



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CONRAD, COUNTY OF PONDERA, STATE OF MONTANA
HELD AT CONRAD CITY HALL ON JANUARY 16, 2024**

The City Council of the City of Conrad, County of Pondera, State of Montana, met in special session at the Conrad City Hall on January 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jamie Miller, Alderman Nathan Hunsucker, Alderman David Cates, Alderman Scott Mycke, Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Finance Officer Joani Mink, and City Attorney Daniel Jones

Absent: NONE

Guests: Jamie Hutton, Jaylynn Coombs, James Coombs, Danielle Coombs, Chris Zerbst, Lauriena Yarger, Ken Kersten, Debbie Kersten, Kirsten Miller, Carolyn Donath, Jack Hadcock, Parry Hutton, Ron Moon, Lucile Carlson, Louise Gleason, Tawnya Mycke, Brooke Mycke, Sharon Mellott, Daryl Burditt, Ron Widhalm, Maria Cates, John Calahan, Nancy Powel, Scott Pirie, Charlene Calahan, Ray Pruttis, Jim Mandarino, Melinda Burns, Keith Thaut, Donna Beringer, Cynthia Ries

Teleconference Guests: Unknown

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Miller at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment (no action taken): Agenda Items and/or Not on Agenda Items

Mr. Coombs asked if the Council was holding this meeting to do what, try to remove more power from the mayor that's entrusted to her, so the Council can have control. He stated that the Council, by not answering his question, doesn't have the best interest for the City in mind.

Mr. Hadcock read a letter he had drawn up and had also submitted to the Independent Observer.

Patti Hutton stood up and asked "why the Council and the City Attorney believe that you need to take the Mayors power away to invest the money? Did she ever invest any money wrong?" Alderman Hunsucker answered her question stating, "that's what we are going to find out tonight." She let us, the Council, know that after Finance Officer Hillary left that CDs were coming due. Alderman (at the time) Karla Breeding suggested that everything get put into STIP because they were paying 5% which was more than the City was making on any CDs. Patti would really like to know how the Council can blame Mayor Miller for that. Patti then asked if the Mayor had ever wrote a bad check and why do we need to change things now? Just because we wanted to make her, Mayor Miller, pay. Patti stated that we, the Council, were all touting all over Facebook that because she, the Mayor, didn't agree with the investigation and the Council doing what they did that was one of the reasons that we had to impeach her. How about us posting on Facebook that we don't agree with a Judge. Now it's time the Council gets out of here. Patti sked the Council where her privacy was during the meeting and her attorney would like to know also.



Don McInain expressed his personal opinion. He has been a resident for over 89 years and has always had the best interest of the Community. City of Conrad is a business and needs to be managed like a business. The business is to be managed differently than others because it is managed by an elected official. The mayor and council members are expected to work together to provide the needs for the City. When the team fails to do this, we all become losers. Not only financial but one citizen against another citizen causing hatred to surface. This is not what Conrad is about.

Carolyn Donath asked Alderman Hunsucker where her requested reports are? She's asked multiple times and not one question has been answered. She maintains the problem started when Wendy hired City Attorney Daniel Jones. Carolyn Donath then stated that Council has disappointed allot of people. She asked if the Council was rejecting the Judge's decision? She then stated we are a very bad council and gave Jack the rest of her time.

Mr. Hadcock asked what type of government the council is trying to form? Jack said that the Council has turned to a tribal council.

Mr. Coombs asked City of Attorney Jones if it's a true statement that Mayor Miller didn't take his advice as per his resignation? City Attorney Jones stated that his resignation speaks for itself. Coombs then asked the City Attorney if Mr. Padilla got paid his overtime? City Attorney Jones stated that he assumed he did. Mr. Coombs then asked on who's advice did Mayor Miller pay Mr. Padilla's overtime? Mr. Coombs clarified that he was on lawsuit to and sued City of Conrad on behalf of the citizens. Mr. Coombs then asked if anyone, on the Council, was willing to step down now or stand fast that we, the Council, didn't do anything wrong. Mr. Coombs stated there is a City law that the City Council violated official misconduct and it's punishable. He stated that 2/3 of the Council is corrupt, including the City of Attorney. He'll push every means to remove each one of the City Council from their seats and put someone in there, that is the best interest of community. He stated that the Council works for us, the community.

Discussion/Action: Ratification of city council actions taken at the January 2, 2024 regular council meeting.

Alderman Hunsucker stated that it was brought to our attention that there was a oversight and mess up. We, Alderman Schoenrock and myself, were not sworn in before the meeting. It has been fixed.

- Motion by Alderman Cates, seconded by Alderman Mycke to approve the ratification of the City Council actions taken at the January 2, 2024 meeting.

