

City of Conrad Council Meeting-20260723_230440UTC-Meeting Recording

July 23, 2026

JW

Everyone please stand. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Yeah.

Thank you, everyone. All the council people are present. Alderman Doty is serving remotely. There she is.

Okay.

Has everybody had a chance to look over the minutes from last meeting?

I move to approve July 7th, 2026 regular council meeting minutes. Second.

Any discussion on that? All those in favor? Motion approved.

C

Carrie 56:17

Hi.

JW

Jerad Walston 56:22

Um...

Everyone had a chance to look at the claims. I move to approve the claim as presented. Second. Any discussion? I'll mention that Carrie has already signed it for a moment. There was an extra page in here with the tensor signature on it, so just MYI, that's the way we're going to do it.

So, that's all set. All those in favor? Aye.

We do have a water contract.

It is a big fee.

What is for?

Did you?

What else?

So, 115 Union Lane Conrad is the location.

C **Carrie** 57:18
What is that?

JW **Jerad Walston** 57:18
How is that?

It was off by Lisa or not Lisa Shepherd's daughter, Alyssa Kyle, Alyssa Vanden Boss, where she lived. I can't remember whose it was before that. Just north of Bedford's place.

That's where Fowler lived, and before that, so my work place in Richmond.

No, the name on the I can find that is...

Powell and Mariam and Rye. Can I get a motion to? I move to approve the water contract at 115 Union Lane. Any discussion on that?

Okay.

All those in favor? Aye.

And.

BB.

All right.

No.

ICC.

Tiffany, you're up. Do we have any correspondence? We do not. And public comment. Public comment.

Um...

Do you want to handle the talk about the fire truck during public comment or we're good at the end too on other business? Stacy is not on the agenda, so it's not on the agenda, so public comment and other business. We don't matter to me. You want to sit here for the meeting? That's fine. I mean, I can run through it because I have just 5 minutes.

What are we talking about here? We only have one company left. I did write down on that. Okay, cool. Go ahead, tell us about it. Basically, what has come up here is this is the same picture out in here, but anyway, with the Chiefs Convention and Regular Volunteer Fire Convention. This truck has been there for show.

They have it. It's sitting in Big Fork. It's brand new. It's 2026. When they were first asking, they wanted \$580,000. Then he got a hold of me and said they had dropped

it to \$550,000. That he called the other day and said they're going to have to start paying interest on this because they have a new one coming in.

He said they'll drop it down to 530,000.

His name is Slade. So I said, Slade, just tell me what the rock bottom price is and we'll see if we can deal on it. So he dropped it down to \$515,000, but we need \$11,000 cold weather kit and we need a \$5,000 for our air packs. This particular truck, Three people can dress with their packs in the back, one in the passenger seat, so forward.

As it is right now, we dress three, but when we get on, or we dress two, but when you get on scene, the other one has to jump out of the passenger seat and get dressed.

Real quick, what started this was our newest truck this year is 30 years old. It's A 96.

The city owns 2 trucks and our next

truck, the oldest one, is a 2090, so it's 36 years old. So to keep our ISO rating, we are one of the highest, best ISO ratings in the state of Montana. We're at a four, which is unheard of really for volunteer fire departments. And it's mainly because of our water system.

and the department getting things in order. The trucks are in great shape that we have. Our older truck was a rural truck. The city bought that from the rural when the rural got a new pumper for us.

That has a 10 speed Road Ranger manual. I have 5 new firemen on the department that have never drove a stick shift. What? Yeah, believe it or not, I took one of them out and made him drive it the other day. He absolutely had never drove a stick shift. How did he do?

Anyway, I got it.

So what we looked at and what we want to offer the city, and I know you can't vote on tonight and all that, but this is the offer that we're throwing out there. We personally have been saving money of our own in our 501, C3, all that stuff. We're willing to put up \$100,000 towards this.

Out of our money.

We have approximately, did you find out? It was 100, they have on their CIP, 130,182 for this year. So with what we're putting in for this year with their allocation. So like 130, yeah, 130 pretty much. So when I talked to Jodi, what we had boiled it down to with them,

We knew we could roughly just make it an even 300,000 that we'd be asking from the city. And I'll give you these, Jodi, but I have the...

They will finance this also. That's going to be up to you guys. Their finance right now, it looks like it's going to be, I'll give this to you, looks like it's going to be 4.7 if you do 10 years. Okay, just so everybody's on the same page, our CIP, you have to put monies in there. You have to list exactly what you're going to use them for.

