



**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 April 18, 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 April 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jamie Miller; Aldermen: David Cates, Nathan Hunsucker, Karla Breeding and Amber Schoenrock; Payroll Clerk Patti Hutton

Absent: 0

Guests present: 2

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Miller at 6:00 p.m.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Schoenrock, to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2023 regular meeting
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Claims #27149 through 27185 (refer to the claims register)

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates to approve the claims, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Water Contract: 1

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Schoenrock to Approve Water Contract request by Mr. Wheeler.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Ms. Cates provided an update on the Pathway Committee. The Pathway Committee is looking into irrigation options and received one quote to install water for the trees planted by the pathway for \$36,000; \$18,000 was for labor alone. Based on this quote, the Committee would like to continue the process of obtaining additional quotes. One irrigation idea proposed was to utilize a pump using water from the canal on the west end by the skating rink however, it's not an ideal option and using city water access may be preferred. The Pathway Committee made a request for the PWD Director David Zimbelman to be present at their next meeting to help with the process. Council asked where the irrigation will start and end. The irrigation will start at C street, by the Ice Rink, and down the pathway to Wisconsin Street.

Alderman Breeding attended the Growth Policy meeting at the library on April 13th. Although there were not many in attendance, the meeting was good.

Discussion/Action: Citizen Sewer Charge Average Adjustment Request.

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, seconded by Alderman Breeding, to adjust Alan Ewald's December 2022 water usage to 3,500 gallons [from 39,150], based on December 2021 sewer usage [3,500 gallons], and use that average for the sewer for the calculations in 2023.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: MMIA Group Enrollment for Employee Health Benefits. Discussion ensued on the history of the health insurance coverage offered by the City in years past, including previous motions made by Council to continue this coverage. It has been understood the City's health plan coverage has consistently been for the Mission Plan, for the employee only. The City historically has covered the cost of the employee only on the Mission plan whereas the employee would be responsible for the cost of any added dependents or the cost difference for any health plan above the Mission Plan.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, and second by Alderman Cates, to approve covering the cost of the Mission plan, for the employee only, for the 2023-2024 year, at the premium cost of \$720/per employee. And, to also clarify the [Council] intent for the 2022-2023 year was to cover the cost of the Mission plan for City employees [individual]. And, for any employee who elects the HDHP (High Deductible Health Plan) plan, the City will deposit the difference [in the premium] into the employee's HSA account.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Conrad Swim Team Request for Use of the City Pool, with practice beginning June 5th and swim camp the first week in June. The State Swim Meet will be hosted here July 29-30th, 2023. The Swim Team is requesting use of the pool at specified days and times [from 6:30-8:30 for older swimmers, 11:30-1:00p little/younger swimmer lessons, and 5-6:00p dives and turns; older swimmers will be on Mon and Wed and younger swimmers on Tues and Thurs]. The Mayor mentioned last year there was a question with a young Swim Team member who was required to buy a pool pass for Swim Team when children that age (4) were allowed to swim for free with a paying adult. The Mayor voiced a need to communicate with the Swim Team that any member of the Swim Team must purchase a Pool Pass independently from the City's use requirements. A discussion then ensued on what the lower age limit should be for the City's pool use requirement should be free with a paying adult. PWD Dave Zimbelman will reach out to other communities to find out what they charge for a pass and what age if any is not required to buy a pass.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, seconded by Alderman Hunsucker, to approve the Swim Team Request of the City Pool, with the understanding that all Swim Team members must purchase a pool pass.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Swim Pool Manager and Pool Staff Hiring. The Mayor would like approval to hire the Pool Manager with the intention of a May 1st start date. She would like to find a co-manager this year, which would enable the pool to be open longer and cover any vacation requests. The returning pool manager has some commitments that would shorten the season thus there is a need to have a replacement identified. Council requested the one candidate presented be approved and any alternate candidate be presented to Council separately for approval.

- Motion by Alderman Cates, and seconded by Alderman Hunsucker, to approve the Mayor's request to hire the returning pool manager with a start date of May 1st 2023.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Black Mountain Software Cloud Hosting Request. With our current IT company pushing system updates over the last several weeks, that have disrupted work flows, in addition to an identified dependency on a local server for back-up, it has been determined the issues with our system could be putting our data (financial system) at risk. In the midst of the issues, Black Mountain went ahead and moved our system on the cloud at no expense to the City for a limited time (with the Mayor's approval and desire to ensure our data is secure). The cost of the Cloud Hosting is \$3,065.00/Annually with no additional set-up fee being charged.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Schoenrock, to approve the purchase of Black Mountain Software Cloud Hosting services.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: ABCleaning Janitorial Services Agreement. The contract for Janitorial Services ends June 30th 2023. The Mayor is requesting to discontinue using a Janitorial Service for the City in a cost saving effort. The City is currently paying \$90 a week for this service. The City will need to give a 30-day notice.

- Motion by Alderman Cates, seconded by Alderman Breeding, to give notice to terminate the Janitorial agreement with ABCleaning. May 31st 2023 (with confirmation of the City Attorney of termination date requirements).
 - Vote: In favor = 3; opposed = 1 (Alderman Schoenrock)

Discussion/Action: Revitalization Committee Member Appointment. The Mayor requested appointment of Anna Pollard to this committee. Alderman Hunsucker asked how many appointees will be on the committee. The Mayor said she is appointing two as of now and will let council know how many more appointments will be added after the group meets for the first time. Alderman Hunsucker recommended establishing a sitting committee number be established.

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates, to approve Anna Pollard to the Committee
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Executive Session: None

Other Business: None

Items to appear on next agenda: Whoop-Up requests, if available.

Items tabled at prior meetings/ongoing and/or to be added to future agenda: Water, Sewer, Garbage Rate Increases.

There being no further business to come before the council, motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

- Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor

Janie Miller

Attest:

Matthew Hunsucker

*Finance Officer

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