

Mayor:
David Cates

City Council:
Amber Schoenrock
Carrie Doty
Karla Breeding
Darryl Burditt



City of Conrad
413 S. Main St.
Conrad, MT 59425
406-271-3623
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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CONRAD, COUNTY OF PONDERA, STATE OF MONTANA
HELD AT CONRAD CITY HALL ON SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2026

The City Council of the City of Conrad, County of Pondera, State of Montana, met in regular session at Conrad City Hall on Tuesday, September 1st, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor David Cates, Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Alderman Darryl Burditt, Alderman Karla Breeding, Alderman Carrie Doty (remotely), Police Chief Andy Lund, Public Works Director Dave Zimbelman, Finance Officer Jodi Rogers, City Clerk Jerad Walston.

Absent: None

Guests: McKenzie Graye, Lida Holst

Teleconference Guests: n/a

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

1. Continue with Public Hearing:

Discussion: Municipal Budget Fiscal Year 2026/2027

- a. Public Comment: (No action taken)
 - No public comment
- Finance Officer Jodi Rogers outlined the city budget resolutions, noting that a single mill is valued at \$3,316.69 and that citywide property taxes are projected to decrease for various home values. Jodi also noted a 24.97-mill permissive levy, a decrease in total mills to 191.09, with special improvement district levies remaining the same as the previous year.
- b. **RESOLUTION 26-1337:** ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF CONRAD FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027
- c. **RESOLUTION 26-1338:** ADOPTING ADDITIONAL PERMISSIVE MEDICAL LEVY MILLS FOR EMPLOYER GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027
- d. **RESOLUTION 26-1339:** FIXING THE ANNUAL TAX LEVIES IN AND FOR THE CITY OF CONRAD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027

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- e. **RESOLUTION 26-1340:** FIXING THE LIMITS OF THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027
- f. **RESOLUTION 26-1341:** LEVYING ASSESSMENTS UPON PROPERTY WITHIN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS DISTRICTS TO DEFRAY THE COST OF SAID SPECIAL DISTRICTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027

Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to close public hearing and open regular meeting at 6:05 pm.

- o Motion Carried Unanimously

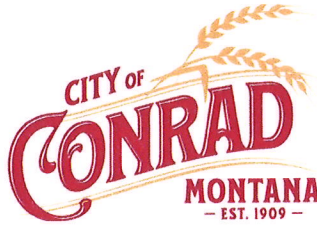
Close Public Hearing _____

Open Regular Meeting:

- 2. Action: Read and approve minutes of August 18th, 2026, regular council meeting.
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to approve the minutes of the August 18th, 2026, regular meeting, as presented.
 - o Motion Carried Unanimously
- 3. Action on any Claims and Payroll:
 - Claims: 30023-30052
 - Total: \$75,118.69
 - Payroll: \$151,958.52
 - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Darryl Burditt, to approve the claims as presented.
 - o Motion Carried Unanimously
- 4. Action on Water Contracts: None
- 5. Correspondence: None
- 6. Public Comment (no action taken):
 - n/a
- 7. Department Reports:
 - Police Department
 - o Police Chief Andy Lund reported on police activity for August, noting the apprehension and release of a yellow-bellied marmot.
 - Public Works

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- Public Works Director Dave Zimbelman reported on public works activity for August, as well as addressing concerns regarding the placement of security cameras in The Swimming Pool Park.
- Dave noted that the public works department intends to purchase two Verkada dome cameras to improve security at the local public pool and parking lot, citing a recent employee physical altercation and recurring vandalism. The cameras feature face-blurring capabilities and strict "enterprise-controlled encryption" (ECE) to address citizen privacy concerns, meaning the system will not auto-enroll data into AI training without an explicit opt-in.
- Furthermore, Dave mentioned that other nearby public entities such as the school and library already use Verkada for their own security purposes, reinforcing confidence in the company.
- Public Library Annual Board Report
 - Lida Holst gave the Public Library's annual board report for fiscal year 2025-2026, noting that although visits and circulation were down slightly, program attendance rose by 3%, and digital checkouts remain highly popular.
 - Thanks to extensive grant writing, the library successfully completed major capital projects including a \$187,000 HVAC system and \$35,000 in exterior brickwork repair. Looking ahead, upcoming projects include a \$60,000 asbestos abatement, a \$75,000 solar panel installation to cover all electricity usage, and a window renovation in the children's room for safety. Financially, the library remains stable with \$371,735 in revenue, \$360,684 in expenditure, and approximately \$128,000 held in cash reserves for future capital projects.

8. Discussion/Action: On Budget and Resolutions:

- a. **RESOLUTION 26-1337: ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF CONRAD FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027**
 - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to approve **RESOLUTION 26-1337**, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- b. **RESOLUTION 26-1338: ADOPTING ADDITIONAL PERMISSIVE MEDICAL LEVY MILLS FOR EMPLOYER GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027**
 - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to approve **RESOLUTION 26-1338**, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- c. **RESOLUTION 26-1339: FIXING THE ANNUAL TAX LEVIES IN AND FOR THE CITY OF CONRAD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027**
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Darryl Burditt, to approve **RESOLUTION 26-1339**, as presented.

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- Motion Carried Unanimously
- d. **RESOLUTION 26-1340:** FIXING THE LIMITS OF THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027
 - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Darryl Burditt, to approve **RESOLUTION 26-1340**, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- e. **RESOLUTION 26-1341:** LEVYING ASSESSMENTS UPON PROPERTY WITHIN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS DISTRICTS TO DEFRAY THE COST OF SAID SPECIAL DISTRICTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to approve **RESOLUTION 26-1341**, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- 9. Discussion/Action: Appraisal for Industrial Park
 - Mayor David Cates presented bids from two appraisers that both came highly recommended by MDOT.
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Carrie Doty, to approve Nick Hogan for doing the appraisal regarding the MDOT.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- 10. Executive Session: None
- 11. Other Business: None
- 12. Items to Appear on the Next Agenda: n/a

There being no further business to come before the Council,

- 13. Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Mayor, David Cates



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Attest:

Council President, Amber Schoenrock

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Amber Schoenrock", is written over a horizontal line.

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