- o Motion Carried Unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution regarding the degree to which the Mayor may exercise control and supervision of each department and board (see Conrad City Charter §3.06(4)).

Alderman Hunsucker said this came up because of fears of retaliation to City employees. Mainly from the Police department. The fear was that they had been interviewed for the investigation and that would then cause more retaliation. Alderman Hunsucker is willing to concede this might be a knee jerk reaction and made in anger and frustration. That's coming from him and don't know about everyone else. Alderman Hunsucker does worry about our City employees. We have some



of the best and worry about losing them. Alderman Hunsucker has seen a lot of fear in the last 10 days from where he sits as interim mayor and things there.

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, seconded by Alderman Cates to table the above Action.
 - o Motion Carried Unanimously.

Discussion: Report to the council by Mayor Miller, pursuant to Conrad City Charter §3.05(8), regarding her activities involving the City of Conrad's investment accounts since February of 2023 and the financial performance of said accounts.

Alderman Hunsucker wanted to make it clear that we are not calling into question that she did anything wrong with them. The question is she, Mayor Miller, is the only one on the account and to him that is concerning. Mayor Miller asked what account it was on. Alderman Hunsucker said the Raymond James. Mayor Miller said she had been thru three finance officers since being Mayor and didn't put herself only on there as a sole person. If people came off, she wants the Council to be clear and understand there was no power intent. Mayor Miller didn't know who was on there to begin with. Mayor Miller gave the attached report.

Discussion/Action: Resolution regarding procedures and limitations on transferring and investing the City's funds.

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, seconded by Alderman Schoenrock to take no action.
 - o Motion Carried: 3-1 (Alderman Cates opposed)

Discussion/Action: Authority of the Mayor to issue or direct the issuance of checks.

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, seconded by Alderman Cates to table.
 - o Motion Carried Unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance amending Conrad City Code §1-7-4(a) as follows: The city finance officer as treasurer shall deposit the funds of the city from day to day in such bank or banks of the city as shall be designated by the City council as the city depositories. The City council shall have the power to direct the withdrawal of all such monies from any such bank for any reason.

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker seconded by Alderman Schoenrock to table pending advisement from committee to be created
 - o Motion fails 1-3 (Hunsucker in favor) (Schoenrock, Cates, Mckye opposed)

Alderman Myke stated that it might be poor timing, he just thinks if we are operating as a business there needs to be more eyes on it. We are talking about a lot of money and different accounts, and he doesn't think a. one person should have that weight on them to make that decision. Don't think it's a control thing everybody's moaning and groaning and everything else. It's not a power kick, it's good business and everyone that runs a good business has the same thing in their business.



Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Hunsucker to recess Special Meeting until the Regular City Council Meeting concludes.
o Motion Carried Unanimously.

Discussion/Action: The assignment of administrative roles for the City's IT systems for elected officials and employees.

Alderman Hunsucker stated it is another situation where Mayor Miller is the only one on there. The City needs to figure out how to resolve it and work thru that to figure out a good solution. Mayor Miller asked if that could go thru the IT committee.

- Motion by Alderman Mycke, seconded by Alderman Hunsucker to table.
 - o Motion Carried Unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Identification of authorized agent(s) who may request D.I.S. to make changes to the City's IT system and creation of procedures related thereto.

Alderman Hunsucker stated in the past it has been Mr. Paddilla and Mayor Miller which puts us in a weird spot. He believes it is another thing the IT Committee can work thru. Alderman Myke asked for the legalities to be clarified. Does it have to be someone on the law-enforcement side? Alderman Hunsucker said not necessarily. Mayor Miller stated that one IT company said we are operating substandard to government requirements.

Wendy Judisch asked who has current access to the DIS system. Is DIS in charge is nobody in charge. She heard the concerns and that leads her to yes; it's great to have a committee but in the meantime do we have the safeguards in place that the Mayor and Council feel are necessary. Alderman Hunsucker thought Mayor Miller had it and Mayor Miller thought Alderman Hunsucker had it. Nobody knows who has authority. Other comment she has is that she has put something in chat tonight but some of the things put in the chat either the public needs to know in future none of the chats will be answered or they need to get on and ask or that they would be answered.

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, seconded by Alderman Cates to table.
 - o Motion Fails 0-4.
- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker to identify Mayor Miller and himself as authorized agent(s) who may request D.I.S. to make changes to the City's IT system, second by Alderman Cates.
 - o Motion Carried Unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business to come before the Council, motion by Alderman Hunsucker, seconded by Alderman Cates, to adjourn the meeting.

- o Motion Carried Unanimously.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Hunsucker".



Interim Mayor, Nathan Hunsucker

Attest: Kimberly A. Cooney
Billing Clerk