We had three things in there. We had for a new sprinkler system at the fire hall. That's all done. That's been paid for out of there. Last year, we spent 48,000 or something. We bought a new air compressor for our air packs. That was on there. That's been paid for. It's out of there.

So all that's left is a truck. So like when I was visiting with Jodi, if we had a set amount that goes in there every year, it can go just straight to the truck to make the payments. Now, if it'll make payments or not, we'd have to do some fine tuning. It's going to be quite a ways away probably, but. Yeah, but what you're setting aside right now is 19,000.

So, you're looking at anywhere, but this is 38. I just kind of did it when an amortization schedule on Google, and that's pretty close between 30 and 38 is what any Google amortization schedule per month, per year, per year.

So that's what I wanted to present you guys. I am not, I know, because I wasn't on the agenda, and I know you can't make the decision if we can make this work.

This truck, if we don't take it, and I'm not pressuring you at all, I'm just saying if we don't take it, it's already sold and it's going to Chili. There's a fire department in Chili, believe it or not, that wants that truck. So he would rather have stayed in the state here, but it is what it is. What's dropped deadline? He needs to know.

like he said, he'll gladly pull it forever. If we could just give him a 80%, we pretty good chance we can work on this or a no, I'm not taking it, and then you can sell the truck. And I know that's hard to do, but he said, do you think it looks like? Just one example I want to let you know, that truck next year with the new

Emissions that have to be on it by federal law, that exact truck is 800 and seventy-six \$1000, and that's already quoted.

Because I had him quote that out for next year, and this book actually says...

Through the next year and a half until they are gone, these trucks are available. These are current emission trucks because all the new ones have to have the emission and that exact truck looking just like it with the emissions is 876,000. Do you put it on the cold?

cold weather package and the air package. I mean, do you have somebody that can do that? They're doing it. They will do it. They will do it. That's in that price. I told you

11,000 for the cold air. That's the heaters and everything. We have to have them. If you guys were here, we had a 20 below fire on Main Street. We worked on morning. And then just to throw it out there, so you guys only call me back, our name and the decals on the side and the all that is about \$4,000. We will pay for that ourselves. The fire department will. So we initially are going to spend \$104,000 on the truck or willing.

to if we can make the work with the rest. Okay. So kick it over. I understand it wasn't on the agenda, but I wanted to throw that out there.

see if, you know, something comes up and you guys can kind of custom discuss. And that's where we're at. And a lot of years, I think we're way under on our budget and stuff, but maybe, oh, one other thing, but I cannot guarantee you how much, but the other truck will sell, I would assume immediately, probably somewhere between 20 and 30,000.

Because it was a rural truck, so it has all the spray bars, it has hose reels and stuff, which is different than the city truck. It was a rural, we bought it. Pottery Colonies will buy that in a flash. I mean, they're, plus it has the 10-speed Road Ranger, like I said, they're looking for that truck.

Would they be willing to wait if we knew that you were going to sell that right away, if, you know, to finance so you could pay it down another 30,000 or 20,000 before you finance? Yeah, I think, you know, they'd be willing to work with something, or I'm sure, I don't know this company, but maybe you could call them, maybe we could just make a balloon payment, knock her right down anyway.

Sure, anything, you know, like a regular bank, but I don't know how that is, but I'm gonna leave this with ya.

And this is the name of the company, Terrax.

I don't know, but that's the stuff they give me for their financing.

So, yeah.

C **Carrie** 1:07:30

So how much money total are you looking at financing when everything's said and done?

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:07:36

Three 100,000.

Because we will.

C **Carrie** 1:07:39

And that's with the with the other trucks.
Being sold and applied to that.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:07:43

No, no, no, no, no.

C **Carrie** 1:07:46

No, OK.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:07:49

So, the other, your other option as far as financing is its inner cap, but the difference in inner cap to this is this is fixed, inner cap is not. Right now, inner cap is sorry, is 4.5, but two years ago it was 5.75.

It's 4.5 right now. It's 5.752 years ago. No guarantees of what, you know, because it's variable rate. They do, they set it every year. And I can tell you right now, 4.7 is a killer, I mean, killer deal with what banks are at. Yeah, where banks are at right now. I mean, 4.7 is

When it's fixed, it's a fixed rate. And what did you say your rate was 4%? 4.7. Is that 4 point, yeah, 4.7, where you know inter cap is?

There's no guarantees, but it's going to do, you know, what's warranty? I would have to ask them. I'm sure it's like all three, 5, 10, whatever for the motor and the pump and separate. I've also done some looking because this is called E1. That's the name of the fire company.

