



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CONRAD, COUNTY OF PONDERA, STATE OF MONTANA
HELD AT CONRAD CITY HALL ON FEBRUARY 6, 2024

The City Council of the City of Conrad, County of Pondera, State of Montana, met in regular session at the Conrad City Hall on February 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Interim Mayor Nathan Hunsucker, Alderman David Cates, Alderman Scott Mycke, Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Billing Clerk Kim Cooney, City Attorney Daniel Jones, Acting Chief of Police Cory Smith, Public Works Director David Zimbelman (via phone)

Absent:

Guests: Maria Cates, Cody Shaw, Ernie Padilla, Don McClain, John (Jack) Hadcock, Dave Bohac, Diane Bohac, Chad Bouma, Anna Walter, Jeanne Moon, Amber Brown, Ron Moon, Lauriena Yarger, Jamie Hutton, J.C. (unreadable), Cody Dugan, David (unreadable), Nancy Powell, Sue Bender, Hilary Ritter, David Kushnak, Chris Sullivan, Kevin Moritz, Darryl Burditt

Teleconference Guests: Julie Orcutt, Carolyn Donath and more

The Meeting was called to order by Interim Mayor Hunsucker at 6:00 p.m.

Action: Read and approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2024.

Minutes of the January 16, 2024 were not ready for approval due to extenuating circumstances surrounding the Mayor's resignation.

- Motion to table by Alderman Cates, Second by Alderman Schoenrock.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Action on Claims:

Claims #s 27793-27813, 27815-27816, 27818-27843 (refer to the claims register/claims approval list):

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Cates to approve the claims, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Action on Water Contracts: None

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

Ms. Nancy Powell spoke in favor of the BSV lease agreement. She said there's a long list of people waiting to live there to the point that they can't put any more people on the list. BSV is such a wonderful senior living facility. They appreciate having their own maintenance guys that are out moving snow this week. BSV is very secure and the factor they get out there. They would like to see the lease approved.



Mr. Coombs said he thought the lease couldn't be renewed because it was not up until March. He asked if it was put out to bid? Has there been meetings with perspective individuals? Interim Mayor Hunsucker stated that the committee had one meeting from a perspective person from Choteau. That meeting consisted as Alderman Cates, Alderman Myke and Mayor Miller. Mr. Coombs asked if the public was notified of the last meeting? Council informed him that there wasn't a quorum and because of that the public didn't need to be notified. Mr. Coombs then asked if that was how we get around things now, we just don't have quorums? The way he sees the lease, compared to the old one, the new one isn't as good. He asked if the Council is putting it out (for bid) or letting just two people decide. Mr. Coombs thinks the lease doesn't appear beneficial at all. He asked about reserve funds and how much the City has.

Chad Bouma of Highmark Properties, LLC from Choteau asked to commit on the BSV lease. He attended a meeting October 29, 2023 and had the interest to show up. By November 6th he submitted a letter on November 6, 2023. He submitted that letter to the City officer and doesn't know if it even got to Council. He came today to put his proposal for BSV out to the public because he feels that's the best way to put it out to the public and vote. He feels that he has some good ideas to offer that could solve some of the issues brought up on the October 29th meeting. Alderman Cates asked why he was just not submitting this offer. Mr. Bouma stated he was dealing with Mayor Miller and wasn't aware some of his discussion were not getting passed along. Had a meeting on January 8th, 2024, and he thought it went very well. They made good progress and there was lots of excitement going forward. By Wednesday, he got an email saying hit the brakes, stop and just been back and forth since. That's why he's here formally at this meeting to submit it as going thru the city office didn't get the stuff where it needed to be.

Mr. Coombs asked where the bid was posted. He didn't see one. Mr. Bouma stated he saw a public post for the Oct. 29th meeting and that's when he first started it. He asked if the interested parties who contacted the City are the only ones who have a chance to bid? Alderman Cates asked if Mr. Coombs had submitted a proposal and why he was so adamant about it? Mr. Coombs stated he didn't, and he can if the Council would like. It was Mr. Coombs understanding that nothing could be done until the current lease is expired. Alderman Cates and Schoenrock both said that was incorrect.

Interim Mayor Hunsucker said November 1, 2023, was the deadline to re-negotiate the original lease, so they extended it to March 2024. Mr. Coombs replied that if the Council is accepting bids, and you're meeting with people and making decisions, then it should be open to the public. It should be put out to the public.

