

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
CONRAD, COUNTY OF PONDERA, STATE
OF MONTANA, HELD AT CONRAD CITY HALL
ON January 4, 2022

The City Council of the City of Conrad, County of Pondera, State of Montana, met in regular session at the Conrad City Hall on January 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Miller; Alderman Karla Breeding, David Cates, Nathan Hunsucker & Ron Widhalm; Finance Officer Agnes Fowler; PWD Zimbelman; Attorney Jones

Absent: Acting Chief Padilla, with permission.

Guest present: Darrel Burditt, Alex Linn, Melinda & John Burns, John Calahan.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Miller at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Alderman Breeding 2nd by Alderman Cates to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2021 regular meeting, as presented.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Claim checks #38803 through #38823 December claims (refer to the claims register) and payroll were presented to the Council.

Motion by Alderman Breeding and second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve the claims & payroll, as presented.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

No water contracts.

Public Comment: None was heard.

PWD Zimbelman reported on the Public works Department December 2021 activity. DEQ has proposed a new process for the implementation of narrative standards for nutrients in Montana wastewater receiving waters. The new law would require every system to develop an adaptive management program. He will be attending a public hearing in February, to better understand the requirements. A webinar from MT Rural Water is being offered to help make sure our emergency response plans meet requirements. He has been working with the county sanitarian as well on this matter. The Skating Rink is up and running. Good comments have been received on the condition of rink.

Mayor Miller presented the December 2021 activity report for the Police Department. There were approximately 185 calls for service reported to the PCSO Dispatch and or Conrad Police Department. Some of the calls were as follows: 3 arrests; 9 Domestic Incidents; 3 Burglary/Thefts/Shoplifting reports; 5 Criminal Mischief/Trespass/Vandalism; 10 Medical Emergencies; 8 Suspicious Activity/Vehicles; 41 various Public Assists; 6 Juvenile Complaints; 50 Traffic Stops; 26 Assists to other Agencies. There were 16 dog calls and 3 cats calls and 1 cow. The Conrad Police Department is currently operating at full staff.

Alex Linn was present to request of the City that they revise the current Ordinance to allow domestic/urban chickens within the City

limits. Alderman Breeding gave a brief history of the Ordinance, noting that several years ago this same issue had been presented but due to the large public protest of such, the Ordinance remained unchanged. He noted several of the surrounding communities have an allowance for chickens. He currently has 20 hen chickens and would like to keep that number. Complaints have been received on Alex's chickens due to being out of compliance with the City Code. Several communities have responded to a survey with how they handle such. Mayor Miller contacted the Mayor of the City of Choteau on their regulations as well, which only prohibit swine. All Alderman and the Mayor agreed that the current provisions of the Ordinance may have to be looked at to meet current trends. Attorney Jones and Mayor Miller will work with Alex Linn on preparing a presentation for the next meeting.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker 2nd by Alderman Cates to table Alex Linn's request pending more information.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Resolution #22-1263 - Unsafe Properties as it pertains to properties owned by Glen Habets at 109 4th Ave. SE and 120 4th Ave SE. was read by Mayor Miller and presented for consideration of approval. Mr. Habets has been advised that he shall erect or install a temporary barrier or fence that restrains the entry into, on or under the grain structures located on the said properties prior to February 7, 2022 and then do the same with a permanent barrier or fence on or before May 2, 2022. A City Building Permit for the installation of the fence would also be required per Attorney Jones. Communication with representatives of the property have noted that they can work with the timeframes presented.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker 2nd by Alderman widhaln to sign and approve Resolution #22-1263 - Unsafe Properties owned by Glen Habets.

4 Ayes
0 Naves
0 Absent

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Miller called for Council to nominate one their own to serve as Council President for the next two years. Alderman widhaln nominated Alderman Breeding for this position. No further nominations were made.

Per Resolution 1016, an election by show of hands and signification by Ayes and Naves as follows:

2 Ayes
1 Naves-Alderman Cates
0 Absent
1 Abstain-Alderman Breeding

Alderman Breeding declined not having full support of the Council.

Alderman Breeding nominated Alderman Hunsucker for Council President. Vote was called for:

3 Ayes
0 Naves
1 Abstain-Alderman Hunsucker
0 Absent

Mayor Miller declared Alderman Hunsucker as the Council President for two years, expiring January 2, 2023, to coincide with the normal election cycles.

Mayor Miller asked Council if anyone wanted to change boards or committees they served on, none wanted to make changes. Mayor Miller is recommending the appointment of Melinda Burns to serve on the Police Hiring Committee and the Police Commission to replace Darby Donovan unexpired term due to his moving outside of the City limits. Also to set the last day of the noted month as the expiration date for all Board/Committees with terms. Members on certain boards is comprised of City employees/officials so those changes will be made as well. Other changes may be made at a later date.

Motion by Alderman widhalm and second by Alderman Breeding to approve the recommended appointments of Mayor Miller to the Boards & Committees, as stated above with the last day of the month noted as the ending date for all terms.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

The signers on the banking accounts needs to be updated. Wendy Judisch to be removed and add Mayor Jamie Miller, as of January 3, 2022. Notification then needs to be sent to all the banks.

Motion by Alderman Breeding and second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve the changes to the authorized signers at the banks, removing Wendy Judisch and adding Mayor Jamie Miller.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

No Executive session was necessary.

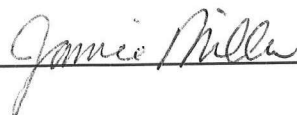
Other Business: Alderman Breeding noted two Council meeting she will be unable to attend.

Next agenda: Arbor Day Proclamation; Urban Chickens; Chief of Police appointment

Motion by Alderman Breeding 2nd by Alderman widhalm to adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



Mayor

Attest:



Finance Officer