And we usually buy Hyman's fire trucks. So I called Bill Wagner in Helena, who sold for them. And right now they don't have a rep. That's one reason we didn't look through them. And they, Bill already told me if we ordered a truck today, it's three years out. Three years out. And I asked him, what about the E ones? Because Bill still works on them and pump tests them.

And he said they're top of the line. He said you can actually Google that and they'll list one or two and he one will be right in that top one or two fire trucks. I request that this be put on next week's meeting. Yeah, that'll be fine. Okay. Any questions?

Do you want me to be back next meeting? I'll try coming back or whatever you might think. Well, we also need our magic lady to. Right.

But I think this is something that I think we need to stay on top of. And it's something that we need to do. Well, like to do this morning. Well, yeah, and it's, yeah, I hate to put Jodi in the bind, but I think it's something we need to make a decision because I think this is

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I just want those words. So I mean, I'm just going to throw a couple things out there to think about for next time. You know, you have the 15,000 that we were giving, that you were at one point giving to Carrie. That's something in the general fund, something to think about.

you know, that that you didn't, you know, and that that is a lot of the mayor came up with that, but you know, that that's a lot of that difference. You know, you do have things like that to take to take a look at that something in the budget to look at to that to just kind of transfer that that to a difference.

Bought, so something you're not going to be spending anymore, so so you and I and Chief can get together.

work on, see whether it's going to work at all. Yeah, that's fine. And we'll have something on next time's agenda. Like I say, that's about all we could offer, but we're willing to give you \$100,000 and that's going to the city of Conrad. It will be a city fire truck.

Well, we were up fairly high anyway, and we've been saving, and I was talking to the mayor. And one other thing with this is

Everybody has a tough time getting young guys on the fire department. We're very fortunate. I got four more, so we're sitting at 20 again. We're doing very well. You need to build morale down there too, and there's nothing better than a new fire truck. No, you don't buy them every 5 minutes, but the last one we got was 36 years ago, and they're out there trying to drive.

a 36 year old truck and, you know, when they seen this, it really lit up their eyes and it's just something that they'd be dang proud of. And the trucks are spotless, as you guys know. I mean, we keep all of our trucks up in good shape. And they don't get any miles on them. Our newest one, the 96, has probably got 8,000 miles on them. But where do you go? Because they're not the encounter at all times. They do not go on railroads. Is that some requirement that you can't share county, city, trucks? The agreement right now that we've had for over 100 years, well, I've been chief since 2000. I've been on 42 years or whatever now.

The agreement they always had was the city truck stand city, pure and simple. The rural truck, being it's in a city building, that goes to all city fires. So that truck always

goes and it's the one you always see in the alleys because of the equipment, how much water it holds, because it holds 1250 gallons. That holds 1000, but it holds 1250.

And that rural truck has every tool that our two city trucks have together. So that will go with the crew to the alley at Guinea City Fire. And that's part of the agreement we have with the county. But we don't pull them out of here because if something happened, they were out in the country. I mean, it would be, you know.

and would be something catastrophe. So that's why them stay and we have plenty of city because we have personally bought 2 Grand Spank new one tons in the past.

Now we're getting four or five years old and we're able to get them through Ford Garage at state rate plus cost. So we personally bought them. We had the flatbeds put on from the NRC for free because we bought Grand Spank the new trucks.

And then we lease them back to the county for \$1,000 a year. So we're running brand new trucks. They pay for the fuel, the insurance, and license plates, so we have no expense. And any breakdowns, tires, they do all maintenance.

And then they bought the new tanker and the pumper truck. So the county has bought us a lot and we may be getting another new pumper truck from the rural.

They do really well for us. So that's the city side that we're hurting on right now, mainly for our ISO rating. It helps out with the rural because I get to sneak that truck in.

because we approved it goes to every fire, so I get that for our ratings for the city for another truck. So, and it really does want every fire. So,

OK, maybe I can sneak that. August 4th. OK, I will be here. Thank you guys very much for sneaking me in. Yeah, it's got an automatic in it.

Yeah.

Okay. Thank you, guys. Thank you, Kevin. I'll get a hold of you. We'll talk or whatever you want to do, and the mayor can call me. Okay. Thank you very much. All right, Tiffany, now you are. All right. I actually don't have a whole lot. I usually give you guys the monthly statistics, but

I also included our fiscal year statistics, and it's kind of just fun to see the impact that the library has. In fiscal year 25-26, we had 17,841 library visits. 31,404 items were circulated.