City Attorney Jones informed Mr. Coombs that if he was aware that there was a BSV bid and or meeting, then he must have received notice. He confirmed that it was posted twice: outside City Hall and at the library.

Mr. Hadcock wanted to talk about some of the legal issues that are happening in the City. Most of the people who he knows live in the country and it's clear to them that everyone on the Council, excluding the two women at the desk and some Department Heads, are basically sexist. He



suggested adding sexism to the list of potential legal issues. He's happy that people in the country are looking forward to getting the I-O every week.

Mr. Hadcock asked who it was that accused the Mayor of losing hundreds thousands of dollars of money at the last meeting, saying this exposed the City to a huge liability. Agnes kept Mayor Miller from suing the City about that. You have Agnes Fowler to thank for that.

Mr. Hadcock asked if there were any other pending litigations or employee complaints that are still outstanding against the City that the public should know about it.

City Attorney Jones said if there's a current employee who has a complaint against the City, we couldn't disclose it anyways. Mr. Hadcock said he understood that but wanted to know if he had responded to it or acted on it. City Attorney Jones asked that he define "it". Mr. Hadcock stated any complaints made in writing? City Attorney Jones stated even if there were or were not and disclosing them would violate their policy.

Correspondence: DA Davidson Trust Company letter regarding Anderson Charitable Trust Funds

Interim Mayor Hunsucker read the letter. Alderman Cates invited anyone interested in applying for these funds to please submit their request in writing. One has already been received from the Splash Park Committee. Anna Walters asked if the Council had gotten her request as it was not on the agenda. Interim Mayor Hunsucker said the Council did.

Discussion/Action: Resignation of Mayor Jamie Miller

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Cates to accept the resignation of Mayor Jamie Miller as of February 2, 2024.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Resignation/reinstatement of Finance Officer

Interim Mayor Hunsucker stated that the Council is trying to decide on how to proceed with the issue at hand. Does the Council open them back up for application? City Attorney Jones said under normal circumstances, you'd go by the normal procedures. Given the resignations were caused by former Mayor Miller, these situations are relatively extraordinary. The Council is the policy making board and can make exceptions. The procedures on hiring are to ensure there is no discrimination or nepotism. In the situations where the applicants are fully vetted, Council has made a decision and not long after the resignations happen, the Council can offer to reinstate, and leave offer open for time period. It's a method to get City back to operating as normal.

Mr. Hadcock stated that the Mayor didn't force people to resign. The council should do it legally. You are not forced to resign you do that by yourself. If you are trying to lay blame you should go someplace else. Ernie Padilla stated that he resigned because of the Mayor.

Attorney Jones stated that per his letter he didn't think it was fair to the City of Conrad to have a Mayor that was going to ignore legal advice. With Mayor Miller gone, he is willing to continue and throw out his resignation.



Mr. Hadcock stated some other Cities have neat plans that he knows about to have legal counsel that is a little more modern than what the City is doing here. If the Council wants to know more about it they can call and ask him.

Cody Dugan stated that in light of recent situation that regardless if people are well suited for the position or vetted are not it would be wise of the City to not open up anything that they can be accused of doing wrong. Why put the Council out there to be criticized. It's going on longer than it should.

Carolyn Donath asked Hunsucker if he would stay on as the Interim Mayor or resign his position. Hunsucker confirmed that he will remain Interim Mayor until the position is appointed properly.

Both Alderman McKye and Interim Mayor Hunsucker agreed that reposting the vacancies would be the better way to go and proceed with normal procedures for hiring.

Hearing – 6:30 PM: Prioritization of HB355

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Mycke to close regular session and open hearing on HB 355
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Allotted funds for the City of Conrad from the HB 355 Infrastructure Funding amount to \$198,671. Interim Mayor Hunsucker said there's a 25% match requirement. He read the list of potential eligible projects, noting that he is looking for the public's input on how to prioritize them. Most of the projects are for the Library as they have the funds in reserve to match the 25% match requirement. The City Hall is also on there to fix poor drainage at the back door. The Walking Path request would round out their remaining match requirement. Hunsucker said some of the projects need to be cut since we only have \$200K to spend.

Maria Cates said she thinks these are all good choices, but that the Library should have priority as it's important to the community.

Anna Walter said she thinks the Ballfields should have priority. With encouragement from Interim Mayor Hunsucker stated that Library Director Tiffany Christensen is trying to get several things done and he requested she add smaller request too just because that would help her.

David Zimbelman said the Ballfield sprinklers are really degraded. Interim Mayor Hunsucker said it's too late to add that to the list since it was due last fall.

