



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting
March 04, 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. February 20th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

b. February 26th, 2024 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

5. **Visitors**

a. **Other Visitors:**

James Falcon (Sidney Herald), Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering), James Brower (LYIP), Maci Nelson (Sidney Public Schools), Jody Wells (Round-Up)

6. **Public Hearing**

Nothing.

7. **Mayor Norby**

a. **Update:**

Mayor Norby stated he attended the MLCT/MMIA Executive Forum that was hosted in Sidney. He stated it went very well and thanked Alderwoman Christensen for speaking on the panel, Alderwoman Godfrey for her assistance on the Economic Tour and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin for her work in planning. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there was 42 Mayors from across the state and 15 MLCT/MMIA staff who attended.

8. **Committee Meeting Work**

PWD Hintz asked for a Park and Recreation Committee meeting to discuss the request of Richland County Baseball for Moose Park, specifically they would like to lease the park, change the locks at the facilities and have the park locked when not in use.

A Park and Recreation Committee meeting will be scheduled and Alderwoman Godfrey will replace Alderwoman Christensen for the committee meeting.

a. **Budget and Finance Committee: SCHR RFP's 4, 11, 12, 13 and 14-Increase project \$15,361.00**

Alderwoman Christensen stated the Budget and Finance Committee met and reviewed the proposed RFP's 4 and 11-14, increasing the project by \$15,361 and have recommended approval.

Motion was made to approve the Sidney City Hall Remodel RFP's 4, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. **Budget and Finance Committee: Cost Estimates for Expanding Sidney City Hall Project**

Alderwoman Christensen stated the Budget and Finance Committee met and reviewed some proposals to expand the city hall remodel project using the excess funds. She stated they have recommended getting cost estimates for cleaning and sealing the exterior brick, painting the exterior siding, city hall exterior signs on old fire hall/new council chambers and exterior wall facing central avenue, and bringing the stair railing to code for height and painting it. She stated

the architects will get cost estimates and report back to the City Council for final decision on which, if any, are moved forward on.

Motion was made to approve getting the cost estimates as outlined by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

Alderwoman Christensen stated the Budget and Finance Committee also reviewed a proposal from the Chamber to create a town square in the lot next to City Hall. She stated they all agreed it would be a great asset for the community but not with the remodel funding. She stated it was the general consensus to continue to look into this project with finding future funding sources or grants via the Chamber.

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

a. City/County Chip Seal Interlocal Agreement (Tabled at 2-20-24 Council Meeting)

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this item needs to remain tabled as the final contract has not been provided.

11. New Business

a. Sidney City Hall Remodel Change Order 2

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the Sidney City Hall Change Order 2 for \$15,361 which encompass the approved RFPs from this meeting.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.
Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson,
Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

12. City Planner

PWD Hintz stated Planner Sanderson has sent the revised zoning for review, he stated once staff has reviewed and discussed City Attorney Kalil will draft an ordinance and public hearings will need to be held, likely in April.

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

Nothing.

14. Chief of Police

a. Update:

Chief Kraft stated the final 2 positions will be filled next week and they are looking forward to having all positions filled.

15. Public Works Director

a. Update:

PWD Hintz stated they did snow removal on Sunday and today, hopefully with most of it being gone by the end of the week with the warm weather to come.

Alderman DiFonzo asked who is responsible for paving after a water or sewer project and PWD Hintz stated the contractor patches and the City would do any complete restorations for streets. Alderman DiFonzo stated the new portion laid on 4th Avenue by the high school is settling and causing a ridge and asked if they are supposed to lay the patch in a specific way and are the contractors responsible to coming back and fixing it. PWD Hintz stated he feels it is the City's paving on the east side of the road that matched up to the work done by the contractor is the issue and the City should have paved over it also. PWD Hintz stated there is a 1-year warranty for the contractors to come back to fix issues such as this. Alderman DiFonzo asked if we do call the contractors back if the patching does not meet specs and Mayor Norby stated we do but that area did meet specs at the time and PWD Hintz stated it looked good after the 1-year warranty was up. Mr. Mayer stated the warranty can be extended to more years, but that does come at additional costs but typically it is a 1-year warranty.

b. Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project-Easement for \$1,000 on Sondeno Property

PWD Hintz stated all the storm drains for the north east part of town, such as the meadows, drains under the LYIP canal and LYIP is requesting the City get an easement on the Sondeno property.

Mr. Brower stated the flooding issues and not being able to put a new pipe into the canal or pump more water into the canal has caused issues for solving the drainage. He stated to help with this flooding issue, the easement is necessary combined with the other improvements made in the Meadows subdivisions. He stated the ditch will large and Sondeno has agreed for this large easement for \$1,000. He stated if the City pays the \$1,000 for the easement and LYIP will do the dig work.

Mayor Norby stated he feels this will be a big improvement for a small amount of money.

Motion was made to approve.

Alderwoman Rasmussen asked how this would affect the storm water improvement project and PWD Hintz stated it will give that water a place to go. Mayor Norby stated this will improve the project and Mr. Brower stated this easement will be key to making those storm water projects work.

Motion made by Alderman Stevenson, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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. Update:

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated Auditor Bob with Denning, Downey and Associates will be on sight tomorrow, March 5th, to complete the FY22-23 audit. She stated he may want to do an exit conference prior to leaving, but she is not sure at this point. She stated usually 1 or 2 members of the Budget and Finance Committee attend the exit conference, which can be done over the phone also.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there has been big changes made with the remodel project, including lighting in most of the office spaces, trim work, office doors and cupboards. She stated she will give a tour after the close of the meeting for anyone who would like to see the progress.

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permit.

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: \$197,952.60

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2024-055

19. Adjournment

at 6:57pm.