That includes digital circulation. The digital circulation is sitting at about 30.5% of all the circulation. And then we have 4,502 people attend programs. So that's what the library was busy doing the last fiscal year.

New news, we have a new library assistant. Her name is Riley Reynolds and she is lovely. So stop by the library and say hi. Her first week went very, very well. And then today we had dino crafts for summer reading under the story. It was the dinosaur summer reading theme. So

Had crafts all day, plenty of kiddos coming in and doing crafts. The next thing we have coming up is we're doing our normal face painting booth at National Night Out.

And I just sent you a moment ago the paperwork that I received today on the solar panels. I'll sign that and get it over to you. I just got this afternoon at about 4 o'clock. Yeah, that seems to be going pretty smoothly. Bozeman Greenbuild is handling a lot of the paperwork and just

K.

Okay.

Well, that came from Northwestern Energy. Yeah. How, how, how's all your construction stuff going? Your your tuck planning? All of it is finished. All of it's finished? Yes. Not waiting on anything more? Nope, we are just...

Yeah, we were wrapped up and, okay, no, never mind, I lied. Part of the HVAC system, we had it added in there to fix a downspout pipe. When the library building had that leak in it in the roof for 15 years or whatever it was, the city, the city building got theirs repaired at the same time.

So the leak was repaired, but the inside was not. So there's still damaged drywall.

And then that's when they put the downspout on the front of the building. I am trying to get them to put a new downspout inside the wall again so that we can get it off the front of the historic.

facade. So that was kind of a tie in the HVAC system, but it's a separate, a separate project. We're hoping to get it done this year. But you're happy with everything? Yes, everything is going well. Yeah, our AC was out last week, but there was just a little electrical issue that we were able to fix super quickly.

Jones Electric came out and fixed it for us. Was it just a breaker? It was not the breaker. It was some sort of other wiring and that was hitting an off switch. So they just kind of had to move stuff around and clamp it in a different way, I think. So yes, the second floor is nice and cool again.

It was pretty warm there, so good.

Since we have Tiffany here, I would like permission to skip down to the appointment of her new.

Yeah.

Trustee, trustee, if that's OK with the counselor.

Okay.

Oh.

You want to speak to that, Senator Tiffany?

Sure. Glenda Glenda McKeon turned out. She just served, I think, her second tenure.

block on our library board, and so she was unable to continue to be a trustee on the library board. So we did have an opening. We had three people turn in letters of interest, and I, it's mayor appointed, but I would like to recommend Karen.

be on our library board. She has shown interest and has the time and is willing to put in the effort to serve the library.

I move to approve the appointment of Karen Burditt to the Library Board of Trustees.

Second. Any discussion?

She came to the library board meeting last week, and she liked it very. She wanted to start off, so it was good. Yeah, she, yeah, she fit right in. So, all those in favour?

Motion carries. We have a new board member.

Has your board told them? Yes.

Yeah.

Okay. Can I get some information so I can put it into my computer? All right, Jodi.

But, um...

So sorry, I've been gone and I've worked on stuff and I did before I did send this weekend, I did send you what I have done just so you can cruise all the lovely budget stuff that we have done. I do have all the insurances in there.

The only thing that really isn't in there right now, besides maybe a new fire truck, we, you know, the loan payments are not in there yet. They're, you know, the salaries. I haven't been able to work with Dave yet on building code enforcement, the library yet, just, you know, having the preliminaries in there.

We haven't done a couple, I haven't gotten the transfer done for the insurance, so some of that looks kind of funky. I need to get that transferred over. So like here, the permissive levy and the insurance fund right now is in the hole. That is not really the case. We have not moved the revenue that goes out of the permissive levy yet, so that will change.

in the actual budget right now. It looks kind of funny. What I do, I did, what I did, and I, and it's as close as I can come right now, and I have way too much paperwork on my lap right now. I did, I know that the form is changing and

