



MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CONRAD, COUNTY OF PONDERA, STATE OF MONTANA
HELD AT CONRAD CITY HALL ON OCTOBER 3, 2023

The City Council of the City of Conrad, County of Pondera, State of Montana, met in an Executive session at the Conrad City Hall on October 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jamie Miller; Aldermen: Nathan Hunsucker, David Cates and Amber Schoenrock; Chief of Police Ernest Padilla; Finance Officer Joani Mink; City Attorney Daniel Jones

Discussion/Action: Recommendation by City Attorney to Implement New Procedure

City Attorney Daniel Jones started the meeting by explaining that a grievance complaint had been filed by Chief of Police Ernest Padilla against Mayor Jamie Miller. There was no discussion on the details of the grievance complaint itself. Rather, the City Attorney explained to the Council that it is policy to have the Mayor start the investigation proceedings on grievances. In the event the Mayor is unable to perform, the Council members or the City Attorney take over the investigation. Since it is an in-house dispute, it was advised by the City Attorney that Mayor Miller step down from her role as overseer of the Chief of Police and City of Conrad Police Department and that President of City Council, Nathan Hunsucker step in.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Mycke, to approve having Alderman Nathan Hunsucker as overseer of the Chief of Police and police department until the conclusion of the investigation.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Request by City Attorney to Hire Investigator.

The City Attorney made a recommendation that the City Council hire an outside Investigator/Attorney with federal code expertise. The City Attorney provided the City Council Members printout information on three different MMIA selected attorneys to choose from; the choices included Amy Christensen, Jordan Crosby, and Jill. Nathan discussed working with Jordon in past and stated she was best to work with, and he hoped the previous connections with the Crosby office. Mayor Miller objected to Jordon based on her personnel research of prior reports. The Council discussed Amy Christianson and that she would cost more money, but she would be very good. City Attorney Daniel Jones predicted the legal expenses in the grievance complaint could cost between \$10,000 - \$20,000 cost to city. He emphasized this is a FSLA Code and federal nature and that Amy has expertise in this area.

Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates, to approve the hiring of Amy Christianson, Atty to conduct the investigation and cap the total legal fees to \$20,000.00 .

- Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion: Alderman Schoenrock questioned Chief of Police Padilla as to objections on selection and he said "No" and voiced no objection.

Meeting was adjourned



Attest

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan Hunsucker".

Interim Mayor Nathan Hunsucker

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joani Mink".

Joani Mink, Finance Officer



AGENDA
For a City Council Special Meeting
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
To be held at: 413 S. Main St., Conrad, Montana
On FRIDAY, November 17, 2023 at 10:30 A.M.

10:30 A.M. Call meeting to order

Items for Discussion and/or Action

1. **Executive Session:** Personnel Matter
2. Public Comment (no action taken)- Agenda Item
3. Meeting adjourned