



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 August 1, 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 August 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jamie Miller; Aldermen: Nathan Hunsucker, Karla Breeding, and Amber Schoenrock; Public Works Director David Zimbelman; Payroll Clerk Patti Hutton; Police Sgt. Smith

Absent: Alderman David Cates, Police Chief Padilla

Guests present: 5 (Independent Observer Reporter (McKenzie Graye) also present by phone)

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

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Hunsucker, to Approve Minutes of the July 11, 2023 Regular Meeting.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Claims #27364 through #27418 (refer to the claims register)

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

Water Contract: None

Correspondence: A letter to Council a letter from a concerned citizen about the weeds at a vacant house. The citizen is worried about fire danger. Mayor Miller did reach out to the Fire Chief. A weed letter has been sent out and the property is scheduled to be mowed if it has not been addressed.

Public Comment: (no action taken):

City of Conrad Department Reports:

- a. Police Department - Sergeant Smith reported there were approximately 267 calls for Service reported to Pondera County Sheriff's Office Dispatch and/or Conrad Police Department in the month of July. 63 Security Checks were done. The City had 1 arrest, 3 alarms, 3 assaults, 6 criminal mischief/trespass/vandalism calls. 8 domestic incidents, 2 lost/found property, 9 medical emergencies, 10 noise complaints, 4 suicide/mental health calls, 13 suspicious activity and 3 wanted/missing persons. The Conrad Police Department did 1 welfare check, 8 citizen assists, 3 vehicle lock outs 1 vin inspection, 7 juvenile complaints 14, traffic stops and assisted other agencies 21 times. There were 29 animal calls. Officer Karlik has finished field training.
- b. Public Works Director Zimbelman Report deferred to next meeting

Discussion: Tim and Amy Salois would like to erect a Veteran's Memorial in Conrad and are looking at some City owned areas for placement, including an area owned by the City but is currently leased (Blue Sky Villa area) or possibly in Legion Park. As one of the locations is currently leased, it was discussed that it could potentially be brought into those lease negotiation discussions. It was recommended Salois' bring the City/Council a sketch of the

proposed memorial along with the dimensions; a formal request should then be made to request placement in the City.

Discussion/Action: Request for Approval of the Mental Health Walk for September 21, 2023 by Pondera Mental Health Advisory Board/Steve Baliko.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Hunsucker, to approve the Request for the Mental Health Walk on September 21, 2023.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion: Water Sever Rate Increases- Presentation by Bobbie Shular from Montana Rural Water Mayor Miller clarified that the splash park project is not at all associated with potential water sewer rate increases; the City is not evaluating raising water or sewer rates to cover the splash park in any way. Ms. Shular presented a background on how and why the calculations are made to understand if costs are being covered. Ms. Shular explained that per Montana Code Annotated, the town is obligated to ensure rates adequately cover costs of operating and maintaining the system. Ms. Shular presented a spreadsheet with Conrad's numbers (not confident numbers at this time) that shows current water and sewer rates, based on the prior year's expenses, are currently not covering the town's water or sewer system operation and maintenance costs, etc. More discussions regarding water and sewer rate increases are needed in the future, especially at the time the town's numbers can confidently be used to evaluate the calculations.

Discussion/Action: Library MOU - the Mayor stated that the current agreement expired and with this MOU, the prior agreement would be extended until October 31, 2023 or will automatically renew for an additional term ending in June 2024.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Breeding, to approve the Library Agreement to extend the current MOU 3 months to October 31st.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Conrad Youth Soccer Agreement. The proposed agreement has some redlines that need to be corrected and are subject to change with the City Attorney's approval.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Hunsucker, to approve request by Conrad Youth Soccer Program to use the Baseball Fields pending the City Attorney's Approval.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Horizon Lodge Garden Apartments, inc. Surplus Funds Fiscal Year Letter 2022-2023

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Breeding to table this item.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Executive Session: None

Other Business: Finance Dept. Update/Audit Report: Mayor Miller reported that the AFR has been filed and audit report findings were emailed and published. The budget is the next priority and is in-works. Park and Rec has had a name change and provided an updated agreement however the revised agreement is in discussion with the City Attorney.

Items to Appear on Next/Future Agenda:

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 8:00 p.m.

- Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor Jamie Miller

Attest:

Mittan Huson

*Finance Officer

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