from last year to this year. So what I did was I took your numbers from last year, you know, that we got from the Department of Revenue, and I put it into the new form. So that, and actually what it changed, was because this year, you're going to get 2.97% for your adjustment, your inflation adjustment. Last year, you got 2.11. So when I put in all the numbers exactly the way they were, and actually, so if we got exactly the same numbers this year that we did last year, it would actually go up, your revenue will go up from that you can levy from 530,607 to 534,082. So, you know, which is pretty normal, you're not going up a whole lot. I, you know, the only change is going to be in that bottom portion, that little bit of, you're not going to get the full 100% of the newly taxable anymore on like your residential homes that you have. Anything, any new builds that you have, it's going to be 75% now. If you get the, what would be, it's the class 8. You may know more about what the class 8 is compared. I think what I've been told is like if If you have broadband come in and those kind of things are what are going to be your class 8. Right now, you don't have any new of that. You know, that was a few years ago. So that isn't going to, that you're not going to have a problem with that as far as only the 50% instead of the 100% that you were getting before. So I don't see So that's what I see, and I can give this to you guys so you can take a look at it, but that's just what I saw in the forums. It's not going to be, you're not, you're going to get that. The only change is going to be the difference in the 2.11 to the 2.97, which is pretty normal for every year. And right now, they have changed. It used to be you got half of the rate of inflation. Now you get full rate of inflation up to 4%. So that's, you won't see a decrease in what tax revenue you're going to bring in. Probably won't be a huge increase depending on, you know, I have no idea what your numbers are going to come in that, but you know, normally there. They, you know, will stay, because you start with what you had the previous year, and then you do, you're going to get from that previous year what you had. So this year, what it's going to be is that 25, well, I'm sorry. the 530,000, you're going to take that 530,000 and you're going to get 2.97% of that. And then the rest is going to be a new tax. So whatever that is will be the rest of what you will be your increase. But like we said, this year is going to come in at 75% instead of 100.

No.

That's that's gonna be.

a little bit that, you know, what I'm being told is for the smaller communities that don't have a lot of the growth, it isn't going to be is for if we were at Belgrade and we had a lot in there and the department revenue so far behind there, it would be, it would be,

we see a little bit more in that newly taxable of a difference in what it could be, what it should have been in 100, now it's 75, but.

So, and if you have any questions, I think Jerad sent out that. Did you? Yes. Yeah. Just the budget that I have so far. And, you know, I think we're a lot further along, which is helpful for everything else than we normally are right now, as far as just things that are in there, things that people are hoping for, wishing was.

all that kind of stuff for you guys to take a look at just to at your leisure peruse and see what you think. So correct me if I'm wrong, we are going to have some sort of a budget meeting the first week or so beside regular council in August, as soon as the numbers come in, the final numbers.

Yeah, and you guys can decide. We could plan and know that, you know, we could go with what we got and you guys can decide you want to do the preliminary that next meeting and we can, the meeting at first meeting in August, we'll get it on Monday, you could do it on Tuesday, we could have the meeting.

you know, that work meeting before if you want it, it's all up to you. Or we can, my recommendation would be that we wait, you know, because you could do, you could pass it in August if you wanted to. Well, because we are fairly far off, but or you could wait and do like,

You could do your preliminary, that second meeting in August, and then pass it our first meeting in September. That is also perfectly fine. That's the thing. When we have to pass it, that will be a public hearing, correct? We'll open the public hearing at the preliminary, and you'll leave it. This is the only time you're going to leave it open. So anybody can come in at any time.

and ask for it or have an e-mail to them so they can find it. So that's something you guys can decide what you want to do on that. I think we still have a little time. So we shouldn't print what you sent to us because there's still print it, just peruse it. Yeah, I mean, you can. I have, I've printed out about 20 times before I'm done, but you know, what's there?

You know, I don't, I don't have salaries in there yet. I don't, like I said, I don't have

the, I don't have the loans in there yet. I don't, until we get the numbers, I can't put permissive in there. So there are things that are not there yet.

Help.

With the let the information, you think you'll have that by the second on this meeting? Oh, we'll have that that first week. We'll have that first, the first Monday of, supposed to have it the first Monday of August. So.

We have way more information then by the second meeting. Oh yeah, very definitely. And I actually...

Is the 1st on Tuesday of August, or is it? I think it's the third, actually, the first Tuesday. First is a Saturday. Oh, okay. So Monday, we would. Okay. So we would, we'll get it then. There's a lot of, it's going to be, you know, if you guys were to decide that you wanted to do it on that first meeting of August, it's going to be fast and furious to get.

you know, your missing done and the rest, just the rest of that stuff in there. I would rather you waited, just my opinion, but I, you know, it's up to you guys what you want to do, how fast you want to go through it. I would prefer we wait a little bit. Yeah, let's wait. We have a separate meeting.

C **Carrie** 1:28:03
Yeah.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:28:03
Absolutely.

It's really that only leaves next week. I mean. Right. Yeah. Right. And we're done with a lot of it, but you know, the stuff we can, but it would just make that first.

