



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting
August 05, 2024 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**

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.

3. **Aldermen Present**

Christensen, Godfrey, Stevenson, Koffler, Rasmussen and DiFonzo

4. **Correction or Approval of Minutes**

a. **July 15th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

b. **July 23rd, 2024 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

c. July 23rd, 2024 Water and Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

d. July 24th, 2024 Street and Alley Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

e. July 24th, 2024 Sanitation Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

5. Visitors

a. 406 Freedom-Indoor Shooting Range at 725 W Holly

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated they requested to be removed from the agenda after it was posted.

b. Other Visitors:

Jake Holley (via zoom), Jody Wells (Round-up)

Randy Iversen-Mr. Iversen came before the City Council to discuss the pickleball court improvements. He stated the pickleball and tennis players are requesting the city put money forward to get the plans drawn up and a cost estimate done. He stated once that is done, they can pursue fundraising and hopefully see it constructed next spring. He stated the courts are being used a lot by both tennis and pickleball players. PWD Hintz stated Interstate Engineering gave a rough drawing and estimate based on their previous similar projects. Mr. Iversen stated during that process they can look into lighting and restrooms since it is a multi-use space with skate park and other park. Alderman DiFonzo asked if the City would have to go to bid and PWD Hintz stated it would depend on the cost, less than \$25,000 it should not for preliminary studies. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this could be added to Budget and Finance Committee meeting as part of the preliminary budget review as there is transfers into the CIP fund for this

project anticipated, but there was a \$76,000 transfer last fiscal year into the CIP and that money could be used for engineering.

Motion was made to approve moving forward with getting cost estimates and preliminary plans for the tennis court/pickleball court improvements.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Update:

Mayor Norby stated he hopes everyone enjoyed the Richland County Fair.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Budget and Finance Committee: Oil and Gas Donations

Alderwoman Christensen stated the Budget and Finance Committee met and reviewed the preliminary budget for the general fund and the oil and gas fund. She stated they did recommend lowering the donation to Richland Economic Development from \$5,000 to \$2,500 and adding the Chamber of Commerce donation of \$2,500.

Motion was made to approve the donations out of the oil and gas fund.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Christensen

Voting Abstaining: Alderwoman Godfrey

b. Water and Sewer Committee: Water and Water Impact Free Preliminary Budget

Alderman Koffler stated the Water and Sewer Committee met and reviewed the preliminary budget for the water and water impact fee and are recommending approval of the preliminary budget.

c. Water and Sewer Committee: Sewer and Sewer Impact Free Preliminary Budget

Alderman Koffler stated the Water and Sewer Committee met and reviewed the preliminary budget for the sewer and sewer impact fee and are recommending approval of the preliminary budget.

d. Street and Alley Committee: Streets Preliminary Budgets and Rate Increase

Alderman Christensen stated the Street and Alley Committee met and reviewed the preliminary budget for the streets budget and are recommending approval of the preliminary budget except fund 4030 and the rate increase.

e. Street and Alley Committee: Sweeping Preliminary Budget

Alderman Christensen stated the Street and Alley Committee met and reviewed the preliminary budget for the sweeping budget and are recommending approval of the preliminary budget.

f. Street and Alley Committee: Street Lighting Preliminary Budget

Alderman Christensen stated the Street and Alley Committee met and reviewed the preliminary budget for the street lighting budget and are recommending approval of the preliminary budget.

g. Sanitation Committee: Solid Waste Preliminary Budget and Rate Increase

Alderman Rasmussen stated the Sanitation Committee met and reviewed the preliminary budget for the solid waste budget and are recommending approval of the preliminary budget and the rate increase.

h. Call for Budget and Finance Committee-FY24-25 Budget

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin called for a Budget and Finance Committee for final review of the FY24-25 Preliminary Budget.

The Budget and Finance Committee was scheduled for August 12th, 2024 at 5:30pm.

9. Alderman Requests and Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation – Chairman DiFonzo – Christensen, Stevenson | **Water and Sewer** – Chairman Koffler – Godfrey, Christensen

Street and Alley – Chairman Christensen– DiFonzo, Rasmussen | **Sanitation** – Chairman Rasmussen – Koffler, Stevenson

City Buildings & Street Lighting – Chairman Stevenson– Koffler, Godfrey | **Police and Fire** – Chairman Godfrey, DiFonzo, Rasmussen

Budget and Finance – Chairman Christensen – DiFonzo, Koffler

Nothing.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

Nothing.

