

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 18, 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 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Miller; Alderman Breeding, Widhalm, Cates and Hunsucker (arrived at 6:10 pm) ; Finance Officer Fowler; and PWD Zimbelman were present.

Absent: Acting Chief Padilla, with permission.

Guests present: Darrel Burditt, Sandy Syvertson, Mourine Grubb, Alex Linn.

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

Motion by Alderman Breeding and second by Alderman Widhalm to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2022 regular meeting as presented.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Claim checks #38824 through #38857 for January claims (refer to the claims register) were presented to the Council.

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

No Water Contracts.

Public Comment: Sandy Syvertson inquired as to the status of the Lytle situation. He also wonders what happened with the chickens that are in violation of the City Ordinances. Mourine Grubb feels that their property rights are in violation and wants something done, they keep hearing the same responses, we are working on it, but nothing seems to change. Mayor Miller noted she has been in communication with the Attorney and the Acting Chief of Police and will follow up with their concerns.

Finance Officer Fowler presented the December 2021 Finance, J.V., R.V., Pledged Security and Combined Balance Sheet reports. Necessary documents for both the City and the Tri City Interlocal FY 20-21 audit will be prepared. The audits for both are scheduled to start March 23rd. The quarterly Tri City Interlocal business meeting will be held in Dunkirk on Friday, January 21st. The competitive grant for the ARPA funds was submitted by the Pondera Regional Port Authority on January 13th. Department heads will be requested to review the lists for property and vehicles, this is due March 31st to MMIA. Finance Officer Fowler will attend the MLCT board meeting, via Zoom, on January 20th. She serves as the Secretary/Treasurer on that board. The Pondera Combined Fund distribution checks were received with the Swimming Pool receiving \$904 and the Splash Park receiving \$1,659—thank you to our generous community.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker and second by Alderman Breeding to approve Finance Officer Fowler's December, 2021 reports, as presented.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

The Arbor Day Proclamation was read by Mayor Miller. This is a requirement of the \$300 Arbor Day Grant that is submitted annually. The City contributes a match and trees are purchased and planted at locations determined by the PWD. The planting has been moved to the fall, for a better survival rate.

Motion by Alderman Widhalm and second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve the 2022 Arbor Day Proclamation and grant submission.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Miller stated that she continues to gather information and has been in communication with the City Attorney regarding the Urban Chicken request submitted by Alex Linn at the last council meeting. Alderman Breeding feels strongly that it is time to change and allow chickens, with guidelines. Backyardchickens.com is a good resource. There is a process to request a variance from any ordinance. Mayor Miller agrees this needs to be looked into further with the changing times. Alex reiterated that he is happy to work with the Council on this issue.

Motion by Alderman Breeding and second by Alderman Cates to table the discussion on Urban Chickens to continue research.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Thomas Brown submitted his resignation letter from the Conrad Public Library Board which was read. He was thanked for his service.

Motion by Alderman Breeding second by Alderman Hunsucker to accept the resignation of Thomas Brown from the Conrad Public Library Board.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

A letter of interest was received and read from Lida Holst to express her interest in serving on the Conrad Public Library Board. The Library Board is recommending she be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Thomas Brown.

Motion by Alderman Widhalm and second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve the recommendation of the Conrad Public Library Board to appoint Lida Holst to their Board.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

It is recommended that the July Council meeting dates be moved to the 12th and 26th and the August Council meeting dates be moved to the 9th and 23rd. This is to accommodate the majority of the claims and business for FY 21-22.

Motion by Alderman Breeding and second by Alderman Cates to approve the recommended Council meeting date changes to July 12th and 26th and August 9th & 23rd.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Annually, MMIA automatically renews their members in the Employee Benefits Program for the next year unless they choose to withdraw. It is recommended the City of Conrad continue with this program for FY 22-23.

Motion by Alderman Breeding and second by Alderman Hunsucker to continue participation in the MMIA EB program for FY 22-23.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Finance Officer Fowler submitted her retirement notice letter. She has served the City of Conrad for 22 years in this position with a total of 42 years of government service. She thanked the City for the support over these years, her last day will be March 31, 2022.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker 2nd by Alderman Cates to regretfully accept the retirement of Finance Officer Fowler.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

No Executive session was necessary.

Other Business: Mayor Miller would like to have the City participate more actively, working with the Chamber and Lions Club for whoop Up festivities.

Next agenda: Urban Chickens; Board appointments; Chief of Police appointment; Engineer update.

Motion by Alderman Breeding second by Alderman Cates to adjourn.
Motion Carried Unanimously

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Attest:



Finance Officer



Mayor