Alicia Daily said, as a parent of small kids, some equipment is no longer safe at the Ballfields. This should be considered a higher priority, with many families spending countless hours at the Ballfields throughout the summer.



Close Hearing and reopen regular meeting

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Cates to close the HB355 Hearing and reopen the regular meeting.
 - Motion carried Unanimously

Cont. Discussion/Action Resignation/Reinstatement of Financial Officer:

Picking up on the discussion regarding recently-resigned employees, Cates said he'd like to give these people the opportunity to be reinstated. It's time to turn this ship around and going in the right direction.

Carolyn Donath stated they should have to re-apply.

Alderman Amber agreed with Alderman Cates, but understands that we need to re-post and have them re-apply to go forward in the best interest of the City.

Mr. Hadcock asked if the job descriptions all spelled out and some of these things that cause problems are addressed. Like overtime, regular work hours, etc. Interim Mayor Hunsucker said that was a good question.

Mrs. Coombs said it would be good to know the steps they're going to take to figure out to try and "fix it." Interim Mayor Hunsucker said that was fair.

Mr. Coombs said he thinks some people should think about it long and hard. In his opinion some of the people who resigned are the ones that caused the City money. If you resigned because you can't work with someone then you should just move on. In life you have to learn to deal with people and work with people you might not agree with. He thinks if you can't handle it because of who you work for and you resign then it's best you move on.

Alderman Cates stated there was a common denominator in the last two years. There have been five people resign, now either Jamie didn't know how to hire people or impossible to work with.

Alderman Cates and Mr. Coombs went back and forth about Jamie being the common denominator and the lawsuit that was pending.

Alderman Schoenrock asked if the positions of Finance Officer and Chief of Police have been posted and both say that they are open until full. Does the Council have to do a Motion to do post them or since they are posted already can they skip that step. Attorney Jones said the Council doesn't have to do anything besides table the reinstatement indefinitely or until the next meeting.

Mr. Hadcock asked if the Council could call MMIA to make sure that the process was right. Interim Mayor said the Council has talked to them and he can call them again tomorrow.



Ms. Coombs asked Alderman Schoenrock if there was a date that was going to be taken down. Alderman Schoenrock informed her it stated open until filled and that it's for both the Finance officer and Chief of Police.

Mr. Burditt stated that on Alderman David's comment about maybe Jamie didn't know how to hire people, these people are screened by committee or by group of people with a recommendation that goes to the Mayor that is approved by the City Council. It's just not the Mayor as the Council has a hand in it to. Mr. Coombs also stated that it has to be approved by us to and not just approved by the mayor.

Alderman Schoenrock said that is not true as the finance officer and Chief of Police are appointed by the Mayor. The Council can give all the recommendations we wish but the Mayor cannot go with that recommendation and go with whoever she wants. Two council members are a part of the interview process along with the Mayor. There are a set of questions that are gone through and each person on the committee takes turns asking those questions. Council members then give recommendations and then the Mayor chooses who she thinks is best. Normally, if the Mayor brings in who they want and even if I disagree I would of gone with it. No, we don't get to pick who gets to work in that position. We have a say but in the long run it is the Mayor's appointment. Mr. Burditt asked if Alderman Schoenrock was uncomfortable hiring someone. Alderman Schoenrock stated she was not uncomfortable hiring someone.

Mr. Coombs asked if the Council had agreed on the Chief of Police hire. Alderman Schoenrock said she wasn't on the Council at that time. Interim Mayor Hunsucker stated David and Him did.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Mycke to table resignation/reinstatement of Financial Officer pending new applications.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Resignation/reinstatement of Chief of Police

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Mycke, to table resignation/reinstatement of Chief of Police pending new applications.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Resignation/reinstatement of City Attorney

Interim Mayor Hunsucker asked if this position was a Mayoral appointment? Bother Alderman Schoenrock and Cates confirmed this.

Attorney Jones stated that he has continued as City Attorney because he has to. So if we want to accept the withdrawal of resignation we can do that. Another thing is professional service contracts do not have to go out to bid.



Jack expressed concern that this needs to go through MMIA to avoid any more legal problems for the City. Interim Mayor Hunsucker said he's willing to talk with Mr. Hadcock and discuss the process with MMIA, but the City needs a City Attorney in the meantime.

Alderman Schoenrock asked how long the current contract is good for? Attorney Jones said it was just renewed last year and is good for two years, so it's good through 2025. Discussion on how Motion should be worded.

