

Mayor:
David Cates

City Council:
Amber Schoenrock
Carrie Doty
Karla Breeding
Darryl Burditt



City of Conrad
413 S. Main St.
Conrad, MT 59425
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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 AUGUST 18th, 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, August 18th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Guests: David Baggs, Stephanie Baggs, Amy Shaw, Sierra Azbill, Scott Coffelt

Teleconference Guests: Administrative Clerk Julie Orcutt, McKenzie Graye, Michael Miller

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

1. Action: Read and approve minutes of August 4th, 2026, regular council meeting, and August 13th, 2026, budget planning meeting.
 - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Darryl Burditt, to approve the minutes of the August 4th, 2026, regular meeting, and the August 13th, 2026, budget planning meeting as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
2. Action on any Claims and Payroll:
Claims: 29988-30022
Total: \$308,354.38
 - Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to approve the claims as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
3. Action on Water Contracts: None
4. Correspondence: None
5. Public Comment (no action taken):

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- Local resident Sierra Azbill expressed concerns regarding the use of AI assisted camera systems in public parks, citing examples of misuse and privacy concerns.

6. Department Reports:

- Finance Officer
 - (Postponed working on the budget).

7. Discussion/Action: Amy Shaw's request for use of Norley Hall (2 of the city's days) for their Health Fair.

- Motion by Alderman Karla Breeding, Second by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, to approve the Pondera County Public Health Department's request to use two of the City's annual uses of Norley Hall for September 30 and October 1, 2026.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

8. Discussion/Action: New Police hire and swearing in of officer.

- Mayor David Cates introduced Marvin Gutierrez, who is excited to be part of Conrad and serve his community.
- Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Darryl Burditt, to approve the hiring of Marvin Gutierrez for the position of Patrol Officer II for the City of Conrad Police Department at \$27/hour with an additional \$150/month for Animal Control.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- The Honorable David Cates, Mayor, administered the Oath of Office to newly hired city patrol officer, Marvin Gutierrez.

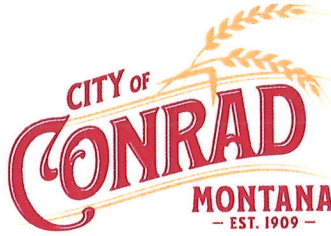
9. Discussion/Action: Dispatch Contract

- Mayor David Cates presented an updated version of the Dispatch Contract with PCSO, noting a productive meeting with the county resulting in the proposal for a seven-year dispatch contract, starting at \$52,500 annually with a 4.5% annual increase thereafter for six years.
- Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to approve the interlocal agreement between the City of Conrad Police and Sheriff's Office, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- It was noted that the contract contains a standard clause allowing either party to cancel or renegotiate the agreement with a 30-day notice in June to align with the fiscal year. This allows the board to re-evaluate and adjust the terms if the contract becomes cost prohibitive.

10. Executive Session: None

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11. Other Business: Application for financing for new Fire Truck.

12. Items to Appear on the Next Agenda:

- Approval of final budget and Resolutions.
- Industrial Park Proposal – new appraisal.

6:30 Open Public Hearing on Budget

- Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to close Regular Meeting and open Public Hearing.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously
- Discussion/Public Comment: FY 26/27 Budget.
 - Finance Officer Jodi Rogers discussed the changes that were made to the budget, featuring a new \$60,000 "in and out" closing entry for state retirement contributions (PERS) that balances evenly across general fund revenues and expenditures.
 - Additionally, savings from the reduced dispatch contract have freed up room in the police department budget, prompting discussion on the purchase of an additional set of body and car cameras.
 - Jodi noted the budget for the industrial park will be updated to include appraisal costs between \$4,500 and \$5,000, with the understanding that the amounts can be adjusted and a \$3,500 sum will be returned.
 - Jodi also mentioned a new budget proposal to issue a \$1,000 stipend for the City Building Inspector, and a \$100 monthly stipend for the three office staff members out of the highly restrictive building and code enforcement fund. The additional stipend for office staff totals a little over \$4,000 in additional annual expenditure with PERS factored in. This increase is intended to reward the office staff for their heavy, year-round administrative workload on permits and state reports.
 - Since this fund is currently running a healthy surplus and its use is restricted strictly to building department salaries and expenses, the board also discussed using it for vehicle degradation or computer upgrades, as well as the possibility of lowering permit fees to give back to the public.
 - In closing, Jodi discussed the stormwater project budget within the sewer fund, which has been corrected from \$100,000 to \$1,163,122 to accurately reflect the remaining balance.
- This Public Hearing on the budget will remain open and can be freely discussed, modified, and adjusted by the public and council until the September 1st council meeting, at which time the Hearing will be closed.

There being no further business to come before the Council,

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13. Motion by Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Karla Breeding, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 PM.

- Motion Carried Unanimously

A blue ink signature of David Cates, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' and 'C'.

Mayor, David Cates

Attest: A blue ink signature of Amber Schoenrock, written in a cursive style.

Council President, Amber Schoenrock

