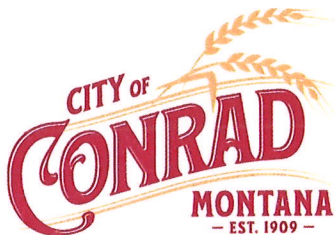


Mayor:
David Cates

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 JULY 7th, 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, July 7th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Library Director Tiffany Christensen

Guests: McKenzie Graye, Kim Bowmann, Sarah Moon, Dustin Moon, Lacetta Isenberg, Chary Majerus, Dan Majerus, Lisa Schmidt, Keith Thaut, Tricia Patterson, Jerry Riwer, Lynn Masinora, Michael Herdina, Colby Johnson, Erik Gustafson, Bonnie Hjelm, Bob Hjelm, Scott Coffelt

Teleconference Guests: Public Works Director David Zimbelman, Michael Miller, S.

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

1. Action: Read and approve minutes of June 16th, 2026, regular council meeting.
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to approve the minutes of the June 16th, 2026, regular meeting, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
2. Action on any Claims and Payroll:
Claims: 29848, 29862-29912
Total: \$146,223.47
 - 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):

Mayor:

David Cates

City Council:

Amber Schoenrock

Carrie Doty

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- Local resident Colby Johnson commented on recurring problems with the upkeep and maintenance of the City Baseball Complex, noting the bathrooms to be inoperable and left in a state of squalor prior to a recent tournament.
- Mayor David Cates noted that the city invests an increasing amount of time and money to maintain the City Baseball Complex, and Public Works Director David Zimbelman commented on how his department responds promptly to any urgent maintenance or upkeep requests, and how proper notice and communication are needed in order to resolve potential issues in a timely manner.

6. Department Reports:

- Police Department
 - Police Chief Andy Lund reported on police activity for June, noting several reports of scams involving the sale of property in Conrad.
- Public Works
 - Public Works Director David Zimbelman reported on activity for June, noting that new playground equipment had been set up at the swimming pool, with another set to be installed at the baseball fields, as well as three benches for the Splash Park that were donated by the Sutherland Family.
- Public Library
 - Library Director Tiffany Christensen was absent and will deliver the library report during the next scheduled regular council meeting on July 23rd, 2026.

7. Discussion/Action: Bob & Bonnie Hjelm request to place memorial bench in SW corner of Legion Park.

- Bob & Bonnie Hjelm outlined their request to purchase and install a park bench in the southwest corner of the Legion Park, coordinating the exact location and proper material ordering with David Zimbelman, the Public Works Director.
- Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Darryl Burditt, to approve Bob & Bonnie Hjelm's request to place a memorial bench in the SW corner of the Legion Park, coordinating the installation with Public Works Director David Zimbelman.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

8. Discussion/Action: New Full-Time CPD Hire – Scott Coffelt.

- Mayor David Cates introduced local resident, Scott Coffelt, who is looking to begin a career in law enforcement.
- Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Carrie Doty, to approve the hiring of Scott Coffelt as a patrol officer for the City of Conrad Police Department at \$25/hour with an additional \$150/month for Animal Control.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Mayor:

David Cates

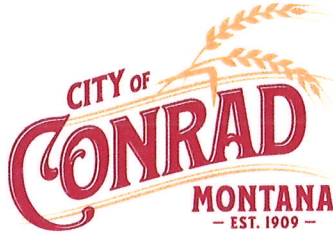
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- The Honorable David Cates, Mayor, administered the Oath of Office to newly hired city patrol officer, Scott Coffelt.
9. Discussion/Action: Alderman Doty's request to serve remotely.
- Alderman Carrie Doty explained her request to serve the council remotely as she pursues an opportunity to attend classes to become a certified grant writer. Carrie plans to use this experience to give back to the community by writing grants for some of the local organizations.
 - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to approve Alderman Doty's request to serve remotely during her absence while pursuing her certification for grant writing.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously, with Alderman Carrie Doty abstaining from the vote.
10. Discussion/Action: Zoning Commission/Board of Adjustment Decision Re: Lisa Schmidt Conditional Use Permit.
- On June 11th, a conditional use permit was granted to Lisa Schmidt, to test the machinery for her business, *From the Ground Up*, to obtain FDA approval and address potential noise complaints. Lisa reported that the machine and boiler are running well after a couple of weeks of testing, and a professional process authority has verified the safety of the meal cooking process. Since there have been no noise complaints and the business qualifies as light manufacturing, the issue is considered closed pending a standard business permit.
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Carrie Doty, to approve The Meeting Minutes for the Zoning Commission/Board of Adjustment's June 11th meeting, recommending the issue of a conditional use permit for Lisa Schmidt's business, *From the Ground Up*.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
11. Discussion/Action: Resolution 26-1336 to Approve Power Teton CSWD as a NCMRWA member.
- Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to approve Resolution 26-1336 to Approve Power Teton CSWD as a NCMRWA member.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
12. Discussion: Annual COLA raise projections.
- Finance Officer Jodi Rogers and Administrative Clerk Julie Orcutt presented the council with three COLA options for all city employees at 3%, 3.5%, and 4%, which will distribute wage increases across various department funds. Jodi explained that council members typically vote on the COLA rate during their second meeting in July to allow for paperwork processing, which directly impacts the broader budget that must be approved by the first Tuesday in September.
13. Executive Session: None

Mayor:

David Cates

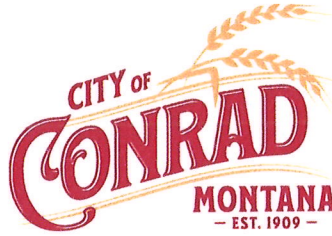
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14. Other Business: None

15. Items to Appear on the Next Agenda:

- Next regular city council meeting to be scheduled for Thursday, July 23rd, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

There being no further business to come before the Council,

16. Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Carrie Doty, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 PM.

- Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor, David Cates

Attest: 

Council President, Amber Schoenrock

