

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 MAY 3, 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 May 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Miller; Aldermen Breeding, Cates, Hunsucker and Widhalm; Billing Clerk Kim Cooney, Chief Ernie Padilla, Officer Jacob Konen.

Absent: Finance Officer Hilary Ritter was absent by permission.
Guests present: Alex Linn, Marci Davis, Michael Davis, Kim Hawley, Barry Knaff, Darryl Burditt, Kim Reynolds, and Julene Knaff (remotely).

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

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Hunsucker, to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2022 meeting, as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Mayor Miller asked for a motion to amend the agenda to create agenda item #5-A for the Police Department monthly report, to replace agenda item #10 with agenda item #7, and to add "Action" to agenda item to the #10.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Breeding.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Cates, to approve claims.
Motion Carried Unanimously

No new water contracts were presented.

Public Comment: A citizen discussed the need to enforce the City's leash law to protect citizens and pets. She cited two incidents where loose dogs attacked her, resulting in injury to her and her puppy requiring medical attention. She understands the police have priorities, and offered some solutions: citations, reminders posted on the walking trail, and word of mouth. She offered to provide leashes to hand-out at City Hall, and anything else to help. She said she shouldn't have to bring bear spray just to walk her dog.

Another citizen also cited an incident where a loose dog grabbed his cat from an outdoor shelter and killed it. He said he reported it to the police. He suggested a maximum \$1,000 fine for people who violate the law.

Alderman Breeding said she uses the walking path and wondered if the City could put up signs on the track and walking path reminding people that leashes are required.

Chief Padilla said the dog leash ordinance approved in February 2021 is available to everyone in town. Police have a process, and people are cited.

A Public Service Announcement reminding people about the leash ordinance was discussed.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to close the regular meeting at 6:36 p.m. to allow discussion of Ordinance 423 2 & 3 of Title 6, Chapter 2, of the Conrad City Codes 6-2-2 and 6-2-3(A) ("ANIMALS ALLOWED").
Motion Carried Unanimously

Mayor Miller reviewed Ordinance 423 2 & 3 of Title 6, Chapter 2 and read changes to the ordinance. The discussion was opened for public comment.

A citizen (by phone) asked at what age a male chick must be culled. A citizen present said chicks exhibit characteristics at 8-10 weeks. Mayor Miller said males should be culled as soon as their sex is known.

A citizen present thanked the Council for the opportunity for him and others to provide for their families by raising chickens. Mayor Miller said Carole DeBoo called and agreed to go on record as a proponent of changes to the Animal Ordinance.

Alderman Breeding asked if Mayor Miller had received official notice regarding bird flu quarantine. Mayor Miller provided an update received earlier in the day from the DES coordinator and that the county was not under official quarantine from what could be determined. There were two reported cases in the County. The Mayor could establish no official quarantine in effect at this time. Health department and other agencies have protocols available for any new cases identified.

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Cates, to close the public hearing and return to the regular meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates, to approve Ordinance 423 2 & 3 of Title 6, Chapter 2, of the Conrad City Codes 6-2-2 and 6-2-3(A) ("ANIMALS ALLOWED") as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chief Padilla requested an additional \$2,240 to install camera surveillance at the City Hall and police department as part of the \$5K security system upgrade originally approved in February. Two quotes were obtained: one for \$7240, one for \$15.6K.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Widhalm, to approve the additional \$2,240 for three more cameras at City Hall, and a total security system upgrade of \$7240.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chief Padilla provided the monthly Police Department Report.

A resident in Conrad asked for a different month to average the sewer rate due to a leak and high water usage in March.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Breeding to replace the March sewer average with 5750 gallons of water usage, refigure March water and sewer, and adjust payment for April sewer.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Breeding to pass Resolution 22-1269 adding Hilary Ritter to City accounts at First Liberty Federal Credit Union.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Cates to approve Resolution 22-1270 allowing the sale of police surplus.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve Resolution 22-1271 adding Hilary Ritter to City accounts at Wells Fargo NA.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion (only) on Board and Commission appointments.

Mayor Miller will reach out to members of committees and boards without terms, and requested guidance from Council on when new appointments are needed.

No executive session.

Other Business: Alderman Breeding suggested looking at employee wages before July for the upcoming fiscal year. Mayor Miller asked for guidance from Council on this and suggested following what was established in last year's budget.

Discussion on possibly revising the building permit process. Mayor Miller will find-out if a new building inspector could start before taking the ARM apprenticeship course.

Alderman Breeding said the new Animal Ordinance and others need to be codified. Mayor Miller mentioned that Daniel had brought up the need to codify and the City is aware of the need to comply with MCA and is currently in the process of determining how this is done.

Alderman Cates said lights on the walking path were vandalized and are being replaced. He suggested higher posts might prevent this from happening again.

Items to appear on the next agenda: Board appointments, update on baseball field lights, whoop-Up (Fun Run, Chamber of Commerce parade, street dance), Fire Chief appointment, Finance Officer and Public Works Director monthly reports. Mayor Miller will reach out to the youth wanting the street dance, but someone else needs to spearhead it.

A citizen present offered free labor to help with the dog park. Alderman Cates (Pathway Committee, Hospital Fund) welcomed the offer, and said it's still in the beginning stages, and permission to place it is needed.

Discussion about the process for building a memorial-type structure along the Pathway. Alderman Breeding said it would have to go to the Pathway Committee first. If it involved City land, then it would come before Council to request a "plan to improve" (donation or land use) since the City pays for improvements, such as care of trees, etc.

Alderman Cates said the current benches were donated/dedicated in memory of someone.

