

\* 13 OCT 2023 - Note, This was a Special Meeting (not a Regular Meeting). Error noted 13 OCT 2023. J. Miller, Mayor



**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 25, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Conrad, County of Pondera, State of Montana, met in <sup>\*</sup>regular session at the Conrad City Hall on September 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jamie Miller; Aldermen: Nathan Hunsucker, David Cates and Amber Schoenrock; Payroll Clerk Patti Hutton, City Attorney Daniel Jones; Public Works Director David Zimbelman (present by phone)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Miller at 6:40 p.m.

Absent: 0

Guests present: 12

Discussion/Action: Request for Retirement Gift for Jerry Griggs

A request was made by the mayor to recognize Jerry Griggs for his 22 years at the City of Conrad with a \$300.00 retirement gift card to Scheels.

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates, to approve a \$300 retirement gift card to Scheels for Jerry Griggs.
  - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Request by Public Works to purchase an E-Coli testing machine

Public Works requested to purchase an E-Coli testing machine. Public Works Director (PWD) Zimbelman explained the E-coli test is time sensitive and there have been issues related to it not arriving (by shipment) in time. PWD Zimbelman reported this is tested weekly and costs about \$80.00 to ship; when it doesn't get there on time, it has to be sent again. Based on the shipping costs alone, the E-Coli Testing Machine would pay for itself in 2 years (based on the purchase price of \$10,000.00). According to the PWD, the yearly supplies will cost ~\$787.00; the first-year supplies are included in the purchase. It was reported that Cut Bank and Choteau have this machine; Cut Bank has had it for 5 years with no issues. Per PWD Zimbelman, no special training is required for use of the machine.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Cates, to approve the purchase of the E-Coli testing machine by the Public Works.
  - Motion Carried Unanimously

Public Comment (no action taken): None

Discussion with Park and Rec, Inc: Mayor Miller began the meeting with clarification of the intent of calling the meeting originally was to discuss the future agreement with Parks and Rec, Inc.; because all council members would be in attendance, a council meeting was called. Additional agenda items for council decisions were also added on the agenda for a couple items that required council decisions. Parks and Rec, Inc. was not aware of the council meeting and/or the intent of the meeting other than to discuss the agreement; they clarified the large number of people in attendance is because of the number of people on all their combined boards. Parks and Rec, Inc. said they didn't have any proposed changes to the agreement. The mayor expressed that was the original intent of calling the meeting as agreements can take time if there are issues. The mayor opened the floor for discussion. Issues or concerns were discussed starting with a question about why gates have to be locked at night (to help stop vandals)

and followed by comment regarding the girls' softball fields not being maintained as well as the others (flooding/drainage issues, field work, etc.). It was mentioned 4-5 years ago red dirt was bought jointly by the city, Parks & Rec, and the high school. Coordinating this again, including identifying a storage location/method at the ballfields, can be jointly worked on in the coming year. Clean-up of the items behind the shed is pending and is still planned by the city. Parks and Rec. confirmed none of the items are theirs. Public Works hopes to work on cleaning this area, hopefully early spring. Later it was mentioned having Steel Etc. provide a container for scrap metal and Public Works will work on this. For spring snow removal, a management plan needs to be determined. Bleachers were also discussed and an update from the city was provided. The mayor explained that the warranty for the 10-highs requires cement footings or slab and the cost associated needs considered. The city is asked Park and Rec to provide some input on what they would like purchased with the budget amount available. The city agreed to forward Mr. Bender the bleacher dimensions for a quote on cement work required for a decision. Parks and Rec. agreed they will be replacing the fence that was removed for the batting cages. Bathroom cleanliness was mentioned in relationship to the agreement next year. Once a day cleaning was agreed and supplies were agreed to be better this year including the extra supplies provided for back-ups; improvements may be needed next year as this has been a complaint area and vandals are also an issue. Discussion about sentiments felt between the City and Parks and Rec. on different areas ensued. An increase in teams using the fields this season was reported. It was agreed that communications could be improved; the goal next year will be to identify two spokesmen, one from the city and one from Parks and Rec for all communications. A meeting at the start of the year/season was agreed would be good (to be planned in February). For ballfield clean-up at the start, the city agreed to help communicate the date to encourage more attendance from the community.

Meeting Adjourned:

There being no further business to come before the council, motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Hunsucker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

- o Motion Carried Unanimously



*Jamie Miller*  
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Mayor

Attest:

*[Signature]*  
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Finance Officer