Mrs. Coombs asked City Attorney Jones what kind of things he is going to do to change what has happened or how he is going to make things better going forward. Attorney Jones stated that he offered his resignation because Mayor wouldn't accept his legal advice. It is not in the City's best interest where your Executive refuses to take his legal advice. With Ms. Miller gone he is perfectly happy to continue to give legal advice as he trusts that the Council and Interim Mayor will accept that advice. If that changes he will do the same thing again.

- Motion by Alderman Cates, Second by Alderman Schoenrock to withdraw the resignation of the City Attorney
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion: John Hadcock (Jack) to be considered for Citizen member of Police Commission and Hiring Committee

Mr. Hadcock said he didn't just want to be a complainer and not try to help the City. Alderman Schoenrock said the current Board is full until June and asked him if he would give his permission to hold his interest until there's a vacancy. Mr. Hadcock agreed.

Discussion/Action: Blue Sky Villa lease agreement

City Attorney Jones said there may have been some confusion over public notice earlier in the meeting. This is a lease agreement, and as such, is not subject to a public bidding process. So if you didn't see the request for bids, it's because it wasn't required. BSV does almost all the maintenance for the facility. The City only maintains the roads.

The old lease was a triple-net lease, as is the new lease.

Interim Mayor Hunsucker read the letter from BSV's attorney, Jardine, Stephenson, Blewett & Weaver, P.C.

Mr. Coombs asked about roof repairs at BSV. Interim Mayor Hunsucker said they've been done on rotation. When he started here in 2020, a roof cost \$8,000. Now it's \$14,000. Mr. Coombs asked whose budget this comes out of and Interim Mayor Hunsucker confirmed it was BSV's budget. That's what a triple-net lease is.

Someone said that insurance can cover some roof repairs. So far BSV has been taking good care of things.



Alderman Schoenrock read the proposal from Highmark Properties to Sublease Blue Sky Villa provided by Mr. Chad Bouma.

Mr. Bouma said it's not really an apples-to-apples comparison. From the meeting he attended he felt the City was looking for more control about where the money was being spent and what upgrades are going to be done. Of course, to do that instead of a reserve they would be high lease payment. Can't just compare dollars for dollars. This gives the City more money and buildings to use. It's the only common-sense way to go. He also prepared another proposal on caretaking, but it was ultimately not what the City wanted.

Mr. Bouma mentioned that he carries breakdown insurance on his own equipment. It costs more for insurance, but it gets rid of that need to have a half million in reserve. It comes down to whether or not the City wants to be in control of maintenance, or be completely separate.

Alderman Schoenrock asked if he would hire locally. He maintains properties in Choteau, and he would basically be looking to hire people in this area to do the work at BSV. He said for maintenance emergencies, they can have someone on site within the hour.

Regarding rent, Mr. Bouma said the whole mission is to keep rent low. He would carry through with that mission statement. As costs go up, rent has to go up, but if costs don't go up, rent doesn't either. It's all by percentage.

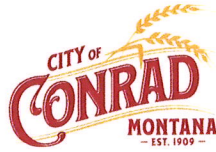
Nancy Powell said the BSV residents have been discussing this for some time now. They polled their residents and 75% said they are "very happy" with the Board and the way the Board is running things now. They would like to see the Board continue to manage BSV.

Alderman Mycke asked for clarification from Chad regarding upgrades. Repairs would be considered maintenance but if new cabinets and appliances would go under property improvements and go thru Council for the City to pay. It makes more sense for the property owner to make those decisions.

Mrs. Moon asked what would happen if the City decides not to go with the new lease. Would BSV Board be able to come back and give and give similar situation as Mr. Bouma is as this isn't apples to apples. Interim Mayor Hunsucker agreed with her and said that's what the problem is. Mr. Bouma stated that the offer at hand can't stay out there forever. Alderman Mycke said he'd like to see a plan for 5 year and 10 year to compare and decided. Alderman Cates said it might be better to table this now and discuss at the next meeting since there are questions. This would be a courtesy to Mr. Bouma, who got the runaround from the City when the Mayor told him not to put in something after he was asked to do so.

Someone noted that it's been 18 months, and the contract has already been extended. There would be 8 days to go after the next Council meeting before the current extended lease expires.

Mr. Bouma said he was trying to offer a second option regarding the reserves.



City Attorney Jones clarified that the BSV Board would still need to approve what the Council approved.

