



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 4-1-2024
April 01, 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, Koffler, DiFonzo and Rasmussen (via phone). Absent: Stevenson

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. March 18th, 2024 Regular 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 Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

b. March 20th, 2024 Park and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

5. Visitors

a. Sportsman Club-Annual Car Show in Moose Park

Larry Christensen came before the City Council to ask for approval to have the Sportsman Club annual Car Show in Moose Park on July 13th. He stated he checked with the baseball schedule and there is nothing scheduled on that day.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

b. Ryan Payne-Creating a 501(c)3 for Svarre Pool Fundraising

Mr. Payne came before the City Council to ask for permission to start a 501(C)3 to fundraise for the Svarre Pool. Current fundraising would include lane lines, shade covers, chairs and other needs for the pool and its programming. He stated he would set up the non-profit, they have a board and would provide the funding when it is available to the City for use at the pool.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if they would get approval before any changes to the pool would be and Mr. Payne stated they would but current fundraising goals are already approved. Alderwoman Godfrey asked if they have to set up the non-profit or if the fundraised money could go through the City. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the City does have the pool CIP and donations have been made to the City for specific items for the pool that the City then purchased. Mr. Franklin asked if there is the tax benefit to donors if they donate to the City as there is with donating to the non-profit and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there is not.

Motion was made to approve the setting up a 501C3 to fundraise for the Svarre Pool.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

c. Pickleball Court Update/Status

Randy Iverson, Brad Franklin, Kim Byer, Roger Byer, DeeAnn Johnson, Rita Steinbeisser, Rhonda Peterson, Amy Rassier, Kasey Deschaine, Josh Deschaine.

Mr. Iverson stated they came before the City Council to get an update on the proposed changes to the Tennis Court to add pickleball courts. They were wondering where the City is in the process, if grants are available and what can they do to help.

PWD Hintz stated they have the layout and plan, the only thing standing in the way is funds. He stated architects and engineers are estimating almost a \$1,000,000 project to completely re-do the tennis court area. He stated Parks Superintendent Ridl does have a grant lined up for the sandpit area by the pool that could include 2 pickleball courts along with a fitness court. He stated the only grant funds for the tennis court would be through Fish Wildlife and Parks and they cannot apply until 2025, with construction being in 2026.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the Tennis Court CIP has approximately \$70,000 and asked if patch sealing and painting could be done to get through until the complete rehab. PWD Hintz stated yes they are looking at doing some repairs to get the courts available sooner.

Mr. Iverson stated he talked to the company that redid the Tennis Courts last time and he informed him they are in such bad shape there is no use in patching and no point in putting any money into them unless it is the complete rehab. He stated they told him it would cost approximately \$600,000 to do the base, not including fencing, netting or any other improvements and they need to get a good cost estimate to be able to fundraise. Mr. Franklin stated there is way more people in the community playing pickleball all over town, with more enthusiasm for the sport, including in the schools. He just asked to not tear out the current until they can be replaced as they are able to play on them currently.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if the pickleball players have organized committee and Mr. Iverson stated not yet but they can. Alderman DiFonzo stated it will be easier for the City to work closely with a committee and the City does have plans to continue to reserve money for that project as they are aware of the dire need of improvements for those courts.

d. Other Visitors:

James Falcon (Sidney Herald), Jacky Gonzales (SPS), phone number 406-798-3314 (via zoom),
Becky Garza

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Week of the Young Child Proclamation

Mayor Norby read the Week of the Young Child Proclamation out loud.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

b. Update:

Mayor Norby stated they are working on moving in to the office space and are looking forward to being in the new space.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Park and Recreation Committee: Moose Park

Alderman DiFonzo stated the Park and Recreation Committee met and discussed changing the locks and how to prevent vandalism and protect the investments of Richland County Baseball and now the High School Baseball program. He stated they agreed to not lock down the park but they will be looking into a security system. Pertaining to the locks they discussed a keypad entry and PWD Hintz stated after City Staff discussed they are not sure the keypad entry is the best idea, unless the codes are changed routinely. He stated new locks can be installed. Alderman DiFonzo stated they could also get more keys made and PWD Hintz stated not with the key system we have unless they go through a locksmith.

Motion was made to approve the changing of the locks on the building doors in Moose Park, working with PWD Hintz.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

Alderman DiFonzo stated fencing the infield at Moose Park in the off season was discussed and they will be working with Parks Superintendent Ridl to ensure no interference with the irrigation system. Alderwoman Rasmussen asked if a building permit would be required and Alderman DiFonzo stated it would just be a temporary fence and it is in the City Park. Alderman Koffler stated we could waive the permit fees. Alderman DiFonzo stated they would relay to them they need to reach out the FM/BI Rasmussen.

b. Park and Recreation Committee: Lyndale Park

Alderman DiFonzo stated the Park and Recreation Committee met and discussed improvements that are needed at Lyndale Park including the benches in the dug-outs and fences. He stated Mr. Rosaaen agreed to donate his time to assist with these improvements with the City purchasing the materials.