12. City Planner

Nothing.

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

City Attorney Kalil stated the prosecution is going well and he is enjoying it so far.

14. Chief of Police

a. Confirmation of Jeffrey Kuylen

Chief Kraft asked for the Confirmation of Jeffrey Kuylen who has completed the academy and his first year of service with the Sidney Police Department.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

b. Update:

Mayor Norby asked if everything went smoothly for the Richland County Fair and Chief Kraft stated it did.

15. Public Works Director

a. Interstate Engineering Red River Drive Drainage Report

PWD Hintz stated the report for the Red River Drive Drainage pertaining to the area around Sidney Mill Work. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she can add that to the Budget and Finance Committee meeting to review and it was the general consensus of the City Council to do so.

b. American Tower Lease

PWD Hintz presented a lease proposal from American Tower who is our current lease holder. The proposal is for a one-time sign-on bonus of \$10,000 with a \$1,000/month payment that will have a 2% annual escalation. City Attorney Kalil stated the current agreement is for \$1,200 per month with a 10% escalation every 10-years. He stated we currently have a lease with automatic renewals, so we do not have to renew. He stated they request this every year and when he did the math last year it showed we would lose money on the deal, plus being a permanent easement

could prove problematic. He stated he will get the current lease to the Budget and Finance Committee meeting to review.

c. Interstate Engineering Short Form Agreement-Veteran's Park Irrigation System

PWD Hintz presented a short form agreement for Interstate Engineering for the Veteran's Park Irrigation System. He stated the engineer who originally drew up the project plans now works for Interstate Engineering and the agreement is for \$15,500. He stated the plan needs to be updated so the project can be completed, and this is budgeted for in the FY24-25 budget. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there is \$75,000 available in the Parks CIP earmarked for this project prior to any transfers in FY24-25 budget.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

d. Update:

PWD Hintz stated there was supposed to be tennis association people attending the meeting tonight to complain about the condition of the current court beyond the pickleball improvements. He stated Wednesday they will be paving Lincoln Avenue, one lane will be closed during this process. He stated the other paving projects have been very successful this summer and he is proud for the City Crew.

PWD Hintz stated the TA application will be open December and closes in January, which would be the grant we would pursue for the 22nd sidewalk project and he is going to see if City Planner Sanderson will assist in the grant writing.

PWD Hintz stated the lagoon is having blower issues. He stated there are four blower that all need replaced that will cost \$6-7,000 each. He stated they are approximately 9-years old and it is normal to have to replace them but for all four to go at once is highly unusual. He stated he will continue talking to rep about.

Alderman DiFonzo asked why the painting in front of the Boys and Girls Club has not been done and PWD Hintz stated they have had issues with the paint with our sprayer this year. He stated we just bought new paint from a different supplier and will hopefully work and this parking paint is on the list.

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

Nothing.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. FY2024-2025 Taxable Valuation

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she received the 2024 taxable valuation today, which means the City has 30 days to pass the FY24-25 budget. She stated the taxable valuation this year was \$10,820,869 which is down from last years \$10,884,827. She stated the number of allowed mills increased from 164.81 last year to 171.47 this year.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated once the Budget and Finance Committee meets and reviews the preliminary budget, it will be available for public view. The preliminary budget will officially be approved at the August 19th, 2024 regular City Council Meeting, which is also when she will give her budget presentation. The public hearing and the passage of the budget resolutions and final budget will be at the September 3rd, 2024 regular City Council Meeting, which is on a Tuesday due to Labor Day.

b. Update:

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she, Council President Christensen and Mayor Norby attended the webinar for the Local Government Review and she has also presented to the Lions Club and will be presenting to the Kiwanis Club prior to the August 12th filling due date, hoping to gain interest in the review board.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated they will be starting on the fiscal year 2023-24 closing, which will cause a delay in the monthly reports.

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

a. Claims to be approved: \$269,116.92

b. Building Permits to be approved: RC2025-01, RC2025-02 and RC2025-04; 2024-085, 2025-003, 2025-004, 2025-010

19. Adjournment

at 7:03pm.