- Motion by Alderman Cates, Second by Alderman Hunsucker to approve Blue Sky Villa lease agreement as revised:
 - Motion failed 2-2
 - Alderman Cates & Alderman Hunsucker in favor
 - Alderman Schoenrock & Alderman Mye not in favor
 - Interim Mayor Hunsucker broke tie – IN FAVOR to accept BSV Lease

Alderman Schoenrock said there are still options in the future if things start to dissolve again. Mr. Coombs stated he didn't think it was in the best of the City. The Council obviously had someone bring in a proposal that would bring more money into the city and the Council just turned it down. He said the Council can live with their choices but he don't think anyone had logically looked at it. Alderman Schoenrock asked Mr. Bouma if he would still be interested later down the line if anything comes up, and he said he would.

Alderman Mycke said, for the record, the City did not raise the rent at BSV.

Discussion/Action: Request from Paul Bellamy to revise sewer average for 2024 due to water leak

There was concern over Paul Bellamy as property owner not being available to make the request himself. Cheryl Tornga is assumed to be his Personal Representative made the request.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Mycke, to approve request from Paul Bellamy to use January 2023 sewer usage to calculate 2024 sewer average.
 - Motion Carries 3-1
 - Alderman Cates, Schoenrock, & Mycke in favor
 - Alderman Hunsucker not in favor

Discussion/Action: Request for new computer for Admin/Payroll clerk

According to the City's IT contractor, DIS Technologies, the current Admin/Payroll clerk computer was purchased in 2017 and has been ready for replacement since August of 2020. The current computer freezes-up on a regular basis, resulting in lost productivity and the potential for lost data. Having a reliable computer for the Admin/Payroll clerk is essential for City business, including processing payroll and claims checks. An estimate from DIS has been requested and is pending.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Cates to table the approval of a new computer for Admin/Payroll clerk pending cost estimate from DIS
 - Motion Carried Unanimously



Discussion/Action: Request for City to pay for legal notice in I-O regarding Jude's order on Writ of Prohibition

- Motion by Alderman Cates, Second by Alderman Schoenrock, to approve City paying for the legal notice in I-O for \$247
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Adopt new digital timecard procedure with approvers

The new timecard software has been installed and this is a request to adopt procedures for approvers. Hourly (interim) Department Heads will need to submit time for approval from one of the following, in specified order: Mayor, Council President, Finance Officer, Payroll Clerk. When a Department Head position is vacant, approval for employees in that department will transfer to the following, in specified order: Public Works - Dave Zimbelman, Librarian - Tiffany Christensen, Interim Chief of Police – Corey Smith, and Finance Officer.

Alderman Schoenrock said this process will make it quicker and easier for Julie to do payroll.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Cates to adopt new digital timecard procedure of 2/2/24 with approvers as stated.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Brad Koon utilization of existing City lot for storm water retention pond

David Zimbelman explained that part of the stormwater from the East side of town first goes south. The furthest East of the East side of town naturally slopes toward Interstate 15. City Engineer Brad Koon wanted to look draining that half of the water into a retention pond near the Verizon cell tower. Dave said the area the proposed retention pond would cover is quite large, and he's not a big fan of the idea. The City would prefer to pipe that stormwater to the creek instead of putting in a 5' deep retention pond. There's a right-of-way running North-South in a little area on the south side of California Street. The retention pond could not be lined because the water needs to seep into the soil. There would be cattails, mosquitos to treat, and banks to mow using special equipment. It would be high maintenance. Dave said the solution is a work in progress.

Alderman Cates asked if the retention pond would be considered a permanent fix, and Dave confirmed that it would.

Alderman Schoenrock said she'd would like more information from both Dave and Brad before going forward with this.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Mycke to table Brad Koon of Triple Tree Engineering utilization of existing City lot for storm water retention pond pending further information
 - Motion Carried Unanimously



Anna Walters asked if the property owners know about this proposed plan, and if the pond is going to be protected.

Alderman Schoenrock shared Triple Tree's drawing which showed a fence. She indicated that more information is needed and will be on the next meeting agenda. Dave said he can't confirm that Brad will be able to attend the next meeting.

Discussion: Proposal for repurposing 400 S Main with Taylor Carvajal

Rusty Gunderson of Iron Boar Construction spoke on behalf of Taylor Carvajal. The environmental impact of the project would be primarily interior restoration, with little impact on the outside of the building.

