

CITY OF CONRAD

DAVID ZIMBELMAN
Public Works Director

HILARY RITTER
Finance Officer

CODY SHAW
City Judge

ERNEST PADILLA
Police Chief

DANIEL JONES
City Attorney

413 SOUTH MAIN
CONRAD, MONTANA 59425
PHONE: 406-271-3623 FAX 406-271-5602

www.cityofconradmt.com

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Mayor

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KARLA BREDDING

A.DAVID CATES

NATHAN

HUNSUCKER

RONALD WIDHALM

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 MARCH 15, 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 March 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Miller; Aldermen Karla Bredding, David Cates, Nathan Hunsucker & Ron widhalm; Finance Officer Hilary Ritter; PWD Zimbelman; Chief Padilla and City Attorney Daniel Jones.

Absent: None

Guest present: Tony & Agnes Fowler, Scott & Connie Hanson, John & Melinda Burns, Mourine Grubb, Carole DeBoo, Terry Diedrich, Drew Lesnik, Cynthia Grubb, Brad Koon, Ryan VanDyke, Tammy VandenBos, Darrel Burditt, Alex Linn, Ryan Dailey, Barb Peters, Claudia Martin, Rob Cook, Homer Giard. McKenzie Gray-remotely. List attached.

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

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker second by Alderman Bredding to approve the minutes as written from the March 1, 2022 regular meeting and February 28, 2022 special meeting, as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Amendment to Agenda, item 4.5. The addition of a Motion/Discussion on Conrad High School Softball use agreement for March 14, 2022 through June 15, 2022.

Motion by Alderman Bredding second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve the amendment to the agenda to add item 4.5, Conrad High School softball use agreement.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Claim checks #38932 through #38975 with #38976 and #38977 void for March claims (refer to the claims register) and payroll were presented to the Council.

Motion by Alderman Bredding and second by Alderman Cates to approve the claims, as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Water contracts presented, 3 proposed-Garrett Grubb at 7445 Sollid Road, Drew & Amanda Lesnik at 250 Walston Lane and Scott and Connie Hanson.

A rural water contract for Garrett Grubb at 7445 Sollid Road was presented. This is to hook on to the North Central Montana Regional Water Association (NCRMWA) line. Approval has been received by NCRMWA and Grubb will need to pay the system development fee when hooking on to the line. The rural water contract fee has been paid.

Motion by Alderman Breeding second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve the Grubb water contract at 7445 Sollid Road.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A rural water contract for Drew & Amanda Lesnik at 250 Walston Lane (Parcel 1-S27 T28N R3W, Tract 8, COS 317498) and Scott & Connie Hanson At 52 Walston Lane (Parcel 2-S27 T28N R3W, Tract 3, COS 319020). Drew Lesnik has provided a map with the approximate location of the water line which will originate of the west side of Iowa Loop by the parking lot by the Conrad city ball fields. The line will run down the west side of Iowa Loop and the county right of way until north of Pondera Creek. The ground to the west side of Iowa Loop is owned by Mary Ellen Brownell and she and her family have given verbal agreement for an easement to run the water line on the west side of Iowa Loop, through Brownell's field. The line will split to provide water to Lesnik's and Hanson's. Included is a shared waterline users' agreement that is also attached showing the property owners would be Lesnik's and Hanson's. Both parties agree to share equally in the cost incurred in the water line approval, construction and associated costs. The principal contact for the water line will be Drew Lesnik, for any issues regarding the water line, including excess water usage or other inquiries relating to the water line. An encroachment agreement from Pondera County has been obtained. Alderman Breeding asked if both Lesnik's and Hanson's are hooking on to the same line. Lesnik stated that this is correct. Lesnik's proposal is to add a new line that would run down the west side of Iowa Loop and attach near the ball field onto the city line, we would pay a tapping fee at that point. Then run down the county right of way to a point north of the creek we would then be on the property owned by Mary Ellen Brownell, that would then get us south to mine and Hanson's property lines. We are looking to execute them together. Obviously, it is a single line for the benefit of both parties. Alderman Breeding asked if it is determined each pays a system development fee or a single one. City Attorney Daniel Jones, stated the resolution provided that the system development fee was for a new connection to the city's water system. There is only one new connection to the water system, so there should only be one system development fee. Lesnik stated they would be hooking onto the city with a 2" connection. Finance Officer Fowler asked the size of their line. Lesnik replied it would be a 4" line. His thought is there is an existing line on Iowa Loop that is aging and, in the future, there may be a need for additional users on this line. They could come back, increase the size of the connection to the city line and pay the additional system development fee to allow addition users in. City Attorney, Daniel Jones, asked if this was the proposal today. Lesnik stated that today we would be hooking onto the line with a 2" system development tapping fee. City Attorney Jones, stated the system development fee is literally for a new connection to the city's water system. Discussion was held on when the system

development fee should be charged. City Attorney Jones stated if the city has to be there to tap into the system, then you charge the system development fee. If the city does not have to tap into the system no fee is charged. More discussion on when to charge the system development fee. Discussion on easement, encroachment and potential future scenarios. The only consideration today is for the rural water contract with a 2" tap to the city line.

Motion by Alderman Breeding second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve both Lesnik (at 250 Walston Lane) and Hanson (at 52 Walston Lane) water contracts.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Public Comment: Alderman Breeding thanked Agnes Fowler for all she has done for the city. Public members presented concerns on a potential opening/re-opening of a business on Montana Street. No business license has been received at this point.

