



RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CONRAD, COUNTY OF PONDERA, STATE OF MONTANA
HELD AT CONRAD CITY HALL ON AUGUST 13th, 2024

The City Council of the City of Conrad, County of Pondera, State of Montana, met in regular session at the Conrad City Hall on Aug 13th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. This is the rescheduled meeting from August 6th, 2024.

Present: Mayor David Cates, Alderman Amber Schoenrock, Alderman Karla Breeding, Alderman Carrie Doty, Chief Cory Smith, Admin/Payroll Clerk Julie Orcutt, Library Director Tiffany Christensen, Public Works Director Dave Zimbelman

Absent:

Guests: Darryl Burditt, Don McLean, John Callahan,

Teleconference Guests:

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

Action: Read and Approve Minutes of the July 16th, 2024 Regular Meeting and August 6th, 2024.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, Second by Alderman Schoenrock, to approve the minutes of the July 20th, 2024 regular council meeting, as presented.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

Action on Claims & Payroll:

Claims #s 28255, 28263-28320 (refer to the claims register/claims approval list):

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

Water Contracts: None

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: (no action taken)

5. Department Reports:

Public Works: Department Head Dave Zimbelman presented his report for the month of July. The East side lift station is scheduled to begin later this month or early September. The splash park construction is also to begin soon. The asphalt crew should start next week. Parts are coming for the Brady pump station. The hours spent there will be eliminated with the replacement parts. Irrigation is



working on the BKV area of the walking path. Neil Weisgram has been fixing curbs around town and will be working on a gutter on Delaware and 7th Ave. Montana DEQ was here recently for an inspection, we did very well. Only minor changes needed in reporting going forward. Also, MT Labor and Industry was here. No major infractions reported. We will provide garbage cans and traffic cones for National Night Out. He would like to have some consideration for tree trimming on the boulevards. There are many calls for broken branches and limbs blocking sight and driveways. This is very expensive for homeowners and can cause a public hazard, but we do not have the budget or personnel to take care of it. More discussion should be held on this.

Library: Head Librarian Tiffany Christensen presented her report for July. Library visits are up from last year, although computer use is down. Please come look at the updates to the door, signs and lights to the front of the library. Face painting was really popular at National night out. Summer reading is wrapping up. Story time will move back to the library and resume when school starts. Tests have been done so that future construction projects can start.

Police: Chief Smith gave his report for the month of July. Officers responded to approximately 282 calls in July with 28 being security checks. 131 citations have been issued since January 1st, with only 145 in all of 2023. 7 ambulance assists and 3 fire department assists as well as 15 assists to other agencies.

Finance: Jodi Rogers does not have a budget report at this time. She will report after the budget meetings have concluded.

6. Discussion/Action: City Judge contract. Judge Cody Shaw asked for an increase in contract pay for the City Judge and City Clerk. He is asking for a 25% increase which would cover 8 years of no increase at the COLA rate of 3%. That would increase his pay from \$1000.00 to \$1250.00. The clerk would like an increase to \$800.00 from the current \$450.00. The City and County split costs for training, registration and travel for both the Judge and Clerk as well as paying postage and other admin costs to the County. Cody said each month is different in hours needed to complete City business, depending on court schedule. Clerk uses her break and lunch time for City business. Alderman Breeding and Schoenrock questioned her time spent working on City business while working full time for the County. While not opposed to the increase in Judge pay, council would like more time to evaluate the requested clerk pay increase.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Breeding, to table this discussion until the August 20th regular meeting.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

7. Discussion/Action: Special Budget Planning Meeting August 15, 2024, 7:00 pm.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, Second by Alderman Doty, to approve the agenda for the budget meeting on August 15th.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously



8. Discussion/Action: Alderman position, Ward 1, posting and appointment date was discussed. The open position in Ward 1 has been posted. The position will be open until an appointment can be made at the September 3rd regular meeting. Letters of interest will be taken until then.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, Second by Alderman Doty, to approve making an appointment for the open council position at the September 3rd Regular Council Meeting.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

9. Discussion/Action: Adoption of the State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act (SLIPA) for the HB355 Library grant. Papers for the SLIPA grant were discussed. It outlines responsibilities for the grant, with Tiffany Christensen in charge and Jodi Rogers helping oversee the funds.

- Motion by Alderman Doty, Second by Alderman Breeding, to approve the adoption of HB355 SLIPA Library Grant.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

10. Discussion/Action: Discussion was held regarding needing a loan to purchase a new garbage truck. PW Director Zimbelman asked that this be tabled until after the budget meeting because initial numbers were calculated and new cost estimates were evaluated, there will be enough funds for a truck without getting a loan. Jodi verified this. Therefore, no action is needed. More discussion will be held regarding this at the budget meeting on August 15th.

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, second by Alderman Doty to table this discussion until the budget meeting.
 - Motion Passed Unanimously

11. Discussion Action: Promotion of Andy Lund from Patrolman III to Sergeant. Chief Cory Smith presented a proposal for inter-departmental promotion for Officer Lund. He has been with the department since February 2021 and has shown exemplary service and conduct during this time.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Breeding, to approve the promotion of Officer Andy Lund from Patrolman III to Sergeant, effective August 1, 2024 with a wage increase as listed.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

12. Discussion/Action: Promotion of Daniel Karlik from Patrolman I to Patrolman II. Chief Cory Smith presented a proposal to promote Officer Daniel Karlik from Patrolman I to Patrolman II. Officer Karlik has been with the department since May 2023, He exceeded expectations and has completed the MLEA Basic Law Enforcement Academy as well as other training.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Breeding, to approve the promotion of Officer Karlik to Patrolman II with a wage increase as listed, effective August 1, 2024.
 - Motion Carried Unanimously



Executive Session: None

Other Business:

Items to Appear on the next agenda:

1. Public hearing on Proposed FY24/25 Budget opens.
2. Turning over delinquent Water, Sewer and Weed Mowing to Pondera County for tax assessment.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Motion by Alderman Breeding, Second by Alderman Schoenrock, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45p.m.

- Motion Carried Unanimously
- Meeting Adjourned



A blue ink signature, appearing to read "David Cates", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor, David Cates

Attest: A purple ink signature, appearing to read "Amber Schoenrock", written over a horizontal line.
Council President, Amber Schoenrock