

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 JUNE 7, 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 June 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Miller; Aldermen Cates, Hunsucker and Widhalm; PWD Zimbelman, Finance Officer Ritter, Chief of Police Padilla

Absent: Alderman Karla Breeding with permission

Guests present: Maria Cates, Alex Linn, 1 Call-In

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

Motion by Hunsucker, second by Cates, to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2022, regular meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Claims & Payroll: Claims 26390-26395 and 26400-26424 and payroll for February-May presented to Council.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

Water Contracts: Request for a rural water contract for Ronald & Vicki Newmiller at 100 Spur Road. Water Contract fee of \$125.00 paid, by First American Title Company of Montana with sale of property.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Widhalm to approve the rural water contract for Ronald & Vicki Newmiller at 100 Spur Road.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Discussion was had about a dog park in Conrad, ideas for locations mentioned. Alex Linn offered to be a point of contact for ideas/comments on a dog park. Discussion on different options for locations. A suggestion was made to model dog park like Great Falls, split dog park for smaller and larger dogs. Sponsors and the pathways committee may be able to assist.

PWD Zimbelman monthly report: Busy time of year. Pool is up and running. C&A paving working on 7th Ave S/Iowa and 5th Ave S/Colorado, started today, rain put a damper on it. Will move to 5th Ave S/Indiana St. \$55,355.00 paid through the Gas Tax Fund 2820. Will expend it to chip seal. Use is based on infrastructure, cannot be used for private property. Tri-City Interlocal training on use of Oil Distribution Truck will be done on June 15, 2022. Many gopher complaints have been received, specifically on Wisconsin Street. Suggestion to call an exterminator. Bait stations or flooding may be an

option as well. Need to send weed letters out to some addresses on Main Street for noxious weeds. PWD will talk to the County and see if can work together on noxious weeds. Will begin working with FO Ritter on budget. The issue of cracked sidewalks down 2nd by school; sidewalk was sealed, and no more work done. The property is the State's responsibility. PWD will try and contact someone from the State. Complaints have come in on the clutter at 103 S Wisconsin St. Mayor will contact the County Sanitarian. Fire Department should be involved as well. Chief of Police Padilla will contact the Fire Marshall. Good job on the maintenance on the ballfields. Lion's Club would like to express thanks for all done to help with whoop-Up.

Chief of Police Padilla monthly report: Chief of Police Padilla stated next year for whoop-Up they will block from alley to alley on 4th and 3rd to 5th. There were 213 calls to service in May 2022: Assaults/Harassment 7, Thefts/Shoplifting 12, Child Endangerment 1, Court Order/Civil Papers 2, Criminal Mischief/Trespass 8, Domestic Incidents 12, Lost & Found 3, Medical assists 10, Noise Complaints 10 (many of these are dogs barking), Suspicious Activity/Vehicles 16, Missing persons 9, Public Assists 27, Welfare Checks 15 and Juvenile Complaints 11. Curfew will be watched more carefully. Numerous investigations underway. There have been 22 animal calls for dogs and 2 for cats. Several calls were regarding the same dog. John Gundlach has been hired as a full-time officer and will attend next council meeting. Purchased 11 dog signs and have replaced old, faded signs. There are 5 signs pertaining to leash rules on the walking path. Done within 4 days of last Council meeting. Cory Smith has been promoted from Patrolman II to Sergeant. Year two of no problems at whoop-Up.

Discussion/Action on police officer promotion.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to approve the promotion of Cory Smith from Patrolman II to Sergeant.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion on pathway committee items. Discussed area, David Cates got ahold of Daniel Jones to talk about dedicating area as a city park along pathway. Next step, putting water in area of discussion. Gary Boe offered to water trees. A-Plus sprinkler from Choteau comes in and does water. Maria Cates thinks sprinklers would be best option. PWD said the area needs surveyed and boundaries to qualify for grants, etc. Will continue looking into making this area a park. Will discuss options with listserve and League on how to interject into lease. Maria Cates will find out what grant requirements would be. Keep this item on the agenda as a discussion item to continue moving forward. Two high school seniors are wanting to add some exercise stations along the pathway. Discussion on using property without invading residents' property.

Discussion/Action on Maria Cates request to use Norley Hall for the Pondera Health Care Foundation (PHCF) Fundraiser on September 24, 2022, for dualling pianos using a "free city" day. This will be family friendly.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to approve PHCF to use Norley Hall on September 24, 2022, as a "free city" day.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action of hiring lifeguards/pool manager. While at MMIA Dave Cates learned do not need applications for part time/seasonal, they can be approved. Pool manager has been hired. May be able to open pool for limited hours with limited lifeguards, if necessary. FO Ritter will investigate age restrictions for minors.

Motion by Alderman Cates, second by Alderman Hunsucker to hire lifeguards and pool manager as needed.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on Alderman's absence as requested. No council meeting will be missed and will be available by phone most of the time.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Widhalm to approve Alderman's absence as requested.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on request for Black Mountain Utility Billing E-bills and BDR IVR payments (utility billing phone payments). The UB Billing E-bill purchase price is \$1,100 with an annual fee of \$110.00. The interface with BDR is an annual fee of \$265.00 and a one-time set-up fee of \$150.00. The current postage rates for mailing out utility bills runs around \$400.00/mo. Presently, time spent on call-ins to pay utility bills is around 5 minutes per customer. Utilizing the above two interfaces could save some time and money.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to approve the request to purchase the UB Billing E-bills Interface and BDR IVR Payment Interface.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action retroactive for Street dance at 6th Ave by the pool whoop-up. Included Certificate of Liability insurance.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to retroactively approve street dance at whoop-up.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on Janitorial Agreement renewal to Amanda Brown Cleaning LLC. Cleans one day per week.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Widhalm to approve the renewal of the Janitorial Agreement to Amanda Brown Cleaning LLC.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion on Board and Commission appointments/resignation. Mayor Miller is working on Board and Commissions and has reached out to people. There are several people whose terms are expired/expiring. There was a resignation on the Police Commission Board. As an update this is still in motion.

Other Business: Notification of the MMIA upcoming Employee Health Screening August 16, 2022. Alderman Cates discussed information he learned at the MMIA Municipal Summit in Havre, Montana.

Next Agenda: MOU being worked on for Library. Other contracts in motion Union, Dispatch, City Court. Library to attend 2nd meeting of the month. Wages. Pathways/Dog Park. Board and Commissions. Resignation of Alderman.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Widhalm to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.

Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor

Jamie Miller

Attest:

Heg Feltz

Finance Officer