

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 REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CONRAD, COUNTY OF PONDERA, STATE OF MONTANA
HELD AT CONRAD CITY HALL ON JANUARY 20th, 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, January 20th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor David Cates, Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Alderman Darryl Burditt, Alderman Carrie Doty, Alderman Karla Breeding, Police Sergeant Andy Lund, Library Director Tiffany Christensen, City Clerk Jerad Walston.

Absent: Finance Officer Jodi Rogers

Guests: n/a

Teleconference Guests: Administrative Clerk Julie Orcutt

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

1. Action: Read and approve minutes of January 6th, 2026, regular council meeting.
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Darryl Burditt, to approve the minutes of the January 6th, 2026, regular meeting, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
2. Action on any Claims and Payroll:

Claims: 29493-29514

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): None
6. Department Reports:
 - Public Library-

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- Library Director Tiffany Christensen reported on Library activity for December, noting that activity was down because of unforeseen program cancellations and other circumstances (see attached report).
- Tiffany also highlighted some of the library's outreach efforts, as well as capital improvements and policy updates noted in the library's 2025 Year in Review (see attached).
- Tiffany mentioned that the library is working with the Valier Public Library to present Chris La Tray, author of, *"Becoming Little Shell: A Landless Indian's Journey Home"*, at the Conrad Orpheum Theatre, February 11th, at 6:00 PM.
- Finance Officer-
 - Mayor David Cates presented the Finance Report for December, noting significant positive change in income, with a recent jump of \$2.1 million, bringing the total income received so far, this fiscal year to 25% of the total expected amount. Additionally, the overall spending is on track at 34% of the budget, being roughly halfway through the fiscal year, suggesting a stable financial outlook.
- 7. Discussion/Action: Formal announcement and acceptance of Cory Smith Resignation
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding to accept Cory Smith's resignation of Chief of Police, effective December 31st, 2025.
- 8. Discussion/Action: Appointment of Interim Police Chief
 - Mayor David Cates proposed appointing Sergeant Andy Lund to Interim Police Chief, with a \$500 stipend.
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Carrie Doty to appoint Sergeant Andy Lund as interim Police Chief with a \$500 stipend, effective immediately.
 - The council further discussed the hiring of officers so the department can return to being fully staffed.
- 9. Discussion/Action: Resolution #26-1330 to add Jerad Walston to all Stockman Bank Accounts.
 - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to add Jerad Walston to all Stockman Bank Accounts.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- 10. Announcement: We have received \$11,109.58 from the Anderson Charitable Trust aka The Genevieve Rieken Trust.
 - Mayor David Cates noted that the city will be accepting applications over the next few months from qualifying non-profit organizations for projects within the city.
- 11. Announcement: A Big Thank You to all the city personnel for their efforts during the aftermath of the windstorm.

Mayor:

David Cates

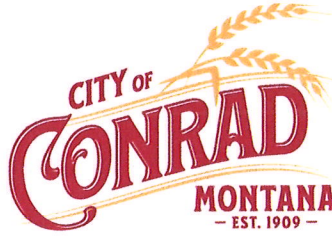
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- Mayor David Cates and the council wished to formally commend the Public Works Department and Police Department for their extraordinary efforts during the recent windstorm, noting the dedication of Public Works Director David Zimbelman and the outstanding individuals within the Public Works Department.
- Mayor Cates further highlighted the ongoing efforts of city departments in providing outreach programs and other services to the community, which conveys the city's commitment to support its citizens, and uphold community values.

12. Executive Session: None

13. Other Business: None


14. Items to Appear on the Next Agenda:

- Budget Amendment Resolution for the Fireman's Retirement Fund.
- Becky Kujava to discuss working with 4-H to replace the damaged "Welcome to Conrad" signs at both ends of town.
- Establishing a task order for a Freshwater upgrade, taking advantage of grants (including one for \$30,000) to offset the estimated \$58,000 engineering cost, which may also be rolled into future loans.

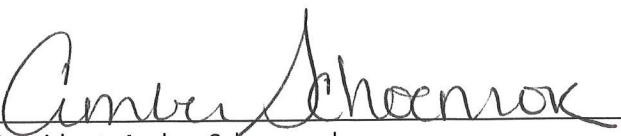
There being no further business to come before the Council,

15. Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Carrie Doty, to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

- Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor, David Cates

Attest: 

Council President, Amber Schoenrock

