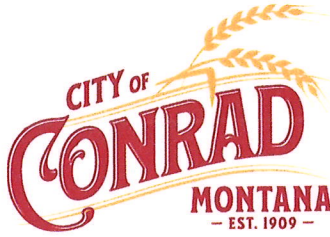


**Mayor:**  
David Cates

**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 FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</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, February 17th, 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, City Clerk Jerad Walston.

Absent: n/a

Guests: Austin Orcutt, Meagan Heinen

Teleconference Guests: Finance Officer Jodi Rogers, 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 February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, regular council meeting.
  - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to approve the minutes of the February 3rd, 2026, regular meeting, as presented.
    - Motion Carried Unanimously
2. Action on any Claims and Payroll:
  - Claims: 29556-29580
  - January Payroll: \$108,763.70
  - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Darryl Burditt, to approve the claims and payroll as presented.
    - Motion Carried Unanimously
3. Action on Water Contracts: None
4. Correspondence: Montana Coal Endowment Planning Grant Award (Discussion/Action item #7).
5. Public Comment (no action taken): None
6. Department Reports:
  - Finance Officer

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- Finance Officer Jodi Rogers reported on January's finances, noting that property tax revenue reached a strong 67% of the annual budget, while expenditure across all funds remained at or below expected levels. Revenue is expected to continue steadily through July, marking a positive start to the fiscal year (see attached document).
  - Jodi also reported that The City of Conrad audit is scheduled for the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> and can provide additional report information as needed.
7. Discussion/Action: Task Order to perform 2026 Water System PER and Grant Application.
- Mayor David Cates reported that the City's 2026 water system grant application had been approved for \$30,000, reducing the required local contribution for the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to \$28,000.
  - Motion by Alderman Carrie Doty, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to approve the Task Order to perform the 2026 Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).
    - Motion Carried Unanimously
8. Discussion/Action: Conrad Swim Team Request to use the Swimming Pool for the swimming season.
- Conrad Swim Team board members Austin Orcutt and Meagan Heinen expressed thanks to the city for use of the Conrad swimming pool, commenting on the success of the program in fostering athletic growth and developing traits like discipline and resilience in its participants. Austin also noted that the team's high participation and competitive success have advanced them to the next class at state.
  - Austin and Meagan requested that the pool be operational by May 30th to accommodate a swim meet on June 13th-14th. The board proposed volunteer assistance for cosmetic repairs and cleaning to address concerns regarding chipping epoxy and offered help in securing lifeguard training.
  - The city agreed to investigate professional sandblasting costs and placement on a future agenda to prepare for a potential 2027 state meet bid.
  - Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Carrie Doty, to approve Conrad Swim Team's request to use the swimming pool for the 2026 swimming season.
    - Motion Carried Unanimously
9. Discussion/Action: Cascade County Bill. Invoice PC 12062024 for \$90,959.66.
- Mayor David Cates requested a motion and vote to pay Invoice PC 12062024 for \$90,959.66.
  - Motion by Alderman Carrie Doty, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to pay Invoice PC 12062024 for \$90,959.66.
    - Motion Failed Unanimously
9. Executive Session: None

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David Cates

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10. Other Business: None

11. Items to Appear on the Next Agenda:

- Distribution of the \$11,109.58 from the Genevieve Rieken Trust fund.
- Accepting the City of Chester into the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority.

There being no further business to come before the Council,

12. Motion by Alderman Carrie Doty, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 pm.

- Motion Carried Unanimously

Mayor, David Cates

Attest:  
Council President, Amber Schoenrock