The insurance and the permissive and all that would have to be pretty. Should we open the public hearing next meeting? No. No. You'll open it on that second meeting. So will that give us some time to really?

DIS.

No.

No.

So, budget will be approved first meeting in September. First meeting in September. If I think it's a second, so that the applicant approved.

We'll close the meeting, close the hearing and get it. I think it's the 2nd of September. OK, that first meeting, first meeting, first meeting, first meeting was the

first, might be September.

Labor Day skips until the next week because the 1st is on a Tuesday. Okay. Yeah. So the first Monday is just Labor Day and it's the next week.

Yeah, September 1st, yeah, is the next meeting.

Any further questions from Jodi at this point? Okay, moving on. Discussion and action on Megan Martin's request to do her soccer fields on field, or do soccer on field three and four of the Sports Complex.

I move to approve Megan Mark and Martin's request to hold Conrad Youth Soccer August 31st to October 3rd on fields 3 and 4. Second.

Can I hear a second? Second. I did. Somebody did. Okay. Any discussion on that? All those in favor? Motion carries.

Okay, next.

Special action on the cold.

You guys should have a sheet in your packet that talks about the actual cost.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Ohh.

In thoughts?

Yeah.

Yeah.

Play.

Run movie.

Do you have the total cost, Jodi, of each? Unfortunately, I forgot to print that out again. So let me put that up on the board again. There is an increase at the bottom. I do not have on this form the

the other cost, and it's not quite right yet because I don't have the insurance and I don't have on that the other spreadsheet, but there is, you know, if there's an increase, there is a column for the increase on each one of those those percentages of what it would be. Thank you. I'm going blind.

Like with the 3.5 is \$7,000, the 4% is is or 7,013, the 4% is 7,047, and that was their three.

Yeah, four, and then there's three that would be...

Would be the 6979, so there there really isn't.

A huge difference between, because they're just 1/2 percent that's a month, or that would be, yes, right?

C **Carrie** 1:32:13
Those annually.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:32:14

So the whole increase would be 37,000 or 32 or I can't then. Yeah, the 4% is sitting at 37,000. 32 or 27. I'm just, this is just regular wages. There's no stipends included in this wage.

Right, estimate, because that doesn't get the coal rates. And there's also no overtime figured into this number, which the coal rates would then alter the overtime rate, which would increase overtime totals for the year. But I know, especially like with the police department, they're hoping that the overtime excessive overtime is on the way out because they're more staffed and so they don't have as many overtime hours. So, and like Jodi said, the insurance, the good thing with the insurance and the benefits this year is insurance only went up 3% or something instead of

It went on .5 and went on point point point .5 point.

for that \$26 or something per person, which is really minimal. Last year, I think it went up \$77 on the insurance premium just for the health insurance. I would imagine probably next year we'll see an increase on the

The insurances that are employee paid, which is the dental and the vision, that has not been increased in two years now. Oh, it's years. Yeah, it's a bit longer than that. That's good. Yeah, and that one seems to hold. So that's been, when I was on the MMI 94,000 six years ago.

The medical insurance, we have 14 people that carry the, that opt into the medical insurance right now. I don't see that that will change much. Maybe add 1 or subtract 1 through the year, depending.

you know, on staffing, but most of the employees that are on it now have been on it previously, with the exception of two of the new officers. They just recently have joined on the health insurance. But that's still on that side, through the permission, I will see if that's helped with that. Other than

other than mainly the public works staff who is anybody that's paid out of water, sewer, or garbage, those are enterprise funds. So they, the permissive does not, does not pay anything for the health insurance that can have that.

And remind me, the union, anybody union, they get an extra dollar. Plus 15 cents

longevity for each person after, on their 4th year, they would get the longevity. So the union guys, minus Dave, have got a \$1 increase.

On their contract.

for the next three, at least three years, I think. I think it's a three-year contract. This is our second year. So one more year on the union contract.

And we added to the union contract last year the training fund. And so the city participates at 5 cents per hour worked per every union worker into a training fund.

So then that gets pooled

And then when there is trainings specific to what our guys are doing, they can go to it at a minimal cost. And it gets covered partially by that training fund that we send the money to through the union.

Oh, I look at this.

C **Carrie** 1:36:13

So, Colin has to be set tonight.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:36:17

It would be nice if it was just for Julie's sake and for my budgeting purposes. That's such a big part of your budget is what your salaries are. If I don't, if we don't have a little bit of direction, it makes it hard to put where you're going to be at.

