



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 20, 2023

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 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Aldermen: Nathan Hunsucker, Karla Breeding David Cates, and Amber Schoenrock; Payroll Clerk Patti Hutton; Public Works Director David Zimbelman; City Attorney Daniel Jones; and Chief Ernest Padilla.

Absent: Mayor Jamie Miller was absent with permission

Guests present: 8

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Hunsucker at 6:00 p.m.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Breeding to Approve Minutes of the June 6, 2023, Regular Meeting.
 - 3 Yea votes
 - 1 Abstained Alderman Cates
 - Motion Carried

Claims #27297 through #27321 (refer to the claims register)

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Schoenrock to approve the claims, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Water Contract: Jeffry Oquendo

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Schoenrock to approve the Water Contract Request by Jeffry Oquendo.

Correspondence: none

Public Comment: (no action taken): None

City of Conrad Department Reports: None

Discussion/Action: Conrad Baseball Complex Use Request for Youth Kickball Tournament (Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Helena)

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Cates to approved the Request by the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Helena, With proof of insurance.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: American Legion Request to Sell Fireworks

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Cates to approve the request by the American Legion to sell fireworks pending approval of the Fire Chief.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Tax Abatement for Condemned/Abandoned Mobile Home

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock to abate the \$10.33 tax of the old condemned / abandoned mobile home in the Sunrise Trailer Courts lot 23, second by Alderman Breeding.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion: Conrad Sports Complex/Conrad Parks & Recreation, Inc.

Mr. Bender, Park and Rec Director, wanted to visit with Council to help understand some areas and clear up some confusion about the ball fields. Mr. Bender asked if a city employee was assigned to the ballfields fulltime? Public Works Director David Zimbelman replied that the position is Maintenance Worker I; this employee focus' on the ballfield but can be assigned other duties at the direction of the Public Works Director. Park and Rec asked who should they talk to at the City about conditions of the ballfields. Alderman Hunsucker replied that the Maintenance Worker may not know all the expectations but issues could be communicated directly to the Public Works Director. Alderman Breeding added that, if a response was not received, issues can always be directed to the Mayor. Park and Rec asked if the City expected Park and Rec members to donate their time to work on the fields (such as mowing, chalking, etc.) and asked if this was an expectation for anyone that uses a Conrad Park. Alderman Breeding replied that the City appreciates all that Park and Rec members puts in to the fields, however, the City has limited resources. The City has no expectation that anyone other than the City will maintain the fields/parks. Alderman Schoenrock asked what is the expectation of Park and Rec for mowing the fields in light of the contract only requiring the City to mow on a weekly basis. Attorney Jones clarified "weekly" means once per week. Park and Rec talked about the number of people that are using the Ballfields and reported up to thousands of people will use the facilities during the season which adds revenue to the city. Park and Rec said it would like to see the City spend more time on the ballfields. Alderman Breeding informed Park and Rec that despite the tournament revenue generated for the businesses in Conrad, the City does not directly collect any revenue and a predefined budget for maintenance is in place. The budget this year for the ballfields was \$26,500.00 and included the employee costs, supplies, etc. The question was asked what does Park and Rec need or want from the City. Park and Rec replied only information at this time and they want to make sure the place is safe for the kids to play. It was clarified by Park and Rec that other towns only use the ballfields when playing our teams or during tournaments. Discussion about the ballfield worker ensued. A concern was raised with the increased usage of the complex, safety in terms of the mouse problem in the concession stands and bleachers that are potentially unsafe. Park and Rec voiced that the problem list they provide the City yearly continues to grow but items are not being addressed. Park and Rec explained that the City has the nicest facility in the area and that softball/baseball is growing in town but we can't afford to go backwards. Park and Rec explained that it operates as a non- profit with a volunteer board. Due to the volunteer nature of the members of Park and Rec, if the City was asking or requiring Park and Rec members to help with maintenance, then Park and Rec would need to reassess whether it would continue to donate its members time and equipment next year. Public Works Director (PWD) Zimbelman commented that it was mentioned that Conrad has the nicest complex around but Park and Rec also claims the complex has a safety hazard. Parks and Rec clarified that there isn't one big safety hazard, there are numerous ongoing safety hazards. PWD Zimbelman asked if the Park and Rec expectation of the city is to fix everything as fast as possible. Parks and Rec responded that perhaps the top three issues should be prioritized. Parks and Rec would like to know if the ballfields are a priority for the City. Mr. Tyson Anderson the head softball coach for Conrad High School commented that fields are unplayable after it rains and they see no changes made to the fields over the years. Alderman Schoenrock asked if the High School could help with maintaining the fields. Mr. Anderson said that he couldn't speak for the school, but he would talk with the school. The Park and Rec Board would like a schedule of when items will be addressed. PWD requested Park and Rec give him a list of the top 3 things they want done. Council suggested requesting Genevieve Reiken funds for additional equipment needed next year. Alderman Breeding stated that the cost of maintaining the city parks is mowing, spraying, watering and fertilizing. The ballfields have a lot more infrastructure to maintain; the City could maybe mow the other parks less but that still does not get more money for the baseball fields. Park and Rec Board would like updated/working

equipment for the ballfields. PWD said he agrees this would be nice but that requires money in the budget. The question was asked what the City does with money the ballfields bring in and it was replied that all fees collected for the use of the ballfields goes to Park and Rec, the City does not directly receive any revenue from the ballfields.

Executive Session: None

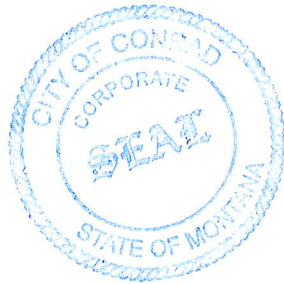
Other Business: None

Items to Appear on Next/Future Agenda: COLA & Wage Increase for City Employees, Finance Officer Update, Budget

Meeting Adjourned:

There being no further business to come before the council, motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Breeding, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

- Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor

Jamie Miller

Attest:

Matthew Hansen

*Finance Officer

*Council President to sign in lieu of Finance Officer at this time