

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
cityofconrad.com

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET PLANNING MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CONRAD, COUNTY OF PONDERA, STATE OF MONTANA
HELD AT CONRAD CITY HALL ON AUGUST 13th, 2026

The City Council of the City of Conrad, County of Pondera, State of Montana, met in special session at Conrad City Hall on Tuesday, August 13th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Guests: Sierra Azbill

Teleconference Guests: None

The meeting was called to order by Mayor David Cates at 5:30 p.m.

1. Discussion: 2026/2027 Budget

- Finance Officer Jodi Rogers provided a brief overview of the budget, reporting that while the area's mill value increased to 3,316.69, the number of assessable mills dropped to 166. Consequently, overall assessed taxes rose significantly to \$550,968.
- Police Chief Andy Lund outlined several critical budget shifts for the Conrad Police Department, focusing on raising salaries to combat turnover and continuing to recruit high-quality candidates with competitive pay rates.
- It was noted that a \$77,000 dispatch contract remains a flexible "gray number" that could decrease significantly through less expensive regional options, and despite previous overruns from replacing outdated safety gear and vehicles, the agency is nearly fully equipped.
- In other areas of the budget, Jodi reported that revenues remain stable and healthy, driven by consistent tax collections, entitlement money, and set utility rates that comfortably cover all current operational costs.
- In closing, Jodi noted that the preliminary budget projects a solid ending cash balance for June, revealing that the General Fund has successfully maximized its savings at the legal 50% mill cap. This strong financial positioning provides immediate budget flexibility, allowing the board to consider funding critical upcoming requests—such as specialized cameras and equipment for the police department, pool maintenance, and a \$10,000 computer system upgrade—while they wait for final figures on dispatch.

Mayor:
David Cates

City Council:
Amber Schoenrock
Carrie Doty
Karla Breeding
Darryl Burditt

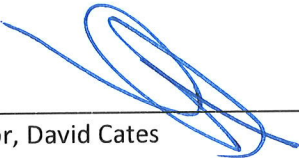


City of Conrad
413 S. Main St.
Conrad, MT 59425
406-271-3623
cityofconrad.com

9. Executive Session: None
10. Other Business: None
11. Items to Appear on the Next Agenda:
 - Open Public Hearing on 2026/2027 Budget.

There being no further business to come before the Council,

12. Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor, David Cates

Attest 

Council President, Amber Schoenrock