But that's something you guys can decide. So I looked up state of Montana COLA rates. And according to this, it says Montana state employees receive a base rate wage adjustment of either a dollar per hour or 2.5%.

which take effect on July 1st for the 26th, 27th year.

I.

C **Carrie** 1:37:02

Boy, that's not much.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:37:03

Yeah.

Yeah, that's lower than what I don't know about the dollar. It depends on, it depends on what your wage starts at. When you're making 20 bucks an hour, a dollar an hour is a decent raise. That would be a 5% increase for someone in all the staff. When

you're making 30 bucks an hour, a dollar increase is much less. And the annual inflation for the fiscal year was 2.79 or 2.81, I think. 2.97.

C **Carrie** 1:37:42
2.8

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:37:44
Yeah, and...

C **Carrie** 1:37:45
I just looked it up, it's 2.8.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:37:47
The monthly, if you look at the monthly inflation rate, June was at 4.2, and it's averaged out now to 3.5.
on just Google search from the government website. You don't have to do a COLA. This is just what I gave you. You know, if you guys would rather do a flat. You could do that too. I don't know why, I don't know that there's anything in your policy that I haven't seen that you have to do a COLA percentage. You could do a dollar, you could do, you know, whatever you were thinking as well. You don't have to do this. I just, we just did this because that's the way I had seen you do it before. So
Well...
Yeah, and in the past, I just looked back. 2021, they did a 80 cent raise across the board. 2022 was 5% COLA. 2023 was a dollar raise across the board. 2024 was Four percent cola, and last year, 3.5.
Oh.

C **Carrie** 1:38:55
I'd like to see us do 3.5 again.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:39:01
That's where I'm at. The 3% to me is, we're not really worried about it.
But...
So do we have a motion carried?

C **Carrie** 1:39:14

Yes, I'll make a motion for a 3.5% COLA increase for fiscal year 26-27.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:39:21

Second. Second. Any discussion?

All those in favor? Aye.

C **Carrie** 1:39:28

Bye.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:39:30

Motion carries. 3.5 it is.

Thank you. Thank you. Yes. And in any, I mean, at any time a department had the liberty to come to council with, or something like that stuff, yeah.

If that's something you guys would want me to, you know, maybe figure in a little bit, please please let me know. Well, I guess that's more of a department head. I mean, just right.

I know that they turned down.

But that's happened before. OK, yeah.

Okay.

C **Carrie** 1:40:22

Is.

Working magic, Jodi, so we can have the money for the fire truck and, you know, we want to do more for the police department. So, you know, find us those magic dollars.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:40:27

Yeah.

C **Carrie** 1:40:37

Yeah.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:40:38

Yeah, yeah, that's your job, Carrie. It will be when she gets back. We want grant money for everything.

C **Carrie** 1:40:44

Yeah.

I'm looking. I will be looking as soon as I can. I'll get that fire truck paid for.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:40:52

Yeah.

Okay, moving on. Karen, you're up.

Each of you should have the map or the DIS golf course. This is just kind of a preliminary. She went to Google Maps and this is what came up for her. So she tried to put a few trees in and where the baskets might be placed. They could move. They wouldn't move

any further in the direction. She's done where the starting point is in the second and third. And she said, sometimes when you go out and play the course, I mean, not that the course is built and then she's playing it, but they just go out there and kind of figure out, okay, this is where we place the baskets. If they went out there and they thought, oh, no, why did we put two there? We should have put two over here.

but it would take more space than this. She said she works, they work with what space we have. Hopefully it's not too small because she said if it gets too small, then there really isn't much space between baskets and doesn't make for much competition. So

We have chosen a name. If you give us this property to use, it's going to be the Cougar Course.

named for my Special Olympics team. And we have a most generous donation coming from Tillerus Nursery for a statue of a cougar valued at \$1,600. So that will either be at the beginning or an obstacle that we plan to put out there.

the cougar will be beside yet. So she apologized. She said this is her draft copy. It was just a hurry up. I called her. I needed it. And so she did this. But she said they do plan to get up here and try it out. There had been some communication problems. I kept emailing her, and I don't know where my emails went, if they went to her spam, and she couldn't find them because I couldn't figure out. I wasn't getting any answers from anybody. It was getting really frustrating. So out of desperation, I called Croxford and Sons Merchant Mary, or Croxford's Funeral One, rather. So