Request that Council table the January 2022 financials until the next meeting.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker second by Alderman Cates to table the Finance Officer January 2022 Finance Report, JV, RV and Combined Balance Sheet reports to move to the next meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Brent Bandow, business manager and district clerk at the high school presented the Conrad High School Softball use agreement. Included is a copy of the liability insurance. The agreement is for the term beginning March 14 - June 15, 2022. The facility will be used for practice and related functions. The agreement is signed by Shawn Beddow, Superintendent.

Motion by Alderman Breeding second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve it pending legal looking at it.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Brad Koon, Triple Tree Engineering presented upcoming grant opportunities and a summary of ARPA grants to rehabilitate the existing lift stations and address storm water. The city is committed to providing matching funds if it receives an ARPA grant. The city could update the PER and apply for MCEP in May which could decrease the match amount, if awarded. Rob Cook stated that the RRGL planning grant was applied for to pay for half of the PER needed for the grant application. Triple Tree will prepare a task order for the next meeting relating to the PER for the lift station.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker second by Alderman Cates to move forward with an updated PER and matching funds if necessary.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Police Chief Padilla provided a payroll change form for Andy Lund, Conrad Police Department for a \$1/hr increase, from \$22.25 to \$23.25

and current grade of Patrolman II to new grade of Patrolman III, effective date March 1, 2022.

Motion by Alderman Breeding second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve Chief Padilla's request as stated for Andy Lund.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Cynthia Grubb, Logan Health Conrad Rural Health Clinic Manager, discussed on the Logan Health lighted sign project. This would be an electronic billboard in a monument sign on Logan Health property. The message will be changeable. The sign will enable it easier to find the facility and emergency entrance.

A letter was read dated March 9, 2022 to Mayor and Council from the Conrad Swim Team requesting usage of the pool. Requesting practice schedule usage from 6:30AM-8:30AM, 11:30AM-1:00PM and 5:00PM-6:00PM, Monday-Thursday. If Covid 19 renders the locker room use unsafe, we would adjust the morning practice to 7:00AM-9:00AM. Practice will potentially begin the week of June 6. Conrad Swim Team is scheduled to host an invitational meet July 16-17, 2022. A thank you is also expressed to the Conrad Water Department crew for working with us as well as the pool manager, Pam Folz.

Motion by Alderman Breeding second Alderman widhalm to approve the Swim Team request for use of pool, time and dates.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Ryan Dailey, coach for the Cardinal's representing the Conrad Park & Rec reported updated information on placing LED lights at the American Legion baseball field. They lowered the pole height and went with a different plan, the pole configuration changed. They have been talking with PWD Zimbleman. Questions were asked as to size and number of poles, lumens of lights and installation process of lights. The collared idea of installation is most favorable for installing the lights. The Park & Rec has proposed being financially responsible for purchasing and installing the lights. The lights would then be donated to the City of Conrad, at an estimated donation value of \$150,000. The City of Conrad would be responsible for the costs of operating and maintaining the lights, as was previously discussed during the March 1, 2022 meeting.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker and second by Alderman Breeding to approve Conrad Park and Rec American Legion Light request for the ball park lights provided by that they have all the funding, and that the water line easement is honored, and that Northwestern Energy installs the poles, and that there is no cost to the City for installation, and with engineering approvals.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion on urban chickens, a draft provided from City Attorney Daniel Jones to amend the current animal ordinance to include chickens. Questions were asked as to permit price, enclosure type, location and property permissions. It was also mentioned, chickens cannot be raised for promotional purposes. This ordinance can be revisited as necessary once passed. The first reading of the ordinance will be at the April 5, 2022 meeting at 6:30PM.

Discussion on Pondera County 4-H Ambassador, Cole Waldusky's email request to hold a street dance at Whoop-Up on June 4, 9:00PM-12:00AM as a community service activity. Donations to the Food Bank as an option for participants attending. The requested location is for 4th and Main, which is a highway and will need permission from the state. The event would also need to carry insurance. There are additional safety concerns that would need to be addressed.

A letter dated March 3, 2022 to Northern Transit Interlocal (NTI) agreeing to the annual commitment of \$5,000 for Northern Transit Interlocal's Coordination Plan for Fiscal Year 2023. These funds will be used to help support a regional transportation system. Alderman Cates is designated as our voting member if Alderman Cates is unable to attend a meeting, Alderman Widhalm or Mayor Miller will be the voting delegate. Improvement for NTI continues to evolve.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker second by Alderman Cates to approve the designation of \$5,000 to Northern Transit Interlocal for fiscal year 2023.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Letters were prepared to go to each of the banks to remove Finance Office Fowler and add Finance Office Ritter. Stockman Bank recommended the addition of a Council person. Alderman Hunsucker will be added. Tri-City Interlocal will need to add Alderman Hunsucker and Finance Officer Ritter as well.

Motion by Alderman Breeding and second by Alderman Widhalm to approve the addition of Hilary Ritter and Nathan Hunsucker and removal of Agnes Fowler to the Stockman Bank account.

Motion Carried Unanimously

No Executive session was necessary.

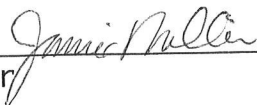
Other Business: No other business.

Next agenda: January and February financial reports, task order from Triple Tree Engineering, Urban Chickens first reading; Board & Commission appointments.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker second by Alderman Widhalm to adjourn meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Mayor 

Attest:


Finance Officer