

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 8th, 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 8th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor David Cates, Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Alderman Darryl Burditt, Alderman Carrie Doty, Alderman Karla Breeding, Public Works Director David Zimbelman, City Clerk Megan Werner

Absent: None

Guests: Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter, Cascade County Attorney Josh Racki

Teleconference Guests: McKenzie Graye, one other

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

Action: Read and approve minutes of the July 15th, 2025, regular council meeting and the July 23rd, 2025 special meeting

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, Second by Alderman Doty, to approve the minutes of the July 15th, 2025 regular meeting and July 23rd, 2025 special meeting, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Action on any Claims and Payroll:

Claims: # 29087-29089, 29106-29108 (June), 29073-29095, 29097-29141 (July)

Payroll: \$157,178.34

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

Action on Water Contracts: None

Correspondence: None

Public Comment (no action taken): Alderman Doty spoke on a concern regarding kids on electric scooters. David Zimbelman added his concerns to the conversation. Alderman Schoenrock added her comments. Mayor Cates commented on the current set of regulations not addressing scooters, but there has been a bill passed that will go in effect November 1st to do with this issue.



Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter along with Cascade County Attorney Josh Radke attended the meeting to discuss an issue regarding an outstanding bill for the missing persons case they assisted with. Sheriff Slaughter spoke on the effort put forth in assisting on the case. Cascade county sheriff's office total man hours spent on this (along with 50-60 outside organizations that assisted) estimated to be 3868 hours spent on this. Rough estimate of \$500,000-\$750,000 spent during this search. Mayor Cates voiced confusion regarding not being invited to search meetings, and no communications to the city. A prior conversation between Sheriff Slaughter and Mayor Cates stated around \$20,000-\$40,000 for a cost estimate. The case was picked up by DCI, from there was never any communication regarding approval of charges. Comes down to a breakdown in communication. Sheriff Slaughter mutual-aid discussion. Responsibility of cost goes to the jurisdiction that the issue originated with. Breakdown of the charges invoiced to the city, including supplies, Starlink communications fees, etc. Alderman Schoenrock asked about the status of the investigation and when it closes, if the outcome is that the case originated outside of city limits, would the bill go elsewhere? Sheriff Slaughter says no, the bill stays here. Mayor Cates asked if there had been the retrieval of a body, would it change the billing outcome/change the jurisdiction of the case. Sheriff Slaughter said no.

Departmental reports:

Police Chief Cory Smith turned in his report but was unavailable to attend the meeting.

Public Works Director Zimbelman reported on the July activities from the public works department. Waiting on a backflow preventor valve for the splash park. 6.5 million fewer gallons used this July from the previous July, thanks to all the rain. David and Alderman Schoenrock both extend a thank you to the public works department workers for the hard work they have put in. Alderman Schoenrock also asked about the water from splash park, which will go to the Pondera Creek and reclaimed. There will be an estimated 750,000 gallons used in a season for splash park and 1 million gallons used by the pool.

Library Director Christensen requested to give her July report at the next meeting, on August 19th.

Discussion/Action: Robert Bender's request for ballfield use for the Guns and Hoses Baseball Game.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Burditt, to approve Robert Bender's request for the city to sponsor the Guns and Hoses Baseball Game.
 - Motion carried unanimously

Discussion/Action: Police Chief Smith's request for a promotion to Patrolman III and a pay raise for Officers Cichosz and Cannady.

- Alderman Burditt asked about the probation period of said officers and commented he would support the promotion after a year.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, Second by Alderman Doty, to approve the promotion of Officers Cichosz and Cannady along with the pay raise.
 - For: Alderman Schoenrock, Alderman Breeding, Alderman Doty
 - Against: Alderman Burditt



- Motion Passed 3-1

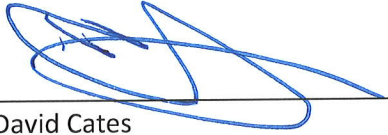
Executive Session: None

Other Business: The Airforce meeting regarding missile silo updates has been canceled, to be rescheduled later. Trade/Sale of 2 of the city industrial lots. MDT would like to trade their in-town lot for two of the industrial lots. Originally there was a covenant on industrial lots for a hotel or fuel station, the committee decided to remove the covenant. City will get existing MDT shop in trade and they will pave the road out to the industrial park.

Items to Appear on the Next Agenda: Open public hearing for budget at next meeting, which will be open for 30 days. There will be a separate budget meeting between now and then. Alderman Schoenrock requested copies from Jodi prior to the meeting to be able to review.

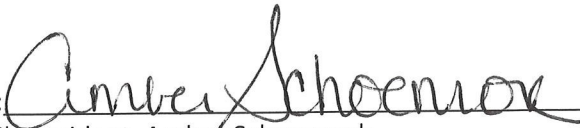
There being no further business to come before the Council,

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Doty, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40p.m.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously



Mayor, David Cates

Attest:



Council President, Amber Schoenrock

