



MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION BUDGET MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CONRAD, COUNTY OF PONDERA, STATE OF MONTANA
HELD AT CONRAD CITY HALL ON August 18th, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Conrad, County of Pondera, State of Montana, met in special session at Conrad City Hall on Wednesday, August 18th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent:

Guests:

Teleconference Guests:

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

Public Comment:

Discussion/Action: Fiscal Year 2025/2026 City Budget

Discussion started with Public Works Director Dave Zimbelman stating most of his budget is the same, with a few exceptions. He went over budget with Parks supplies mostly due to bleachers. Also, personnel will increase with the addition of another employee full-time for Parks. CIP is increased for playground equipment and money that is needed to save for future projects. Water department will need some new equipment and get back-up parts for replacement without waiting for delivery. Also needed is a new vehicle with a lift gate. A new trailer was just purchased for equipment. Waste water and treatment plant budgets are good. Solid waste will have adjustment with possible rate increase as well as replacing dumpsters. New garbage truck is due for delivery in early October. Building inspection budget is fine. Storm water project is delayed, but should begin soon, with a finance deadline of 12-31-25 for some funding.

Library Director Tiffany Christensen reported on some higher numbers to do with HVAC project, and maintenance services to do with asbestos mitigation. The training budget will not be as much this year. Her budget has been approved by the Library Board.



Chief Smith is requesting more funds overall to complete some projects and new equipment including radios, body cams and dash cams, in-car computers that will help in getting warrants. The dog pound needs repairs and replace fixtures. Training and supply costs have all risen. Electronic data storage upgrades are needed to computers that is not available now, new cloud services would be needed. Money is needed to dispose of old evidence, including drugs, through a private agency, in order to be in compliance with state guidelines. Also, fees incurred with recent homicide investigations will factor into budget numbers. Discussion surrounding carry-over from last year and maintaining new programs after initial upgrades being less expensive.

Finance Officer Jodi Rogers discussed major increase in overall budget to include sewer lift station projects and splash park expenses. Insurances costs were generally the same. The industrial park borrowed monies from water, general and sewer funds for infrastructure. Recommend paying those back in the next 3 years. Permissive levy has some carry over to help with increases. Street lights can be lowered, some maintenance projects are done. Genevieve Rankin Anderson funds will be spent out for the splash park. Might lose police training funds from state, can use the money accumulated. Needed Fire retirement adjustment, per audit findings. Will increase budget to cover going forward.

Revenue entitlement is up slightly. We still have 39k from FWP for splash park. COLA increase to BSV lease agreement for revolving repair fund. Investments are good.

Mayor Cates brought up monies paid to Po. Co. For PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) for BSV transfer of deed from US Gov to City of Conrad. More details will be worked out with the City Attorney and Port Authority.

Changes with Public Works can be discussed at the regular meeting tomorrow.

There being no further business to come before the Council,

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

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

Mayor, David Cates

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

