

**Mayor:**

David Cates

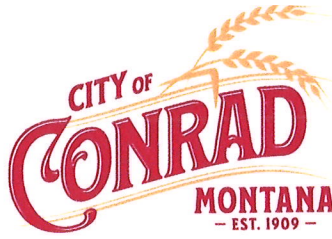
**City Council:**

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 MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor David Cates, Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Alderman Darryl Burditt, Alderman Carrie Doty, Alderman Karla Breeding, Interim Police Chief Andy Lund, Public Works Director David Zimbelman, City Clerk Jerad Walston.

Absent: Library Director Tiffany Christensen

Guests: Robert Bender, Amy Salois, Anna Jose, Connie Huffman, Doc Robertson, Roger Keith, Phyllis Hammermeister, Mary Kuka, Nancy Powell, Judy Sibley, Charlene Calahan, Audrey Rouns, Jerry Riewer, Karen Burditt, Shawna Ellefson, [Signature], [Signature], [Signature].

Teleconference Guests: Administrative Clerk Julie Orcutt, Pondera County Sheriff Robert Skorupa

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

1. Action: Read and approve minutes of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, regular council meeting.
  - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to approve the minutes of the February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, regular meeting, as presented.
    - Motion Carried Unanimously
2. Action on any Claims and Payroll:
  - Claims: 29576, 29581-29594, 29596-29619
  - February Payroll: \$134,404.75
  - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Carrie Doty, to approve the claims and payroll as presented.
    - Motion Carried Unanimously
3. Action on Water Contracts: None
4. Correspondence: None
5. Public Comment (no action taken):

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- Public comments were made regarding Public Works contract bidding procedure.

6. Department Reports:

- Police Department:
  - Interim Police Chief Andy Lund reported on police activity for February (see attached document).
- Public Works:
  - Public Works Director David Zimbelman reported on public works activity for February, noting that the Parks and Public Works departments have been busy addressing graffiti and storm damage.
  - Dave also mentioned that the city has received two sets of playground equipment and will be accepting bids on its installation and that notice for bids will appear in the paper and online.
  - In closing, Dave noted that many dumpsters in the city have recently been refurbished or replaced, and that replacements are available for any dumpsters with excessive damage or rusting.

7. Discussion/Action: Resolution 26-1333 Allowing the Town of Chester to join the NCMRWA.

- Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to approve Resolution 26-1333, allowing the Town of Chester to join the North Central Montana Regional Water Board.
  - Motion Carried Unanimously

8. Discussion: Request for removal of area (Parcel #2) for disc golf course from BSV Contract.

- City officials are evaluating a proposal to develop a nine-hole disc golf course on land near Blue Sky Villa by exercising a contractual option for city takeover and maintenance.
- The project, supported by the Electric City Disc Golf Club, faces community opposition centered on privacy concerns, lack of irrigation, and suggestions to prioritize the land for senior housing expansion. While the proposal is in the early stages, discussions are ongoing to balance community recreation needs with resident concerns.
  - *(Note that Discussion item #9 regarding Disc Golf at BSV was included in this discussion).*

9. Discussion: Disc Golf at Blue Sky Villa

- *This item was combined and discussed with Discussion Item #8.*

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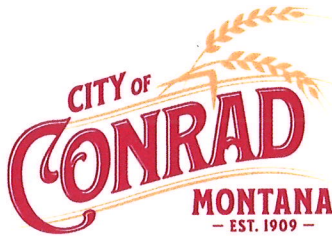
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10. Discussion/Action: Distribution of the Genevieve Rieken Funds.

There were 5 requests for funds, from the following organizations:

- The Horizon Lodge is seeking financial assistance to install an expensive backup generator to maintain essential services like heat, elevators, and kitchen facilities during emergency power outages to help ensure resident safety.
- The Disc Golf project is seeking matching funds to supplement a \$2,500 contribution from the Special Olympics team to cover the costs of trees and baskets for the disc golf course.
- The Pondera Historical Association is seeking funding to cover rising operating costs.
- The Conrad Depot Society is requesting funding to help finish interior renovations, such as insulating and painting the display room used for seasonal events.
- The Pondera Rec Association is requesting funds to install safety barriers on field fences and purchase specialized leveling equipment to maintain and improve the playing surfaces of the ball fields.
- Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to Table discussion on the Distribution of the Genevieve Rieken Fund until the next scheduled council meeting.
  - Motion Carried Unanimously

11. Discussion/Action: Part-Time Police Officer Hire.

- Mayor David Cates introduced Shane Rauscher, a local paramedic and former Border Patrol agent, to be hired as a part-time police officer to address current staffing shortages.
- Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Carrie Doty, to hire Shane Rauscher as a part-time City of Conrad Police Officer, at \$25.00/hr.
  - Motion Carried Unanimously
- The Honorable David Cates, Mayor, administered the Oath of Office to newly hired city police officer, Shane Rauscher.

12. Discussion: Future of the Conrad Police Department.

- City Council President Amber Schoenrock expressed concerns regarding the current situation with the Conrad Police Department being understaffed and if a lack of personnel would affect public safety and wanted to explore the idea of a merger with the PCSD.
- The Council further discussed the steps being taken by Interim Chief Andy Lund in hiring and training additional personnel.
- The Council expressed concern, noting the challenges and sacrifices the city would need to make, and whether it was even in the CPD and City's best interests to merge departments.

13. Executive Session: None

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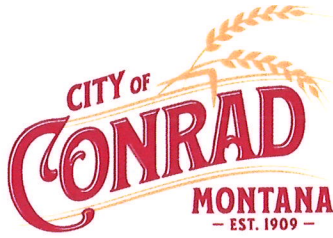
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14. Other Business: Sand blasting Choteau's pool was \$55,000.00.

- The city is considering the cost to have the public pool professionally sandblasted and painted to resolve recurring peeling issues caused by moisture and debris, with the goal to have the work completed before the city hosts the state swim meet next year.

15. Items to Appear on the Next Agenda:

- Library Director Tiffany Christensen's library report.
- Revisiting the distribution of the Genevieve Rieken Fund.

There being no further business to come before the Council,

16. Motion by Alderman Carrie Doty, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm.

- Motion Carried Unanimously

A blue ink signature of David Cates, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Mayor, David Cates

Attest: A black ink signature of Amber Schoenrock, written in a cursive style.  
Council President, Amber Schoenrock

