

Mayor:

David Cates

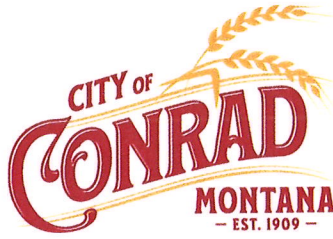
City Council:

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 AUGUST 19th, 2025

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 19th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor David Cates, Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Alderman Darryl Burditt, Alderman Carrie Doty, Alderman Karla Breeding, Administrative Clerk Julie Orcutt, Finance Officer Jodi Rogers, Library Director Tiffany Christensen, Police Chief Cory Smith, Police Sgt. Andy Lund

Absent:

Guests:

Teleconference Guests:

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

Action: Read and approve minutes of the August 5th, 2025, regular council meeting

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, Second by Alderman Doty, to approve the minutes of the August 5th, 2025 regular meeting, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Action on any Claims and Payroll:

Claims: #29096, 29131, 29142-29148, 29150-29171, 29173-29179

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Doty, to approve the claims as presented.
- Motion Carried Unanimously

Action on Water Contracts: None

Correspondence: none

Public Comment (no action taken): none

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Departmental reports:

Police Chief Cory Smith gave his report for July at the last meeting but was unavailable for questions. He went over the reports for calls. Details in the attached report.

Library Director Tiffany Christensen reported library visits for July were lower from last year, probably due to being closed to complete the HVAC project. Summer reading is wrapping up with prizes being awarded next week. See attached report for details of visits. Fall programs will start soon.

Finance Officer Jodi Rogers reports not being done with balancing for July. Jodi worked with Public Works Director Dave Zimbelman to adjust his budget to avoid an increase by moving saved money. Her time has been spent getting the budget finished. She will catch up and report later.

Discussion/Action: Turn over delinquent water, sewer and mowing, account charges to the county for tax assessment.

Billing Clerk Kim Cooney has provided a list of accounts that are in delinquency. These will get reported to the State of Montana, then to Pondera County for tax assessment on the property. This includes any account with an outstanding past due balance of more than 90 days for water, sewer, weed and mowing charges.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, Second by Alderman Schoenrock, to approve turning over the list, as presented, for delinquent accounts to Pondera County for tax assessment

- Motion carried unanimously

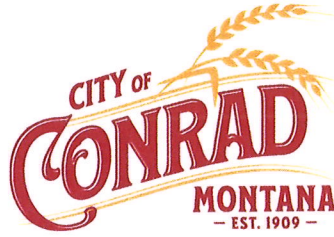
Discussion/Action: Cascade County Sheriff demand for payment of costs related to the Alicia Woods homicide investigation and search.

Mayor Cates brought an email from City Attorney Daniel Jones offering his legal opinion on paying the bill. Council discussed paying it "In good faith" but also questioned authority. Chief Smith mentioned a verbal agreement with Cascade County to cover fuel but not equipment that was ordered by Cascade County. DCI was involved and was in charge of the investigation. DCI needs to be brought in to the conversation regarding payment of expenses incurred. Communication was lacking from other agencies, regarding inclusion of City Police. Finance Officer Jodi Rogers mentioned the a possible payment to Cascade County needing to be filed in FY25 to account for the invoice date and avoid audit findings. Funds would have to come out of reserves.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Breeding, to table this action item to get more details and communicate with DCI and Cascade County.

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- Motion carried unanimously

Discussion/Action: Adopt RESOLUTION of Intention to Increase Rates and Charges of Solid Waste System, Resolution #25-1319

Discussion regarding the new rate, what is included in this number: depreciation, CIP planning and ability to save for a new truck as well as maintenance and repairs on current equipment. Overall increase across the board of 83%.

Discussion paused.

Discussion/Action: 6:30 p.m. Open Public Hearing for FY 2025/2026 City Budget

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Doty, to close the regular meeting at 6:30 pm
 - * Motion Carried unanimously
- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Breeding, to open the Public Hearing for the FY25-26 City Budget at 6:31 pm
 - * Motion carried unanimously

No discussion at this time. Finance Office Jodi Rogers stated that she has been working with all department heads on budget numbers. Final budgets will be presented for approval at the Sept 2nd meeting, with Resolutions.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Doty, to re-open the regular meeting
 - Motion carried unanimously

Resumed discussion about raising solid waste rates. Confusion regarding the wording defining "roll-off container" versus "dumpster". Public Works Director Dave Zimbelman was called and put on speaker phone, to answer questions. Some roll-out containers are used at houses without alley access, otherwise shared household dumpsters are in used. 3 households per 1.5 yard dumpster is standard. He mentioned that rates should be increased every 2-3 years. Clarification on wording is needed without changing rate table.

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- Motion by Alderman Doty, Second by Alderman Breeding, to adopt Resolution 25-1319, Intent to increase the rate 83%, with the exception of changing words in the resolution and letter, regarding dumpster description clarification.

- Motion Carried 3-1, Alderman Schoenrock voted nay.

Discussion/Action: Adopt RESOLUTION of Intention to Increase Rates and Charges of the Sewer System, Resolution #25-1320

Discussion: Sewer rates need to be at a higher rate for compliance for loans. (43% increase)

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, Second by Alderman Doty, to adopt Resolution 25-1320, Intent to Increase Rates of Sewer System

- Motion Carried 3-1, Alderman Schoenrock voted nay.

Executive Session: None

Other Business: Megan Werner has resigned her position as clerk. Her last day will be August 22nd.

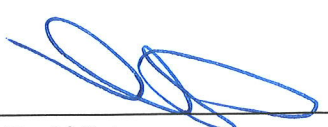
Items to Appear on the Next Agenda:

Close Public Hearing on FY25-26 Budget

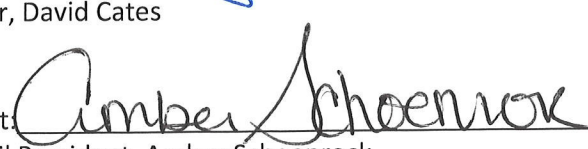
Adopt Final Budget for FY 25-26 and Budget Resolutions

There being no further business to come before the Council,

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Breeding, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15p.m.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor, David Cates

Attest: 

Council President, Amber Schoenrock

