



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 9-18-23
September 18, 2023 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.

3. Aldermen Present

Christensen, Godfrey, Stevenson, Koffler, Rasmussen (via phone) and DiFonzo

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. September 5th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

5. Visitors

Visitors: Jackie Gonzalez, Hayden Wildmen

a. Richland Economic Development Update

Mrs. Leslie Messer and Mr. Gary Schoepp gave the Sidney City Council an update on Richland Economic Development. Mrs. Messer stated last fall they worked with the Les Schwab developer on contacts for the property owner for their new property and construction contacts. She stated

they also wrote letters of support with the essential air award and worked with Walt McNutt on ensuring Cape Air retained their position to continue to provide services to the community. They have also been working on the open alcohol license and with the agriculture community. She stated they have been in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce for workshops within the community. Mr. Schoepp stated the Revolving Loan Fund through RED has a committee who works with local lenders for businesses who need assistance with down payments. He stated the PSC Insulation and Sidney Yellowstone Merc project have been awarded this year. He stated they have had other applicants that did not pursue the funds further. Alderwoman Godfrey asked if there are any considerations to upping the amount an applicant can ask for and Mr. Schoepp stated right now it is \$100,000 out of the \$1,000,000 gifted to the program from Richland County. He stated there is approximately \$730,000 available and depending on the applicant they could increase the award amount.

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Special Meeting September 25th, 2023 at 6:30pm-Award Bid for the City Hall Remodel

Mayor Norby announced the Special Meeting scheduled for the following Monday.

8. Committee Meeting Work

Nothing.

9. Alderman Requests and Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation – Chairman Difonzo – Godfrey, Christensen | **Water and Sewer** – Chairman Koffler – Godfrey, Rasmussen

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

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

Budget and Finance – Chairman Christensen – Rasmussen, Godfrey

Alderwoman Godfrey stated the 5K run for the Fall Fest the Chamber received approval for at the September 5th, 2023 Council Meeting will no longer include the alcohol stops and wanted to update the Council.

Alderman DiFonzo asked about the nuisance property on 7th Avenue SW that was brought to the Nuisance Committee's attention. PWD Hintz stated he could get an update from City Attorney Kalil and Alderman DiFonzo he feels the agreements in place are not being upheld and it has not taken care of. Alderwoman Godfrey asked if they are reoccurring issues is there is ramifications and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the same process follows each time, but the process is

streamlined enough to make quick action. Alderman DiFonzo asked for an update at the next council meeting.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

Nothing.

12. City Planner

a. Richland Pump Boundary Line Relocation

PWD Hintz presented the Richland Pump Boundary Line Relocation. He stated it is the same property owner on both sides of the relocation and it is to accommodate a new shop/building.

Motion was made to approve with conditions outlined in the staff report of City Planner Sanderson.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

13. City Attorney

a. Resolution 3910-Cancelling the General Election for Municipal Officers 2023

Mayor Norby read Resolution 3910, canceling the General Election for Municipal Officers on November 7th, 2023, out loud. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated with no one filling or writing in to run against the 3 incumbents, the City is legally allowed to cancel the general election, which will save the City upwards of \$10,000.

Motion made by Alderman Stevenson, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

14. Chief of Police

Chief Kraft stated the August 2023 report will be on the next Council meeting agenda, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin apologized for not having it on this agenda. He stated one of the veteran officers gave their resignation with their last day having been September 10th. He stated they did test and interviews with only one progressing. He stated there is one other applicant that has already been through the academy, but with nothing finalized for both applicants. He stated this leaves the department very short staffed. Alderman DiFonzo asked what test they have not

been able to pass and Chief Kraft stated it is the standard test and a short-written test that the department has used for a while.

Alderman DiFonzo asked for an update on the meetings Chief Kraft has attended. He stated he was in training in Helena last week. Mayor Norby thanked Chief Kraft for the involvement and training he has been doing and the representing the City of Sidney. Alderman DiFonzo stated he is concerned with staffing and continuing training and/or people being out of town.

Alderwoman Rasmussen stated she has been asked to inquire about the clown on the walking path and Chief Kraft stated there has been nothing reported to the Police Department. She stated she was told there was 3 reports filed and would check with those who stated they had reported it.

15. Public Works Director

a. August 2023 Public Works Report

PWD Hintz provided the August 2023 Public Works Report. He stated the phase 3 project is almost complete, with punch list items being done. He stated they are still working on paving, with a truck shortage they have not been able to do Yellowstone Court and they will be doing sewer line replacements.

b. 200,000 Gallon Tank Relining Pay Application 1 for \$57,458.00

PWD Hintz provided the first pay application for the 200,000-gallon tank relining. He stated this project is being paid for out of the City's budget. He stated they have been sand blasting the last 2 weeks and hopefully start the spray on lining for the tank next week.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

Nothing.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. August 2023 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the August 2023 Treasurer's Report. She stated the August 2023 Water/Sewer bank transfer will be at the next council meeting for approval. She stated the FYE Closing and Audit documents have been sent off to the auditor and property tax information will be sent to the County this week. She stated they are trying to get all big items done before the move out of City Hall.

b. August 2023 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the August 2023 JV Report for approval.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$231,635,.40

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2024-24, 2024-25 and 2024-27 and RC2024-8 to RC2024-9

19. Adjournment

at 6:56 pm.