And she apologized. She said, no, I haven't received any emails from you. So. The other holdup we've kind of been waiting for is we're looking for a 501c3. I've been on this since before Hoopa. And we haven't found one yet, but Karla just gave me some information today, so hopefully. Sarah at Sweetgrass Development. People just don't call you back, I guess. I don't know. I called her and I haven't heard back from her either. So I don't know. I've been over to Rob's one week. I went every day except Friday, either called or went there, trying to get some information. Nothing has come through yet, but that's where we're at. We want to start fundraising if we have permission to use this. Can I get a motion to allow? So is it going to ask, do we have to pull that out? We have already. We've given them the notice. They communicated back that, okay, you know, what are we going to do? But don't we have to give it 30 days? No, it was more than 30 days. It's been more than 30 days. So technically it's out. So it's the cities. So we just need to... approve of her proceeding. I move to approve Karen Burditt request for DIS golf for the cougar course at the. With... It, I mean, yeah, with the attached diagram, the aforementioned property that's. I'm second requesting. Any further discussion? All those in favor? Aye.

C **Carrie** 1:45:08
Funny.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:45:09
OK, motion carries. Thank you. We will proceed. Proceed, yes. Marshall. Next on the agenda is...
No.
Alright.
We need to address an issue with our wastewater plant, and there needs to be an inspection done. The assembly, triple-treating, and the old water trans technology is set.

proposed water treatment plant upgrade. They will come in and they will inspect it. Davis talked to them, I talked to them. This could save us a lot of money if we don't have to rebuild it from the ground up. So it's probably worth having this done.

Uh...

The cost is \$4,050, but that can come out of our RGL grant, I believe. RG. Yeah. Yeah. And so it's not going to really have to cost us any dollars out of pocket.

This could say that literally thousands of dollars that they say, oh, well, we just need to replace this piece, not the whole 9 yards. So I think it'd be worthwhile to consider going ahead with this. I move to approve.

Bayola Water Technologies to come in and.

Do their inspection and give the city.

Recommendations.

Sorry.

Any further discussion?

All's favorite.

C **Carrie** 1:47:04
Billing.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:47:11

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Bing.

All right.

First thing on the agenda is...

He hasn't come out with a new mileage.

Ohh.

adjustment. I already call that pretty, I want to say pretty, but that's not it. It's a mileage fee. Reimbursement. Reimbursement. There we go.

Because of the high gas prices, and we would simply like to be allowed to. So what are they at now? 72.5. We, right now, and what you guys approved in the last fiscal year, the last time they increased the full travel

reimbursement, breakfast, lunch, dinner, out of state, you know, set the prices for motels and stuff. It was at 70 cents per mile, which is what we, you guys agreed to.

And then the next month, they bumped it to 72.5, which kind of slid by me. And then, so this is

Not quite a year later, but they did this increase of only the mileage rate because of the high price of gasoline. So it's up to 76. So if we don't do this one, then we're behind by two increases instead of just one. And it really is

There are very few instances when the mayor goes to a conference and

Maybe when Tiffany went to the conference, department heads really are the only ones. When Dave goes to his things with the water, his guys even go to training, they take a water or a public works car so they don't get charged out. So really, it's pretty minimal how many people would pay out at the

Mile trait.

I move to adopt the IRS mileage rate of .76. Second. Any further discussion? All those in favor? Motion carries.

C **Carrie** 1:49:25
Button.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:49:29

Don't get so happy when I get over you. Well, I would like to do a second once a month. Yeah. Well, let's see.

Just as an FYI, we got our audits or FR back. Here's a copy. We will, it'll be posted in the newspaper, I think this week. It's open for public inspection. Next week. Next week. Newspaper for next week. Next week. But we have it.

If anybody wants to kind of look at it, there's a couple of copies here. The paper will also receive a copy because they're required to have one on hand. But. And we passed. Yeah. And anyway, just an FYI that we passed. Yeah, there were no findings.

The only thing that's referenced in the findings portion of this audit is the finding from last year and that we corrected it about the fire pension bond.

And we did address that and they got a new dollar amount going into the fiscal 27.

So no, no findings in the audit this year. Yay us. Yay you. Yay Julie.

Yeah, no, that's a team effort.

Okay, we already talked about the fire truck. I was going to bring that up at the end, but since Jerad was here early, to hear that. Anything else that we want to chat on? items appear on the next agenda. We will have the first portions of the budget. We'll be talking about that. We'll also have something in reference to

I hope we're prepared by then as well.

If I get anything else, I will let you guys know.

Absent any other business, can I get a motion to adjourn?

So much.

No, you missed it. Go. Come on, dear. I second. All those in favor? We are adjourned.

Thank you, guys.