



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 5, 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 September 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: 0

Guests present: 9; Independent Observer, McKenzie Graye, present by phone

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

Read & Approve Minutes of August 15, 2023, Regular Meeting

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Cates, to Approve Minutes of the August 15, 2023 Regular Meeting.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

6:03 OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Cates, to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- **Public Hearing for Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Former Mayor Wendy Judisch voiced questions she had about the proposed budget; Mayor Miller thanked her for her questions. All of Ms. Judisch's questions were answered by Mayor Miller and/or a City Council member during the public hearing. Other public comments were received regarding trash bins falling over, a request to support our Mayor and Council members, and praise to law enforcement for maintaining the safety of the town.
- Motion by Alderman Cates, second by Alderman Schoenrock to reopen the regular meeting.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Reopen regular meeting resumed (time: 6:55 p.m.)

Discussion/Action: Resolution 23-1283 Municipal Budget 2023-2024

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Cates, to approve Resolution #23-1283 Municipal Budget FY2023-2024
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Resolution 23-1284 Permissive Medical Levy FY23-24

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Hunsucker, to approve Resolution #23-1284 Permissive Medical Levy FY2023-2024

- Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Resolution 23-1285 Levying Special Assessments FY23-24

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Schoenrock, to approve Resolution #23-1285 Levying Special Assessments FY2023-2024
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Resolution 23-1286 Annual Tax Levies FY23-24

- Motion by Alderman Cates, second by Alderman Hunsucker, to approve Resolution #23-1286 Annual Tax Levies FY2023-2024
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Resolution 23-1287 Salary and Compensation FY23-24

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Cates, to approve Resolution #23-1287 Salary and Compensation FY2023-2024
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Claims #27454 through #27499 (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

Water Contracts: Application for Single User Rural Water Permit (J. Mink)

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates, to approve the water contract with Joani Mink as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Correspondence: The Montana Department of Transportation has published the final version of the 2023-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Pondera County sent a letter stating that the Commissioners have approved the County budget for FY2023-24. The Conrad Library has been appropriated \$253,376 which is from the voted levy.

Public Comment (no action taken): None

City of Conrad Department Reports:

Public Works Department

Director Zimbelman reported that the city will be chip sealing next week. The downtown streetlights LED conversion is almost complete. The city crew has started flushing the fire hydrants for the year and all the city facilities will be getting winterized. Jerry Griggs will be retiring the end of September after 20+ years with the city. The seasonal worker for the PWD is done for the season. A recycle pump at the water plant had to be sent to Great Falls for repair.

Police Department

Chief Padilla reported: Chief Padilla reported that approximately 229 calls for service were reported to PCSO Dispatch and/or Conrad Police Department. The City made 7 arrests, had 5 alarm calls, 8 assaults/harassment incidents and 10 burglary/thefts/shoplifting reports. The Police Department answered 7 medical emergencies, 16 domestic incidents, 17 suspicious activity/vehicles and 3 wanted/missing persons. The City Police had several public assists, traffic incidents, 13 calls for other agency assists and 24 animal calls.

Discussion: M. Cates agenda request to discuss the 'Welcome to Conrad' signs upon entering Conrad. M. Cates wanted to know what could be done to update the Welcome to Conrad Sign to make it more noticeable. Metal/welded signs in other towns, for example, are more updated and noticeable. It was noted that the property the current welcome signs are located on is not owned by the City.

Discussion/Action: Cops 4 Kids 10th Annual Guns and Hoses Softball Tournament Request for September 10, 2023

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Cates, to approve continued sponsorship by the City of Conrad for the 10th Annual Guns & Hoses Charity softball game.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Turning Over Delinquent Weed Mowing and Curb Stop Repair Charges to County

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Cates, to approve the list of Delinquent weed mowing and curb stop repair charges to be turned over to County.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: Alderman Position Appointment: Cindy Johnson, Ron Widhalm and Tim Salois have all expressed interest in being appointed to the City Council. Alderman Hunsucker recommended that the issue be tabled for the time being.

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Cates, to table this decision.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion: Future Potential City Ordinance Updates: The City Attorney, along with Mayor Miller, reviewed some ordinance updates that are necessary and/or would be helpful to the City. A discrepancy between the charter and the language in section 1-6-1(C) has been noted regarding removal of officers. Additionally, as previously discussed, the Park and Rec Board requirements are currently not bridged to the Park and Rec, Inc. group and thus there is a gap to compliance. The goal would be simplifying the ordinance and similar to other City Boards. Some other ordinances related to building inspector or police enforcements will also be evaluated for updates.

Discussion/Action: Revised City Attorney Contract. The Termination language was updated since the contract was previously reviewed by Council. A citation to the removal from office language in the prior version is how the ordinance discrepancy in 1-6-1(c) was identified and thus this was updated. The contract now allows for a 30 day termination notice by either the City or the Attorney.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, second by Alderman Hunsucker, to approve revised City Attorney contract as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion/Action: County Attorney Prosecution by City Attorney: The City Attorney requested permission to prosecute a case in Justice court or District court a single case that the County will not be prosecuting but has agreed to allow the City Attorney to deputized to prosecute this case. The County Attorney has in the recent past prosecuted two cases at no charge to the City. The City Attorney would like to keep the reciprocity going which requires permission by the City as the charges for the case would be incurred by the City. It was explained the city Police Department has an interest in seeing this case prosecuted as well. The Police Chief voiced support of this decision.

- Motion by Alderman Hunsucker, second by Alderman Schoenrock, to approve County Attorney Prosecution by City Attorney on a one-time basis.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Executive Session: None

Other Business: Pool Loss/Revenue for 2023, Ballfield Loss/Revenue for 2023: it was reported that the Swimming pool received \$17,717 in revenue for 2023, but still had an overall net loss of \$21, 957.41 for the year. The Ballfield had no revenue and had a net loss off \$35,217.67 for the year.

Items to Appear on Next/Future Agenda: Blue Sky Villa/Horizon Lodge Garden Apartments, Inc. Surplus Funds Letter 2022-2023 – tabled on 8/1/2023. Questions on the surplus letter were sent to the BSV group; a meeting is scheduled with them on 9/7/2023 at 2:00 pm. Alderman Vacancy Appointment.

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.

- Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Miller', written over a horizontal line.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matt Hunsucker', written over a horizontal line.

*Finance Officer

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