



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting
May 20, 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

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, Koffler, Rasmussen and DiFonzo. Absent: Stevenson

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. May 6th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. May 13th, 2024 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

5. Visitors

Other Visitors: Jacky Gonzales, Brandon Janshen (SDI Architects), Sean Swisse (B&B Builders), Janelle Jensen, Duane Mitchell (Richland County), Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering), Bill Vander Weele (Round-Up), Mya Straight.

Mr. Janshen and Mr. Swisse came before the City Council to present a gift to City Hall as a thank you for all the work by all on the City Hall Remodel, including the owner team, and presented the City of Sidney a photograph by *Clint Whitmer*. *Clint Whitmer was born in Glendive and graduated from Wolf Point High School. He took his first photographs while in Vietnam as a Combat Medic for the Army. His photographs are displayed across Montana and the Dakotas and (according to a May 1, 2024 news article) he currently resides at the Eastern Montana Veteran's Home in Glendive!*

Mr. Janshen stated the Historic Knowlton Bridge, located a few miles north of Sidney, represents another example of people coming together to create a much needed element for your area. Like the Knowlton Bridge, Sidney's Fire Hall and City Hall have also served your greater community for many years and, with the proper re-vision, re-design, and re-construction, these spaces have been updated to continue serving your community for several years to come. The perspective view, looking down the tracks towards the end of the bridge, reminded us of what the City of Sidney, and specifically you Jessie, had to have on this project – a forward-looking mentality with a sense of trust that you will make it across and come out the other end safely. The whole thing becomes a metaphor for thoughtful planning and execution which resulted through a very successful collaboration between Owners, Designers, and Contractors.

The City Council also thanked SDI and B&B for all their work along with City staff and are very happy with the outcome.

a. Sidney Tiger Sharks-2024 State Meet July 27th-28th

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the Sidney Tiger Sharks are asking for approval to host the Swimming State Meet July 27th-28th, which includes campers in the hockey dome parking lot, tent camping in Moose Park, and the blocking of the streets. She stated they would be following the same plans as the previous year. Chief Kraft stated he has no problems and PWD Hintz agreed.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

b. 406 Freedom-Permission for Indoor Shooting Range

Crystal Straight came before the City Council on behalf of 406 Freedom for permission to have an indoor shooting range within the City limits. She stated they are currently looking at leasing or purchasing the old south Shopko building, in which they would have an indoor shooting range.

Alderwoman Rasmussen asked what improvements will need to be made to the building and Mrs. Straight stated 9-inch concrete walls, steel and sound barriers will have to be installed. City Attorney Kalil asked if they will be using the NRA standards and Mrs. Straight stated yes and they will be working with another range owner in the area to guide them in the process. Chief Kraft stated as long as they are abiding by zoning standards, he has no issues.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if there is any state regulations and City Attorney Kalil stated this is a variance to the City Code prohibiting any discharge of firearms within the City limits. Alderman DiFonzo asked what part of the building and Mrs. Straight stated the entire building and there will be a retail shop and classes. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector stated they will need a change of occupancy permit and plan review will happen to ensure they will meet all requirements. Alderman DiFonzo stated he has concerns with it being close to residential for noise and safety issues. Mrs. Straight stated they are not uncommon in residential areas as they are quite with the infrastructure required to be put in and there will also be a viewing area that will assist in being a sound barrier. Alderman Koffler stated he has been to the shooting range in Billings and you can not hear it when walking up to the building. Alderman DiFonzo asked if the neighbors would have input and Alderwoman Christensen stated that would be in the zoning process. City Attorney Kalil stated they could do a conditional approval that it meets all change of use and zoning requirements, but no public hearing is generally needed. Alderwoman Christensen glad to fill up the empty building.

