

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 SEPTEMBER 6, 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 September 6, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Miller, Aldermen Breeding, Cates, Schoenrock, and Hunsucker, Finance Officer Ritter, Sergeant Smith, PWD Zimbelman

Present by Phone:

Absent: None

Guests present: Agnes Fowler, Cheryl Curry, Amber Brown, Dru Gunderson, Tiffany Christensen

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

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Breeding to approve the minutes as presented from the August 23, 2022, regular meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Claims: Claims presented to Council.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

Water Contracts: None

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: A letter was submitted to the Council requesting the FY22-23 funding for Genevieve Reiken Anderson to go to the Splash Park project. The mayor accepted the letter and wanted to see if any other requests come in for the funds. At that time, the request will be submitted to Council for decision.

PWD Zimbelman presented with the August 2022 monthly report for the Public Works Department. The public works department assisted two community events with cones, barricades, and garbage's. PWD Zimbelman and Keith Thaut attended an "Improving Performance of biological Wastewater Treatment Systems" class, achieving continuing education credits toward the bi-annual amount needed to retain the water and wastewater licenses. Chip sealing has been pushed back a week. Shelby will send some guys to help train through the Tri-City Interlocal program. Crosswalks and cowboy hats have been repainted around the schools before school started this year. PWD Zimbelman attending a meeting regarding upkeep of Blue Sky Villa. He has also met with some contractors to go over fixing some curb and gutters in the cul-de-sacs at the facility. Discussion was had on responsibility of the City vs. Blue Sky

Villa. A meeting was also attended regarding the Storm Water Project and Splash Park project. A work order has been submitted to Northwest Energy to get an idea of the cost to run new electrical into the Baseball Field complex with upgraded services to accommodate the proposed new ballfield lights and other electrical upgrades. The ballfields will begin to be winterized as soon as Youth Soccer is complete. The pool season is done for the year and winterization will begin soon.

Sergeant Smith presented the August 2022 monthly report for the Police Department. There were approximately 201 calls for service reported to Pondera County Sheriff's Office dispatch and/or Conrad Police Department. Some of the calls were as follows: 2 Assaults/Harassment; 5 Burglary/Thefts/Shoplifting reports; 11 Criminal Mischief/Trespass/Vandalism reports; 8 Domestic; 14 Medical Emergencies; 8 Noise/Nuisance; 12 Suspicious Activity/Vehicles; 39 various Public Assists; 5 Juvenile Complaints; 15 Assists to other agencies and 27 Animal Control calls (18 dogs, 2 cats, 3 chickens, 3 bats and 1 duck). There is currently one candidate in the selection process for a part-time police officer.

Cheryl Curry presented with an update on the Regional Water Project. Money budgeted for expenditures have doubled. They will not be able to finish the project due to the increase in expenditures and lack of employees to work on the project. Currently, 9½" pipeline, 7 miles installed and building towards Loma and Big Sandy to Rocky Boy. Installing pipeline this month and working on water treatment plant is presently going on. It is above ground and hope to work on the facility through the winter. The Project ceiling has been slightly increased to allow for inflation, they are repricing and allowing to spend a bit more. As a project may have to go back to legislation to increase budget. Have downsized initial pumping to lower the amount. 11 million will be the daily pumping gallons. The Regional Water annual meeting will be Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Shelby Fire Hall.

Rob Cook of the Port Authority, presented with ARPA funding. He presented with a diagram of how the funding between City and County works and explained it in detail.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. for the Municipal Budget for FY22-23 and variance for Fred and Laurie Morris.

Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC HEARING:

Municipal Budget for FY22-23 presented. It was requested to investigate the Genevieve Rankin Funds and Splash Park. No public comment on the budget.

A Variance request from Fred and Laurie Morris. They want to build a duplex facing west on Wisconsin Street. Requesting a 6 1/2' side yard and to build 10' closer to the street. This went to the zoning board committee and has been approved through them. No public comment.

Motion by Alderman Breding, Alderman Schoenrock, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Robert Bender requests the donation of field 4 at the Baseball Complex for the 9th Annual Guns and Hoses game plus insurance as was done in the past. If the city sponsors this event the insurance is inclusive. If the event is not sponsored by the city, the entity is responsible for their own event insurance. The City will sponsor the event and donate field 4 at the Baseball Complex.

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Cates to approve the 9th Annual Guns and Hoses game, and to sponsor the event.

Rob Cook with the Port Authority presented with an update on the Splash Park. Splash Park estimated cost is between \$425K-\$450K. Need to get a new estimate due to inflation. The FWP has additional funding available. There is no update when the funding will be available. The project has always been a reimbursement project. The letter does not state a finalized grant amount but says the project can begin. would like to start building this fall but it does not seem realistic. We need to have the company building the splash park defined. The company was identified through Sourcewell and would do the entire project. PWD will remove trees/bushes and put up a fence. The question is if the company will also complete the dirt work, or contract out? To potentially save the City money, the best option would be to have a company that works with Sourcewell. The engineer had talked with them to get an estimated cost at one time and a cost for the project was provided. Brad or Jason at Triple Tree Engineering will be assisting with the project. Flow through vs recirculation has a cost difference. A flow-thru system versus the recirculating will be evaluated. Finance Officer Ritter will look for Splash Park file for requested information to provide to the Splash Park Committee. Intercap is the funding source until money is received.