Interim Mayor Hunsucker asked what the goal of the project is. Rusty responded: preservation of the outside, rebuilding the steak house, preserving the existing tenants (Gustafson Law Office) and re-opening the other offices on 4th Avenue. Upstairs, either apartments with a central gathering area or condominium-style living is planned. The main goal to preserve a cornerstone of Conrad. Rusty hasn't seen the blueprints and acknowledged that parking isn't great for tenants.

Interim Mayor Hunsucker asked Rusty if he needs anything from the City. Rusty said any input would be welcome. He has a budget over \$500K to get started and to attract possible tenants to finish renovations on the lower floor. Anything done upstairs would have to be agreed to by the current tenants.

Alderman Mycke suggested putting it on the next agenda.

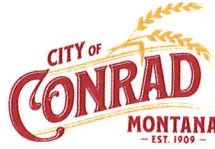
Discussion/Action: Settlement Agreement in Cause No. DV-23-35, Jamie Miller v City of Conrad

Attorney Jones explained that the City authorized the attorney appointed by MMIA to negotiate a settlement. This is the proposal that was authorized. His recommendation is to accept the settlement agreement "as is." It would mean that the City agrees to stipulate to the judgement issued by Bonilla to be unappealable, to pay \$4500 in attorney fees, \$172.50 in filing costs for Mr. Coombs and Jamie Miller, and pay Jamie for the time she was absent from the mayor position from Nov. 17 and January 4th, 2024.

Alderman Schoenrock asked City Attorney Jones to clarify a statement in that Settlement. City Attorney Jones cited that the Council by agreeing to the settlement isn't admitting to any liability or acknowledges any wrongdoing and is in the best interest of the City to make the lawsuit go away.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Cates to approve the Settlement Agreement in Cause No. DV-23-35, Jamie Miller v City of Conrad
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Northern Transit Interlocal agreement



This is an agreement where the City of Conrad agrees to supports the Northern Transit Interlocal for fiscal year 2025 with a \$5,000 yearly commitment. Funds will be used to help support reasonable transportation systems. City of Conrad designates Alderman Cates as our voting member and if he is unavailable then Alderman Hunsucker will attend.

Alderman Cates said the service is fee and a great thing the City offers.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Mycke to approve Northern Transit Interlocal agreement with Alderman Cates and the Mayor as the City’s voting members.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Stockman Bank signature authorization for Julie Orcutt as Admin/Payroll clerk

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Cates to approve Stockman Bank signature authorization for Julie Orcutt as Admin/Payroll clerk.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Cody Dugan requesting street closure near Ed’s Tavern during Whoop-Up 2024

Cody said they want to do a street dance on the first Friday of Whoop-up. They would like to close the block of Front Street from 3rd Avenue to 4th Avenue from 7pm to 1am. There are no homes nearby and they are the only business on that street.

Alderman Schoenrock said it sounds like a great idea, but worried about insurance, making sure we have accessibility to road closure signs and if we need to talk to MMIA about insurance. Alderman Schoenrock asked if they can hold Discussion/Action at the meeting at beginning of March regarding it to give time to research it. She just wants to check with MMIA first and make sure there are not any things special that needs to be done.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Cates to table until the first meeting in March, as Discussion/Action: street closure near Ed’s Tavern during Whoop-Up 2024
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Triple Tree Engineering invoice

Reversal request for ARPA for the Storm Water Lift Station project. Invoices paid by the City to be reimbursed from ARPA money. Four invoices: Grant Admin & Engineering (\$1,100); Grant Admin & Engineering (\$2,682.50); Grant Admin & Engineering (\$14,152.90); Engineering (\$17,942.56)

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Cates to pay Triple Tree Engineering invoices in the amount of \$35,877.96
 - Motion Carried Unanimously



Other Business:

Montana League of Cities & Towns financial services progress report. Alderman Amber read the report.

Items to Appear on the Next/Future Agenda:

Reading and approving 1/16/24 special, regular and executive (approval only) meeting minutes, Montana League of Cities & Towns extension of contract with Agnes Fowler and Jodi Rogers, Resolution to reconsider government structure for City of Conrad, Taylor Carvajal restoration of Joe's Steakhouse, Finance Officer (hiring committee), Chief of Police (Police Commission) Prioritization of requests for Genevieve Rankin funds and deadline, Additional information from Triple Tree Engineering on proposed retention pond, Whoop-up proposed road closure

Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business to come before the Council, motion by Alderman Schoenrock, seconded by Alderman Cates, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm.

- Motion Carried Unanimously

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

Interim Mayor, Nathan Hunsucker

Attest:
Billing Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly A. Cooney".