Motion was made to approve with the condition that they meet all change of use and zoning regulations.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman DiFonzo

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

Mayor Norby announced he and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin will be participating in a Chamber Power Hour tomorrow morning hosted by the Sidney Chamber or Commerce, speaking with Richland County on the Local Government Review question that is currently on the ballot.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Budget and Finance Committee-TBID Grant expenditures in FY23-24

Alderwoman Christensen stated the Budget and Finance Committee met and reviewed the proposal to expend the \$10,000 TBID grant for lap lane lines, chairs and umbrellas in this fiscal

year so that the items are here for the current pool season, and they have recommended approval.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. Budget and Finance Committee-Nuisance Fund creation and transfer into from Oil and Gas Fund of \$50,000

Alderwoman Christensen stated the Budget and Finance Committee met and reviewed the request to start a Nuisance Fund in FY24-25, with a transfer of a minimum of \$50,000 being transfer into it from the Oil and Gas Fund to start the fund. She stated by approving it now separate from the budget, which will not be approved until August, those funds can start to be used in July and not have to wait to continue to clean up the nuisance properties and the Budget and Finance Committee recommended approval.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

c. Budget and Finance Committee-FY24-25 Budget/Payroll

Alderwoman Christensen stated the Budget and Finance Committee met and starting reviewing the FY24-25 payroll, which they will continue to do at the upcoming meeting.

d. Budget and Finance Committee Meeting May 22nd at 5:30pm-FY24-25 Budget

Alderwoman Christensen announced the Budget and Finance Committee will be meeting on Wednesday May 22nd, 2024 at 5:30pm to continue to review the FY24-25 payroll.

e. Call for Park and Recreation Committee Meeting-Sidney Tiger Sharks Bulkhead

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin asked for a Park and Recreation Committee meeting be scheduled to review the proposal of the Sidney Tiger Sharks and Interstate Engineering pertaining to their existing bulkhead. PWD Hintz asked that pickleball be also added to this agenda.

The Park and Recreation Committee meeting was scheduled for May 28th, 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

Alderwoman Godfrey stated she had a request of local business on west main for the City to paint stripes on side of road for parking, as people have been being inconsiderate with the limited parking. PWD Hintz stated they have ordered paint and will be painting soon and will look into this. Alderman DiFonzo asked what specifically they are requesting, and Alderwoman Godfrey stated for the spaces clearly identified.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. Waive Building Permit #2024-058 Fee for \$916.31-Richland County Nutter Building

Commissioner Mitchel stated Richland County is requesting the waiving of the building permit for the Nutter building remodel. This permit fee will be \$916.31.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

b. FY24-25 Fire Department Worker's Compensation Presumptive Coverage

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the FY24-25 Fire Department Worker's Compensation Presumptive Coverage quote for this year is \$113.50/firefighter, which is up from the \$108 last year. She stated there is currently 25 volunteer firefighters, so the total cost for FY24-25 would be \$2,837.50.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

12. City Planner

Nothing.

13. City Attorney

City Attorney Kalil stated he appreciates the creation of the Nuisance Fund to get properties taken care of next fiscal year.

a. Ordinance 599-Adopting Zoning Code 2024 (2nd Reading)

City Attorney Kalil read Ordinance 599, adopting the updated zoning code, 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 Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

14. Chief of Police

a. April 2024 Police Department Report

Chief Kraft provided the April 2024 Police Department Report. He informed the City Council that Officer Jonathan Ryal has returned to the department, starting the previous week.

15. Public Works Director

a. April 2024 Public Works Report

PWD Hintz provided the April 2024 Public Works Department Report. PWD Hintz stated the pool is being filled, they will be doing the 6th Street SW streets improvements, the parks are getting ready for Memorial Day and softball field playground equipment is installed. Alderman DiFonzo asked if the net was going to be installed above the equipment and PWD Hintz stated some are saying no net is needed. Alderman DiFonzo stated it was part of the requirements and Alderwoman Christensen agreed, PWD Hintz stated he will get it installed.

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. April 2024 Fire Run Report

Fire Marshal/Building Inspector Rasmussen provided the April 2024 Fire Run Report. He stated the Firemans Breakfast was the previous Sunday and it went very well.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. April 2024 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the April 2024 Treasurer's Report.

b. April 2024 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the April 2024 JV Report.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

c. April 2024 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$143,784.02

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the April 2024 Water/Sewer Transfer of \$143,784.02.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$63,038.44

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2024-68, 69, 71 and 73; RC2024-23 to 25

19. Adjournment

at 7:01 pm.