



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 6-5-2023
June 05, 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

The regular meeting of the Sidney City Council was called 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, DiFonzo. Absent: Rasmussen

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes 5-15-23

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. City Buildings and Street Lighting Committee Meeting Minutes 5-17-23

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

c. Park and Recreation Committee Meeting 5-22-23 Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

5. Visitors

a. Girls Scouts-Johnson Park Picnic Structure

Did not attend.

b. Joseph Ruiz-BP 2021-039: Issued on 9-28-20 (expired 9-28-21) for garage, work not completed. Original BP Fee was \$307.25, new BP Fee for work remaining would be \$252.00, requesting the City Council waive the \$252.00 BP Fee.

Mr. Ruiz came before the City Council to ask for the renewal of his building permit. He stated he had to have surgery and was not aware he had to have his permit renewed if the work was not completed.

Motion was made to approve waiving the \$252.00 renewal fee.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

Alderman DiFonzo asked if any of these types of waives go to Committee before City Council.

c. Other Visitors

Greg Hitchcock-Sidney Herald

Jordan Mayer-Interstate Engineering

KaCee McPherson-Sidney Assembly of God Church: Ms. McPherson came before the City Council to ask for permission to have the street blocked in front of the Assembly of God Church for a block party. She stated they plan to have it June 14th and again in July but because they do not have a date set she will come before the City Council for approval of the July block party.

Motion was made to add blocking the street in front of the Assembly of God Church on June 14th to the agenda by Alderman DiFonzo and seconded by Alderman Koffler. All present voted aye.

Motion was made to approve blocking the street in front of the Assembly of God Church on June 14th.

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

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

Alderman DiFonzo asked about the house at West Main and 10th Avenue corner he had inquired on previously, can it be turned over to City Attorney Kalil. PWD Hintz stated it has been turned over to him and City Attorney Kalil stated they are moving forward with enforcement on that property.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. City Buildings and Street Lighting-Vacant Buildings

Alderman Stevenson stated the City Buildings and Street Lighting Committee have tabled the vacant buildings for City Staff to look further into creating a policy.

b. Park and Recreation Committee Meeting-Improvements to Moose Park

Alderman DiFonzo stated the Park and Rec Committee met and reviewed the request of Scot Sturgis for improvements to Moose Park for the baseball program. Improvements included adding a couple of batting cages, with locations discussed, the storage container for the batting cage equipment, locating it closer to the fence for visibility, and relocating and improving the bull pens. He stated all of the improvements are being donated including the work. He stated the Park and Rec Committee recommended approval of all with PWD Hintz making sure things are located as discussed.

Motion was made to approve.

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

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 Library, who had requested additional funding from the City of \$30,000 for additional staffing, but due to issues with the County, the position has not been filled. Kelly Resieg will be leaving within the year. She stated the Airport Board has nothing new to report.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. Verizon Internet and One Talk Phone System

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated with MidRivers no longer going to be providing phone systems in the future she and PWD Hintz met with Verizon for not only their One Talk phone system, but also their internet. She stated, per the quote for monthly billing the cost will be approximately \$490 per month, whereas the MidRivers bill average cost is between \$850 and \$900 per month. She stated not only would this switch be a monthly cost savings but the increase in capabilities are exciting. She stated with the One Talk phone system, the City will be able to have phone systems at all of their locations that they can instantly transfer people to if they call the wrong location. She stated in emergency situations, they will also be able to transfer phone calls from a location directly to Verizon cell phones. For the internet, she stated they did a study on the current internet speeds versus what they can offer and they will be able to increase the internet speed by almost double. She stated city staff are recommending approving switching from MidRivers to Verizon for phone and internet services.

Motion was made to approve. Alderman DiFonzo stated the upfront costs will be more than paid for with the cost savings in the first year. Alderwoman Christensen stated Tri-County has switched and they love the system.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

b. Planning Services Contract with Forrest Sanderson Peaks Planning LLC

Mr. Sanderson stated he is no longer with KLJ Engineering and is starting his own company for planning services. He stated his contract is approximately a 20% cost savings and the agreement was reviewed with minor changes made by City Attorney Kalil.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she contacted KLJ directly about planning services and they stated that because they do not currently have anyone to fill Mr. Sanderson's position, they are

not able to renew the City planning contract for the next fiscal year. She stated the City does not have to go through the RFQ/RFP process because the contract does not meet the required threshold, Mr. Sanderson has provided the liability insurance and city staff are recommending moving forward with Peaks Planning services.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

12. City Planner

Nothing.

13. City Attorney

a. Update

Nothing.

14. Chief of Police

a. Update

Chief Kraft stated they held interviews for the patrol officer position on Friday, interviewing four and have offered conditional offers on two. Both have accepted the conditional offer and will move into background checks.

15. Public Works Director

a. State of Montana-DOT Maintenance Agreement for Sidewalks

PWD Hintz stated the agreement is for the Les Schwab required sidewalks on the highway, anytime there is such there is a required maintenance agreement. He stated with a commercial agreement we should not have to do the maintenance, but will have an agreement with them to do the work.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

b. Phase 3 COP Pay Application #2 and ARPA Competitive Grant Draw #2 for \$226,613.20

PWD Hintz presented the Phase 3 COP Pay application and ARPA grant draw. He stated they have started on Central Avenue moving west and is going well. Mr. Mayer stated they will be paving a week in June on Lincoln and that area. He stated the one block closure of Lincoln by the pool for gravel piles is for the safety of the kids and the pool/baseball area. He stated they had been hauling the gravel from Moose Park, but instead of hauling it through that area, they felt it was safer to pile it on Lincoln.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Stevenson, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

c. Update

PWD Hintz stated the SRF conference call for the Phase 3 water is at 2pm tomorrow. The pool was open for the first time today, with the splash deck hopefully being opened by the weekend. He stated the final walk through for the Nielson-Halvorson and 4th Ave projects will be happening this week. Mr. Mayer stated both projects have 1-year warranties to make sure if there are any issues, they get fixed prior to the 1-year being up.

Alderman DiFonzo asked for a timeframe on the completion of the traffic lights and PWD Hintz stated due to missing parts, they cannot finish but hope to have it done the beginning of August.

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. April 2023 Fire Run Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated because she did not include the attachment, she will have this report on the June 19th, 2023 agenda.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. April 2023 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer \$101,682.31

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

b. City Hall Remodel-Architect meeting 6-6-23 at 10:00am

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin invited the City Council to attend the City Hall progress meeting tomorrow at 10:00am at City Hall.

c. Update

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated they will be having the FY21-22 Audit Closing Conference at 1:00pm on Thursday at City Hall. She stated Council President Christensen will be in attendance and other Councilmembers are invited to attend as long as a quorum is not created.

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, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

a. Claims to be approved: \$430,701.73

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2023-39, 2023-54, 2023-58 to 2023-64 and 2023-66, RC2023-31 and RC2023-32

19. Adjournment

at 7:05pm.