to 2am. A motion to approve the street closure was made by Council Member Coccoli, seconded by Council Member Dogiakos. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

VOTE ON STREET CLOSURE REQUEST – PEBBLES FAMILY

Robert & Kelly Jo Peebles and family requested to close the block along 1st Ave NW (between 3rd and 4th Street) on July 4th 8am to Midnight. A motion to approve the street closure 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 RECOMMENDATION – BELLES & LACE, ANDREA GREYN

The revolving loan fund committee has reviewed an application from Andrea Greyn, owner and operator of Belles and Lace, who is asking for a \$20,000.00 loan for the purpose of inventory, fixtures, building renovations, marketing and advertising. The committee members, through an email poll, recommend the City Council approve the loan. A motion to approve the loan was made by Council Member Coccoli, seconded by Council Member Dogiakos. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON JULY COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGE

Due to the normally scheduled council meeting being on July 4th, it has been requested to only have one meeting for July to be held on Tuesday the 18th. A motion to approve the change in meeting 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 a second run of claims for May 2023, check #21860 – 21910, with a total of \$641,339.74 was made by Council Member Dogiakos, seconded by Council Member Coccoli. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Merja

- He is concerned and is requesting about the early start time of the water project. They have been starting construction at 6am, and he is hoping they can move to 7am.

Council Member Dogiakos

- As a representative of the Lion's Club, he was wondering if there have been any tennis court bid packages received yet, which ends on June 10th. To date, we have not received any bids, but are expecting two to be received.
- He gave a congratulatory response to the Choteau Friends of the Dog Park now they have officially opened the dog park.
- He talked about the new bank shell located in the City Park that the Lions Club has been building, and that it is almost finished with the help of City Crew.
- He has noticed that he has been seeing lots of people walking dogs without leashes. It was discussed that the city code doesn't specifically say that they have to use a leash, just be under control.
- The museums in Choteau and the surrounding area are now open.
- He asked where we were at with zoning updates. Things got put on hold due to upcoming changes to the building code from the recent State Legislative sessions.

Council Member Coccoli

- She reminded the council that the deadline to file for City Council elections is June 20th. It looks like we will need a new person to run, as only 2 out of 3 council members have indicated they will run.
- She inquired if City Hall has been contacting residents about overgrown grass. Mayor Hindoien explained that we have been contacting residents, and if they do not mow then the City does step in.
- She asked if we have summer staff hired. Mayor Hindoien explained that we do have part-time park staff hired, but are still looking for one additional full-time position in the public works department.

Mayor Hindoien

- He spoke in length about continued complaints received concerning dogs, grass/weeds, etc. The bigger issue is having the funds and personnel to handle all of the complaints and expectations of the residents. We would have to take it to a vote for possible tax levies to pay for services.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Chris Hindoien, Mayor

Tom Frownfelder, Deputy Clerk