

City of Choteau

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 21st, 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, Council Member Sara Cocoli, and Council Member Heather McCartney-Duty. Council Member Steve Howard was excused.

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

Citizens Present: Brian Colesworthy (Teton County), Melody Martinsen (Acantha), Polly Cunningham (Dog Park)

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hindoien called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 07th, 2023, council meeting was made by Council Member McCartney-Duty, Council Member Merja seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

REQUESTS TO BE OUT OF STATE

None

NEW BUSINESS

CLAIMS

A motion to approve additional claims for November 2023, check #22213 – 22228 and electronic check #99990 (Check #22175 thru 22212 were cancelled due to printing error) for a total of \$111,885.14 was made by Council Member Merja, Council Member McCartney-Duty seconded the motion. The motion passed with all those in attendance voting aye. Council Member Merja inquired about the Pace claim for \$6,426.55 and what part of the sewer system they cleaned. Mayor Hindoien explained they cleaned parts of the sewer and lift station at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Coccoli:

- She expressed her appreciation for the addition of lighting in the town, but inquired about the timeline of when more street lighting will be installed. Mayor Hindoien said that he is still working with Northwestern Energy on a timeline. She also commented on the installation of the annual snowflake lights and the new Choteau Christmas banners.

Mayor Hindoien

- He talked about a letter he composed to FEMA and the DNRC concerning the upcoming floodplain review. He thinks it is necessary to respond with constructive points to try to mitigate the changes they are proposing. He encourages citizens to come and sign the letter in support of the City.
- He drafted a letter explaining the recent increase in property tax that he would like to post for the public to see.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Poly Cunningham gave a small presentation on the new Dog Park. She says that the park has been successful this year, and seems to be utilized, giving out over 1,000 poop bags. It appears that the users are keeping the area clean. They plan on building a memorial wall that people can make donations and have a plaque for their animals. They plan to build some sun shelters next year. They will give City Hall a list of the main board members we can call with questions.

Brian Colesworthy gave a small presentation concerning the work he is doing for the upcoming floodplain review. He and Deputy Clerk Henry have submitted Mitigation Technical Assistance Request letters. He is working with FEMA and the DNRC to bring in the Silver Jackets to help review the floodplain information. They will work towards a mitigation plan. Brian reminded us that we will have to put together a public mailing notice that will cost around \$500.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 pm

Chris Hindoien, Mayor

Tom Frownfelder, Finance Officer