

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 MAY 19th, 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, May 19th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor David Cates, Alderman Darryl Burditt, Alderman Carrie Doty, Alderman Karla Breeding, Police Chief Andy Lund, City Attorney Daniel Jones, Finance Officer Jodi Rogers, City Clerk Jerad Walston.

Absent: Alderman Amber Schoenrock

Guests: Police Sergeant David Baggs' Family, Patrolman Johnny Hoge

Teleconference Guests: Maria Cates

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

1. Action: Read and approve minutes of May 5th, 2026, regular council meeting.
 - Motion by Alderman Carrie Doty, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to approve the minutes of the May 5th, 2026, regular meeting, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
2. Action on any Claims and Payroll:

Claims: 29764-29793
Total: \$66,075.42

 - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Carrie Doty, to approve the claims as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
3. Action on Water Contracts: None
4. Correspondence: None
5. Public Comment (no action taken): None
6. Department Reports:
 - Finance Officer:

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- Finance Officer Jodi Rogers reported on city finances, noting that the city expects stable revenue with a 2.97% inflation adjustment. Although shifts within the DoR impact business-residential tax burdens, the town's overall taxable value remains relatively stable, prompting a recommendation to capture all available revenue adjustments as a precautionary financial backfill.

7. Discussion/Action: New Police Officer Hire

- Mayor David Cates introduced David Baggs, a former Highway Patrol officer with over 20 years of experience with the Highway Patrol.
- Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Darryl Burditt, to approve the hire of David Baggs as Conrad Police Sergeant, starting at \$30/hour with an additional \$150 for Animal Control, effective June 1, 2026.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- The Honorable David Cates, Mayor, administered the Oath of Office to newly hired city police sergeant, David Baggs.

8. Discussion/Action: Chamber request for Road Closure for Whoop-Up and assistance.

- Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Carrie Doty, to approve the Chamber of Commerce's request for Road Closure and assistance for Whoop-Up, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

9. Discussion/Action: Pondera County 4-H Ambassadors Request for street closure for Whoop-Up.

- Motion by Alderman Carrie Doty, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to approve The Pondera County 4-H Ambassadors request for street closure for Whoop-Up, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

10. Discussion: Shared Services Contract

- City Attorney Daniel Jones presented a preliminary Shared Services Agreement, outlining challenges in staffing for rural law enforcement agencies and the difficulties this presents for prioritizing immediate public safety over administrative services. To resolve these issues, cities and counties looking to work together must move past vague cooperation agreements and create highly specific resource-pooling strategies.
- Daniel outlined several alternatives to a department merger, including options for Interlocal Patrol Coverage and Triggered Backfill Services, Shared Specialist and Support Services and Training, and Host-Agency Service Arrangements (see attached document for more details).
- The council ultimately decided to hold off on any potential decisions until after the upcoming election, and Daniel suggested that he provide a copy of the SSA to the

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David Cates

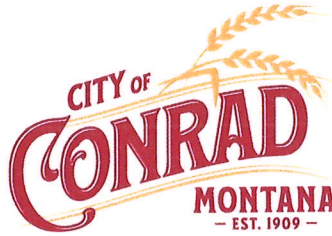
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Sheriff's office for review.

11. Update: Workers Comp. Insurance.

- Mayor David Cates provided updates regarding the transition of City's Worker's Compensation Insurance to the State Fund through PCI. The insurance benefits will remain essentially the same under this new contract.

12. Update: Land Swap/Sale of Industrial Park lots

- City Attorney Daniel Jones stated that he is currently awaiting an appraisal report following a recent on-site inspection of industrial park lots, which is the final step in trading two industrial parking lots for a local MDOT facility. This property exchange is progressing alongside planned infrastructure improvements, such as road paving, in the industrial park.

13. Executive Session: None

14. Other Business: None

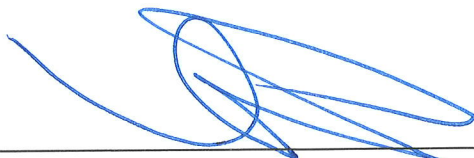
15. Items to Appear on the Next Agenda:

- Sewer System Resolution
- Alderman Karla Breeding to be absent June 2, 2026, with permission.

There being no further business to come before the Council,

16. Motion by Alderman Carrie Doty, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM.

- Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor, David Cates

Attest: 

Council President, Amber Schoenrock

