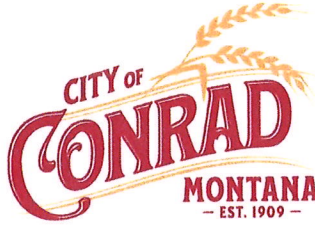


Mayor:
David Cates

City Council:
Amber Schoenrock
Carrie Doty
Karla Breeding
Darryl Burditt



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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 AUGUST 4th, 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, August 4th, 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, Library Director Tiffany Christensen, Finance Officer Jodi Rogers, City Attorney Daniel Jones, Administrative Clerk Julie Orcutt, City Clerk Jerad Walston.

Absent: None

Guests: Gerald Barker, McKenzie Graye, Kevin Moritz, Jim Destaffany

Teleconference Guests: Michael Miller

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

1. Action: Read and approve minutes of July 23rd, 2026, regular council meeting.
 - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Darryl Burditt, to approve the minutes of the July 23rd, 2026, regular meeting, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
2. Action on any Claims and Payroll:
Claims: 29913, 29952-29987
Total: \$177,772.70
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, 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):
 - Local resident Gerald Barker expressed concerns over the excess number of noxious weeds on the East side of Conrad, as well as numerous "junk" vehicles creating eyesores

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and lowering local property values.

6. Department Reports:

- Police Department
 - Police Chief Andy Lund reported on police activity for July, noting incidents of vagrancy that the local CPD addressed by providing transportation to the individuals in question.
- Public Works
 - Public Works Director Dave Zimbelman reported on public works activity for July, noting that the city workers have been working diligently on weed control.
- Public Library
 - Library Director Tiffany Christensen reported on library activity for July, noting the last day of *Storytime in the Park* being Wednesday, August 19th, before moving back to the library for *Storytime* on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

7. Discussion/Action: Purchase of a new Fire Truck

- Fire Chief Kevin Moritz is requesting the city finance a new fire truck to replace an ageing unit and maintain the department's high ISO ratings. The fire department is requesting \$300,000, aiming to balance with a 10-year, \$38,456 annual fixed payment.
- Budget solutions include utilizing \$100,000 in department funds, repurposing CIP and county allocations, and potential future revenue from selling old equipment, all while avoiding a significant price increase next year.
- Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to approve the financing of \$300,000 to be used by the fire department to purchase a new fire truck, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

8. Discussion/Action: Clerks request to turn over delinquent water, sewer, and mowing charges to the County.

- Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to approve clerks request to turn over delinquent water, sewer, and mowing charges to the County.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

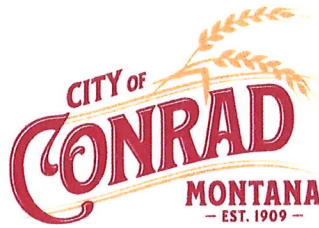
9. Discussion/Action: Strom and Associates Contract for 2025/2026 audit.

- Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to approve the Strom and Associates Contract for 2025/2026 Audit.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

10. Discussion/Action: Sheriff's Dispatch proposal.

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- Mayor David Cates introduced an updated Dispatch Proposal from the Pondera County Sheriff's Department, noting concerns with the contract length and disparity in the proposed pricing.
- Council members also raised concerns about the confusion caused by the PCSO submitting fluctuating price quotes with no financial data to justify proposed costs, expressing the necessity for the County to provide a breakdown of expenses.
- Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to approve the Sheriff's Dispatch Proposal, with the provision that dispatchers notify the nearest law enforcement official in critical situations, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

11. Update: Sale/Land Swap with MDT.

- Mayor David Cates provided updates regarding the initial property appraisal for selling two industrial park lots, noting that the appraisal was rejected by the Department of Transportation (MDT) due to extensive errors throughout the report. Because the original document cannot easily be fixed, negotiations are shifting toward hiring an MDT-certified professional to complete a brand-new appraisal before the end-of-year deadline.

12. Executive Session: None

13. Other Business:

- Open Public Hearing on 2026/2027 Budget is being planned for August 18th, 2026.

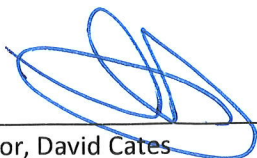
14. Items to Appear on the Next Agenda:

- City of Conrad 2026/2027 Budget Planning Meeting – Thursday, August 13th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Council,

15. Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 PM.

- Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor, David Cates



Mayor:

David Cates

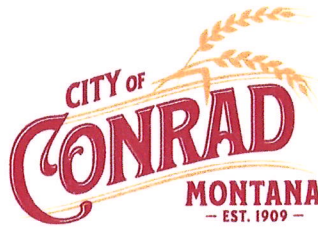
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Attest:


Council President, Amber Schoenrock

