



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 4-21-2025
April 21, 2025 6:30 PM
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

The City Council meetings are open to the public attending in person, with masks encouraged when social distancing cannot be accomplished. If the public does not wish to participate in person, they are also invited to participate via a Zoom meeting. You can participate via phone:

Meeting ID: 713 080 5898 Passcode: 4332809 Call: 1-346-248-7799

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Sidney City Council was called to order by Mayor Norby at 6:30pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.

3. Aldermen Present

Christensen, Godfrey, Larsen, Koffler, Rasmussen and DiFonzo.

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes- 4-7-2025

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

5. Visitors

Corey Wieland, Jody Wells (Roundup), Ryleigh Kleinke, Kyle Humphries, Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering). Via Zoom: Deputy Clerk/Treasurer BreeAnn Shanks, James Falcon (Sidney Herald) and John Heine (Morrison Maierle).

a. Scotty Strugis- Baseball Camp May 10th, 2025, in Moose Park

Mr. Sturgis came before the City Council on behalf of Richland County Baseball for permission to hold a fundamental baseball camp on May 10th in Moose Park for ages 4-13+ that will be free.

There will also be a movie that is going to be voted on by the public but it will be a baseball themed movie. There also be concessions for the movie. PWD Hintz stated he is fine with this.

Alderwoman Rasmussen asked if there are rules for showing a movie in a public place and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated we have never asked for proof of movie license for showing a movie in a park.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

b. David Seitz- Seitz Insurance Workers Comp Policy

Mr. Seitz and Mrs. Skinner with Seitz Insurance came before the City Council to request the City allow solicitation to quote for workers comp insurance for a program under Seitz Insurance via the Montana State Fund. He stated they quoted this program in 2020 when it was a new product in marketplace and at that time the pricing difference in programs would have been a savings to the City of \$35,000 plus a dividend program. He stated since then they have created a program with MACO and now insure 39 counties, and that program had a 4% decrease approved for program because of its solvency.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin asked that this be sent to the Budget and Finance Committee as she has gotten all of the rate changes from MMIA to discuss also and compare their rates to the quote of Seitz Insurance.

Motion was made to send to Budget and Finance.

Mr. Seitz asked that in the meantime the City needs to reach out to MMIA to let them know we have requested a quote as there is language in the by-laws about terming with their program, and to find out if there is a penalty to leave the trust.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen

c. Larry Christensen- Sportsman Club

Larry Christensen came before the City Council for approval of the car show at Moose Park on July 12th, 2025 from 8am to 4pm. He stated they have checked with baseball and they have nothing in the park that day. PWD Hintz stated they has no problem with this and there has never been any issues with this program that they do yearly.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

6. Public Hearing

- a. Amended Plat-Homestead Subdivision Phase 2 (tabled at 3-17-25 meeting) (Tabled until the 4-21-2025 Meeting)

City Planner Sanderson stated they are still working on this application and will be having a meeting tomorrow to finalize and therefore need to have this re-tabled until the May 5th City Council meeting. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin asked if the public hearing needs to be re-noticed since this has been tabled for 3 meetings and Mr. Sanderson stated we do not as long as it is tabled date specific.

Motion was made to re-table until the May 5th, 2025 City Council meeting.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

7. Mayor Norby

Mayor Norby reminded everyone that the filling is open for the November municipal election and will remain open until June 17th, 2025.

8. Committee Meeting Work

Nothing.

9. Alderman Requests and Committee Reports

Budget and Finance – Chairman Christensen – DiFonzo, Koffler. Police and Fire– Chairman DiFonzo – Rasmussen, Larson. Parks and Recreation – Chairman Christensen – Larson, Rasmussen. Water and Sewer – Chairman Godfrey – Christensen, DiFonzo. Street and Alley – Chairman Rasmussen – DiFonzo, Koffler. Sanitation– Chairman Larson – Koffler, Godfrey. City Buildings & Street Lighting – Chairman Koffler – Godfrey, Christensen

Nothing.

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

- a. Cory Wieland- Variance Meeting

PWD Hintz stated the zoning board met and have recommended approval of the height variance of Corey Weiland for an accessory building that will be a garage and personal recreation center for his kids to practice sports.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.
Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

b. Growth Policy Kick-off Coordination

Mrs. Laqua, the Richland County Contract Planner with Interstate Engineering, presented a slide show on the plan for the growth policy. She stated that they do need one community member to represent the City of Sidney to sit on the Steering Committee and to have City Planner Sanderson be represented as an ex-officio or non-voting member. They will meet every 6 weeks, likely during the day, for a couple hours and they would also help with soliciting community feedback.

