



City of Conrad
413 S. Main St.
Conrad, MT 59425
406-271-3623

BUDGET WORK SESSION

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CONRAD, COUNTY OF PONDERA, STATE OF MONTANA

HELD AT CONRAD CITY HALL ON AUGUST 15TH, 2024

The City Council of the City of Conrad, County of Pondera, State of Montana, met in a special session at the Conrad City Hall on August 15th, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Present: Mayor David Cates, Council President Amber Schoenrock, Alderman Carrie Doty, Alderman Karla Breeding, Admin Clerk Julie Orcutt, Finance Officer Jodi Rogers, Public Works Director Dave Zimbelman, Police Chief Cory Smith,

Absent:

Guests: Darryl Burditt

Teleconference guests: McKenzie Gray

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

1. Discussion/Action: FY 24-25 City Budget- Jodi Rogers has presented budget reports for the FY23-24 and projected FY24-25 budget.

PW Director Zimbelman went through his projected budget for FY24-25. He mentioned that capital outlay is slated for playground equipment at the swimming pool park and the ballfield playground. Most other budget items are the same or less for water. He discussed curb stop maintenance problems. Some more discussion regarding raising fees for sewer and garbage service in the near future. Solid waste costs are up for replacement dumpsters and repairs to the truck. CIP monies available for new truck should cover all expenses without needing a loan. Initial cost estimates are down for chassis and box. He is still looking for maintenance worker. No applicants so far. Street budgets are not changing much. Park expenses continue to climb, ballfield needs its own worker to maintain grass. No fees being charged for use at this time. Swimming pool continues to be a big expense.

Police Chief Cory Smith summarized his budget projections, asking for 4% wage increase and noting that the budget is allowing for a 6th officer to be hired still. He is looking into MPORS retirement system for police officers, changing from MPERA. This is still in the discussion stage, but would be included in the budget. Discussion turned to Officer Creech and his use of a patrol car. Council asked Chief Smith for a proposal to include this topic for council approval.



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Discussion was held regarding the animal pound and fees not being assessed as well as the need for new patrol cars.

Jodi Rogers went over the general fund expenses and budget for FY24-25. Northwestern Energy is looking at a possible 15% increase which would impact our utility budget. Fire Pension is asking for the same amount as last year. Discussion was held regarding insurance costs and increasing the budget to account for possible rate increase next year. More detailed items can be addressed and changed before next meeting.

Discussion about office staff, change job description for FO into finance clerk and city clerk. Admin/payroll clerk be full time. Having 2 positions be part time will save payroll as well as by hiring Jodi as a contracted finance clerk. More discussion needed at future meetings.

- Motion by Alderman Schoenrock, Second by Alderman Breeding, to close the meeting at 9:05 pm
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

2. Other Business: none

3. Adjournment

- Motion by Alderman Breeding, Second by Alderman Doty, to adjourn meeting at 9:05 PM
 - Motion Carried Unanimously

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Mayor Cates

Attest:

A blue ink handwritten signature, likely of Amber Schoenrock, written over a horizontal line.

Council President, Amber Schoenrock