Finance Officer Ritter presented with the Swimming Pool season report. The report is as follows: 21 Individual passes; 49 Family passes; and 37 Caring for Kids passes. The Cowboy Academy has been billed for their usage of the pool. There were 7 employee Family passes utilized and the City donated 1 Individual and 4 Family passes. The City office is transitioning the sale of swimming pool passes to the pool. This was well received by the community. In addition, next year we will begin the recruitment process for lifeguards earlier. Not having adequate staffing made it difficult to maintain the pool hours and there were scheduled open swim times the pool could not be open due to lack of staff.

Discussion/Action on variance for Fred and Laurie Morris.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Breeding to approve the variance for Fred and Laurie Morris.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on Resolution 22-1273 Municipal Budget FY22-23. The Library is included with in this budget.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to adopt the Municipal Budget for FY22-23, Resolution 22-1273.

Motion Carried Unanimously

REGULAR MEETING:

Discussion/Action on Resolution 22-1274 Salary and Compensation FY22-23.

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Hunsucker to adopt the Salary and Compensation FY22-23, Resolution 22-1274.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on Resolution 22-1275 Permissive Medical Levy FY22-23.

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Cates to adopt the Permissive Medical Levy FY22-23, Resolution 22-1275.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on Resolution 22-1277 Special Assessments FY22-23.

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Hunsucker to adopt the Special Assessments FY22-23, Resolution 22-1277.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on Resolution 22-1278 Bridge and Road Safety FY22-23.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Schoenrock to adopt Bridge and Road Safety FY22-23, Resolution 22-1278.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on Resolution 22-1279 Annual Tax Levies FY22-23.

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Cates to adopt Annual Tax Levies FY22-23, Resolution 22-1279.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on Resolution 22-1276 Independence Bank Credit Cards. Wells Fargo has been very difficult to work with and having a local bank in town would be beneficial to the City.

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Hunsucker to adopt Independence Bank Credit Cards, Resolution 22-1276.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Mayor presented an update on a meeting with Blue Sky Villa committee. Attending were PWD Zimbelman, Alderman Schoenrock, Dave Cates and Finance Officer Ritter. The intent was to begin discussion on the lease agreement expiring December 2023. The Mayor is asking to form a committee with two council members to continue discussions on the planning and progress of the lease agreement. Potential committee members include Alderman Schoenrock, Alderman Cates and PWD Zimbelman. The Blue Sky Villa board informed the City of some maintenance issues, including two boilers, driveways and sidewalks requiring attention. Sprinklers are not set properly and are watering the streets. The City is waiting on current financials from Blue Sky Villa.

Tonight, the request is to ask for a committee. Attorney Jones will be starting the lease agreement changes discussed with Blue Sky Villa. PWD Zimbelman will be scheduling an annual inspection at Blue Sky Villa as soon as possible.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Breeding to form a Blue Sky Villa Committee for planning and progress on the lease agreement.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action extending COVID pay. Tabled from August 23, 2022, meeting. A discussion was had regarding extending COVID pay as some employees who had not taken COVID pay in the past acquired COVID after COVID pay expired in June 2022. Research was done to make an informed decision on extending or not extending the COVID pay policy.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Breeding to extend COVID pay to December 31, 2022, retroactive from June 30, 2022.

AYES: 0

NAYS: 4

Motion Did Not Pass

Discussion/Action on appointment of Roger Paulsen to the Pondera County Conservation District as the Urban Supervisor with a 3-year term beginning September 13, 2022.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Schoenrock to approve the appointment of Roger Paulsen to the Pondera County Conservation District as the Urban Supervisor.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on turning over delinquent water, sewer, and mowing charges to Pondera County. A list of delinquent accounts was presented. One individual has accounts that have been turned over to the tune of \$40,000 plus. Discussions were had on this type of situation and what possible solutions there could be.

Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Cates to approve turning over delinquent water, sewer, and mower charges to Pondera County.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action on Pondera County ARPA Fund. A letter from Mayor Miller was presented to Council to propose to the Pondera County Commissioners. The letter discusses the existing MOU between the County and City for the receipt and distribution of ARPA funds. The City is fully committed to the current MOU that was agreed on in December 2021 for completion of the City of Conrad sewer and storm water project however, a new proposal for distribution of the County funds may be more beneficial to all parties.

Motion by Alderman Cates, second by Alderman Schoenrock to present the letter to the County Commissioners regarding the Pondera County ARPA Fund and MOU.

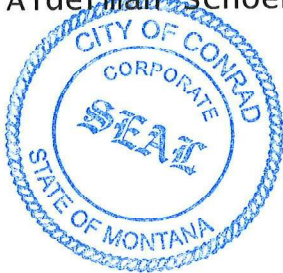
Motion Carried Unanimously

Executive Session: None

Other Business: Maria Cates presented with information on the grant for exercise equipment on the walking path. The grant was awarded to the Christian School. There is a 100 Strong grant which consists of 100 women involved and paying \$50 a quarter to raise money. Anyone interested in 100 Strong contact Maria Cates. When exercise equipment is placed on the walking path be sure to contact PWD Zimbelman to ensure placement is adequate.

Items to appear on next agenda: Ballfield lights MOU, Company for Splash Park, Ahrens Variance Public Hearing.

Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Cates to adjourn at 9:09 p.m.



Motion Carried Unanimously

Mayor Jamie Miller

Attest:

Hayden Butten
Finance Officer