Motion was made to approve City Planner Sanderson representing the City of Sidney as an ex-officio member of the Growth Policy Steering Committee.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.
Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

Motion was made to approve Cami Skinner to represent the City of Sidney on the Steering Committee.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.
Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

She further stated they are simultaneously doing a zoning feasibility study for the County and she will be putting together a map of conflict points for county zoning versus the municipality zones.

12. City Planner

a. Homestead Subdivision Phase 2 Amended Plat

Tabled.

13. City Attorney

a. Tax Exempt Bond Reimbursement Resolution

Mayor Norby read Resolution 3946 out loud. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this at the request of our bond council for the Water Tower Replacement Project and is due to the fact that the timeline for closing of the new bond could create a situation where the City has to pay invoices and submit for reimbursement once the loan is active.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 3946.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.
Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

b. Contract for B&B Builders for Facilities and Grounds Maintenance

PWD Hintz stated B&B Builders has requested some changes and they are

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

c. Second Reading of Ordinance 601- Amending Snow Removal Code

Mayor Norby read Ordinance 601 out loud for the second reading.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

d. Second Reading of Ordinance 603- Amending Zoning Code

Mayor Norby read Ordinance 601 out loud for the second reading.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

14. Chief of Police

Nothing.

15. Public Works Director

PWD Hintz stated they submitted the TA Grant Application on April 9th for the 22nd Avenue Bike Path Extension Project up to Sunflower Lane. City Planner Sanderson stated there are 12 communities for \$8,000,000 in funding available, and the odds looking good. PWD Hintz stated we should hear this fall with construction in 2027 likely.

PWD Hintz stated a garbage truck has been broke down since November and the service has been frustrating with dealer and manufacturer. He stated we are wasting away the one year warranty and may be working with City Attorney Kalil pertaining to this.

Alderman DiFonzo stated the sidewalk on the south side of the park off 5th St SE is in dire need of replacing and is a safety hazard. PWD Hintz stated he will put it in his budget to replace and will get it done this fall.

a. March 2025 Compliance Officer Report

PWD Hintz presented the March 2025 Compliance Officer report.

b. Morrison Maierle- Meadows Village Storm Water Project

Mr. Heine presented a power point on the Meadow Villages Water Project BRIC Grant update which has been canceled for future and pending projects. He stated that our project is fully obligated, and they feel there is a very low chance since two reimbursement requests have been submitted that they will pull our grant. He stated by June 2027 all construction will need to be completed, which should be no issue. He stated that there was a law suit that challenged the reimbursement request manual review and they are no longer doing this, they will be reviewed at the State level and should not take as long as originally feared.

Mr. Heine stated the next steps would include deciding which schedule option, within the Period of Performance and being completed by June 2027. Mr. Heine provided two options, one having the project being completed as soon as possible with going to bid in May 2025 and schedule 2 would have the City/County's portion of the work being done first and not going to official bid until Fall of 2025. He stated DES is recommending permitting is started as soon as possible to continue to show progress on the project for the grant.

Alderman DiFonzo asked Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin her thoughts on moving forward and she replied that with FEMA and DES clarifying the grant is still active and the reimbursements not going to be lagged as long as they feared, she feels comfortable with the finances for moving forward with the project.

Motion was made to approve schedule option 1 as provided by Morrison Maierle.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. March 2025 Fire Department Run Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the March 2025 Fire Run Report on behalf of FM/BI Rasmussen.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. Quarter 1 (January through March 2025) Water & Sewer Bank Transfer

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the 2025 Quarter 1 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$625,161.68, transferring from Water/Sewer bank account.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

b. March 2025 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the March 2025 JV Report.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

c. March 2025 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the March 2025 Treasurer's Report.

d. FY23-24 Audit Planning and Governance Letter and Auditor Bob Denning Retiring

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the FY23-24 Governance Letter for the Council's information. She stated that Bob Denning is retiring and Denning, Downey and Associates will be taken over by Jonathan Mahrt. She stated they will be still be completing the FY23-24 audit per our contract that is with Denning, Downey and Associates.

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

a. Claims to be approved: \$6,017.97 + \$148,468.93 = \$154,486.90

#43795 CARDMEMBER SERVICE \$ 6,017.97

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2025-057 and RC2025-20 & RC2025-24 & RC2025-25 & RC2025-26

19. Adjournment

at 7:27pm.