

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 APRIL 5, 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 April 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Alderman Karla Breeding with permission.

Guests present: James Coombs, Maria Cates, Alex & Chelsea Linn, Dave Thomas, Brittnee Whittmier, Darryl Burditt, John Shevlin, Wade & Diana Fuson, Carla DeBoo, Agnes & Tony Fowler, Lynn Farenkopp, Robert Bender, Kristen Townsend, Angela Thomas, Amy Salois and Julia Salois

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

Motion by Alderman Widhalm, second by Alderman Cates to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2022 regular meeting and March 28, 2022 special meeting, as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Claims #26220 through #26256 (refer to the claims register).

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

Water Contract for Curtis & Jeannine Aaberg at 1343 Edgewood Rd.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to approve the water contract for Curtis & Jeannine Aaberg at 1343 Edgewood Rd.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Public Comment: None

PWD Zimbelman's March 2022 Report. Street/Alley maintenance is continuing. Attended a Public Works Conference in Great Falls. The Department of Labor and Industry made a surprise inspection while gone at the conference in Great Falls. One major violation and corrective action was taken. Three minor violations and corrective action taken. The ballfields and pool are being worked on for summer. Trae Pruttis the new Certified Pool Specialist. PWD Zimbleman would like to request additional testing on drinking water, specifically fluoride. Testing on fluoride is only required every 5 years. Alley clean up will be sometime in May.

Chief Padilla presented the March 2022 Activity report for the Police Department. There were approximately 175 calls for service reported to the PCSO Dispatch and or Conrad Police Department; routine security checks for local businesses and residential requests; 4 arrests; 1 alarm; 3 assaults/harassment; 8 burglary/thefts; 1 child abuse/endangerment; 6

criminal mischief/trespass/vandalism; 11 domestic incidents; 1 lost/found property; 10 medical emergencies; 25 suspicious activities; 10 public assists; 7 welfare checks; 10 juvenile complaints; 6 ambulance; 5 Pondera County assists; and animal control (8 dogs, 1 cat). Currently reviewing applications for a full-time patrolman.

Motion by Alderman Cates, second by Alderman Widhalm to close the regular meeting and open a public hearing to review Ordinance No, 423.

Motion Carried Unanimously

First reading of Ordinance No. 423, amending §6-2-2 City code to allow chickens.

Public Discussion: Define woven wire. Inquiries made on disposal of carcasses. PWD Zimbelman stated, "no dead animals are allowed to be disposed of in dumpsters." Permits will be \$25.00. Limit is 10 chickens per person. Concerns on who will be mandating chickens. Violations of the ordinance will be same as for the existing ordinance. No public opposition to Ordinance No. 423.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to close the public hearing.

Motion Carried Unanimously

First reading of Ordinance No.423, amending §6-2-2 City code to allow chickens. Change woven wire to fully enclosed, not allowing escape. No other permittees on the lot applying for.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 423 with said amendments.

Motion Carried Unanimously

January 2022 Finance Report submitted from prior Finance Office Fowler by Finance Officer Ritter. Finance Officer Ritter requested additional time to complete February and March financials.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to approve January 2022 Financials.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Resignation of police officer. The resignation of part-time on-call Officer Liggett was received.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to approve the resignation of Officer Liggett.

Motion Carried Unanimously

MMIA FY 22-23 Group Enrollment for employee benefits. Rates increased 3% for high deductible plan, the rest remained the same.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to approve the MMIA FY 22-23 Group Enrollment for employee benefits.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Park and Rec Inc Use Agreement for the term of April 1-August 21, 2022. Restrooms do not open until May 1. Park and Rec Inc had a commission inspection done on the complex. A list of recommendations was given. Park and Rec Inc is obtaining insurance in the event of negligent acts. Finance Office Ritter will call MMIA and find out insurance liability in providing a safe facility. Discussion on fences around the complex and possible remedies. The title of the agreement has been updated from Use Agreement to Lease Agreement. An inquiry was made on who retains ownership of the light poles. A consideration was suggested the City of Conrad take ownership of the waterline that falls within City property.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to approve the City of Conrad complex lease agreement with Parks & Rec Inc with the amended date to the bathrooms to May1, 2022.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Other Business: Letter of invitation by the Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce to their annual banquet on April 29, 2022.

Next agenda: Second reading of Ordinance No. 423, amending §6-2-2 City Code to allow chickens; Discussion/Action reading of Ordinance No. 423-chickens; April 5, 2022 Minutes; task order amendment #2 from Triple Tree for air binding and bulk water; and Triple Tree task order or hourly for boundary relocation subdivision.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Mayor *Janice Miller*

Attest:

*Hans Ritter*  
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Finance Officer