



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 8-18-25
August 18, 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

City Council President Christensen called the regular meeting of the 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, Buxbaum, Larson, Koffler, Rasmussen, and DiFonzo.

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. August 4th, 2025 Park and Rec Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

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

b. August 4th, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

c. August 7th, 2025 Budget and Finance 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, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

5. Visitors

Joe Kauffman, Sidney High School students: Madisen Kapp, Amara Iversen, Morgan Kindopp, Brooklyn Wunder, Parker Wunder, Leah Mossmayer, Jordan Johnson, Morgan Reid, Brady Collins, and Nicolas Farrow.

Via Zoom: Jessica Chamberlin, City Clerk Treasurer; Thomas Kalil, City Attorney; and Forrest Sanderson, City Planner.

6. Public Hearing

a. Announcing: Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Public Hearing Tuesday September 2nd, 2025

Alderwoman Christensen announced the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Public Hearing is Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 6:30pm during the regular scheduled City Council meeting.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Update:

Alderwoman Christensen announced that Mayor Norby is currently on medical leave and we all wish him a speedy recovery and healing support.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Water and Sewer Committee Meeting-North Park Elevated Water Tank Project-Bid Award Recommendation for Schedule 2 (tabled 8-4-25 until 8-18-25)

Motion was made to untable the North Park Elevated Water Tank Project-Bid Award Recommendation for Schedule 2 (tabled 8-4-25).

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

Alderwoman Buxbaum presented further evidence provided by Interstate Engineering pertaining to the due diligence for the bid award of the project.

Motion was made to approve the North Park Elevated Water Tank Project-Bid Award Recommendation for Schedule 2 to Maguire Iron.

Motion made by Alderwoman Larson, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. Park and Recreation Committee: Johnson Park Parking Lot

Alderwoman Christensen is requesting more time for research regarding the Johnson Park Parking lot. Alderman DiFonzo asked if Interstate Engineering could have a preliminary plan drafted. PWD Hintz stated that yes, Interstate could draft a preliminary plan.

c. Budget and Finance Committee: FY25-26 Preliminary Budget

Alderwoman Christensen stated that the Budget and Finance Committee met and reviewed the FY25-26 Preliminary Budget, which is on file at City Hall and available on the City website for public review. The Committee is recommending approval of the preliminary budget.

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 Buxbaum – Christensen, DiFonzo. Street and Alley – Chairman Rasmussen – DiFonzo, Koffler. Sanitation– Chairman Larson – Koffler, Buxbaum. City Buildings & Street Lighting – Chairman Koffler – Buxbaum, Christensen

Alderman DiFonzo was pleased with the placement of the podium in the council chambers for the meeting although the podium was not used this evening.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. November 2025 Election Update

Alderwoman Christensen stated that the November 2025 Election Resolution number 3964 was not posted on the agenda for tonight's meeting in error, it will be added to the September 2nd city council meeting agenda. Resolution 3964 will be canceling the election for the Mayor, Ward 2 and Ward 3 positions that have no opposition. There will still be an election for the Ward 1 positions in November, which will be a mail ballot election.

b. American Tower Lease

PWD Hintz presented the American Tower lease agreement letter with two options listed, option #1 of rent reduction and option #2 of perpetual easement. City Attorney Kalil stated that the city can agree to either of those options but can also choose to do nothing at this time, which will keep

the tower agreement terms as they currently are. At this time the council will not respond to the American Tower letter and will revisit if other terms are offered.

12. City Attorney

a. Resolution No. 3950-Preliminary Budget Approval

City Attorney Kalil presented Resolution No. 3950-Preliminary Budget Approval. A resolution is presented and approved every budget cycle.

Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 3950-Preliminary Budget Approval.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

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

13. City Planner

a. Homestead Subdivision Phase 2 Final Plat

City Planner Sanderson stated the public hearing and expedited Preliminary plat was reviewed and approved with conditions at the May 19th City Council meeting. The presented staff report states that all conditions have been met and City Planner Sanderson is recommending the City Council Adopt report #Final Plat-25-02 as their Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and that the Final Plat of the Amended Plat of Lot 2, Block 2 of Phase 1 of the Homestead Subdivision and portions of the SE1/4 located in the SE1/4 Section 29, Township 23 North, Range 59 East P.M.M., City of Sidney, Richland County, Montana, to be known as Phase 2 of the Homestead Subdivision be approved.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if approval alters the requirement of the subdivision to meet water/sewer service conditions. City Planner Sanderson stated that condition #7 finding of fact discloses that development of the lots in the subdivision may be restricted by type or location because of limitations on water/sewer availability.

Motion was made to approve Homestead Subdivision Phase 2 Final Plat.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

14. Chief of Police

a. July 2025 Police Department Report

Chief of Police Kraft presented the July 2025 Police Department Report. He stated it has been a busy couple of weeks for the department but all went well.

15. Public Works Director

a. July 2025 Public Works Report

PWD Hintz presented the July 2025 Public Works Report. He stated that solid waste volume is steadily increasing.

Alderwoman Rasmussen asked for an update on the solid waste truck that had been broke down and out of use for the past many months. PWD Hintz stated that it was repaired and back in service in July but had air conditioning issues that have also been resolved.

b. July 2025 Compliance Officer Report

PWD Hintz presented the July 2025 Compliance Officer Report. There have been 90 lawn warnings, all have been abated. There are three nuisance properties that will be on the Nuisance Committee agenda.

PWD Hintz would like to consider revising city code for possible larger fines to defer the cost of the contracted mowers and deter property owners from noncompliance.

Alderman DiFonzo stated that he has noticed a few sidewalks that are in poor condition and a tripping hazard. PWD Hintz asked for the addresses to have them possibly noticed. Alderman DiFonzo asked if the sidewalk maintenance and repair is at the city's expense or the property owner's. PWD Hintz replied that it is the property owner's responsibility.

c. NPWTRP P1 ARPA Draw #5 for \$90,976.08 including Western Municipal Pay Application 3

PWD Hintz presented the North Park Water Tower Replacement Project Phase 1: Western Municipal Pay Application and Interstate Engineering invoices covered with the ARPA Grant.

Motion was made to pay the Western Municipal Pay Application and Interstate Engineering invoices for the North Park Water Tower Replacement Project Phase 1.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. July 2025 Fire Run Report

The July 2025 Fire Run Report was included in the agenda packet.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. FY2024-25 FYE Treasurer's Report

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer presented the FY2024-25 FYE Treasurer's Report. The July and August 2025 Treasurer's Reports will be presented at the September 15th City Council meeting after the budget is approved.

b. June 2025 JV Report

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer presented the June 2025 JV report. There were coding corrections made for the fiscal year end.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

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

c. July 2025 JV Report

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer presented the July 2025 JV report.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

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

d. FY2024-25 FYE Water/Sewer Bank Transfer \$708,419.37

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer presented the FY2024-25 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer \$708,419.37, transferring from the water/sewer account into the repurchase agreement account.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permit.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$132,731.30

Intermediary Claims (\$):

b. Building Permits to be approved: RC2026-01

19. Adjournment

at 6:53pm.