PWD Hintz stated the City has aluminum planking they will be used to make new benches with the assistance of Mr. Rosaaen. They are continuing to look into the fence issue.

c. Park and Recreation Committee: Svarre Pool Deck Furniture and Lap Swimming

Alderman DiFonzo stated the Park and Recreation Committee met and discussed the deck furniture and lap swimming at Svarre Pool. He stated there are a number of pool users that like to sit on deck and seating would be advantageous to have. He stated Pool Manager Garsjo will be looking into the cost of the deck chairs and umbrellas and possibly fundraise for them.

He stated pertaining to lap swimming they discussed adding designated lap swimming to adult swimming. He stated Pool Manager Garsjo was very against adding lap swimming and she feared it would interfere with other adult swim activities but after discussing the committee recommended doing one lane of lap swimming for the 2024 season, tracking the use, and the lap swimming ropes and storage being fundraised for. he further stated the lap swimmers will have to install the ropes and take them out during the one hour time slot.

Motion was amde to approve adding one lane of lap swimming to the adult swim.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

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. Four-Way Stop Update

PWD Hintz stated he continued to look into the 4-way stop at White Drug and the overhanging light proposed at the previous meeting. He stated that MDU will not let the City use their existing poles to suspend the light, and without using the existing poles it is not feasible to do that light. He stated they can still install the blinking stop signs starting with the north and south bound signs. He stated they will cost approximately \$1,800 a piece. Mayor Norby stated Chief Kraft suggested doing only the signs on Main Street and he would not mind seeing all 4 installed eventually. Alderman Koffler stated he was asked why they don't just get taken down and Alderman DiFonzo stated the 4-way stop was installed because there was no designated crossing for the school.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this would come out of the Street Maintenance Fund, not the street lighting, since it would be street signs. Alderman DiFonzo suggested purchasing 2 this year and the other 2 the following fiscal year.

Motion was made to approve purchasing the flashing stop signs, two in the upcoming fiscal year and the remaining two the fiscal year after.

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

11. New Business

a. Committee Meetings: Set date and time monthly

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated it has been brought to her attention that for some of the busier Committees, it might be easier to have a set meeting date and time each month. This will not only help for the Council to know when they are, but for the public also. She stated to start this process, she will need to know days and times that council members are available to have set meetings, from there she can compare and attempt to fit everyone's schedules. She asked that the Council collect this information and get it back to her, if this is what they would like to do.

b. SCHR-Liquidated Damages for contract time

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated that the City Hall project will not be complete by the original contract deadline. She stated the City Hall side is substantially complete, which is why we are actively moving into it, but the old fire hall side, which will become the breakroom and council chambers will not be completed for approximately another month. She stated there are still items on the city hall side, such as the front door, that will be completed as the supplies allow. We all feel B&B has been doing a good job and have been communicating their warranted delays to city staff and the architects. With that she asked the council for approval to waive the liquidated damages for contract run over.

Motion was made to not charge B&B Builders liquidated damages for the Sidney City Hall Remodel Project.

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

12. City Planner

a. Zoning Code Update-Zoning Board Public Hearing April 17th, City Council Public Hearing May 6th

PWD Hintz stated they met with Planner Sanderson and reviewed the changes to the zoning code update and he announced the public hearings for the zoning code updates.

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

City Attorney Kalil stated he has drafted the ordinance for the zoning code update and will be presenting it at the May 6th, 2024 public hearing. Alderwoman Godfrey asked if there was any movement with TBID and City Attorney Kalil requested

Alderman DiFonzo asked if there has been progress with the BNSF lease to purchase the building and City Attorney Kalil stated he has been able to be in contact with them and he is waiting on terms for the lease and then should be good to go.

14. Chief of Police

a. Drug Task Force MOU

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the MOU for the drug task force officer needs to be renewed for the upcoming fiscal year. She stated there was no changes from the MOU approved last fiscal year. Alderman DiFonzo requested the original MOU to compare.

Motion was made to table this until the April 15th City Council meeting.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. Update:

Captain Rosaaen stated they have two officers in field training and one at the academy who passed the MPAT, which is was required to stay.

15. Public Works Director

a. Update:

PWD Hintz stated they submitted the SLIPA grants for replacing the restroom facilities at Quilling's and Lyndale Park.

b. Impact Fee Review-Recommendation to no longer assess Street Equipment Impact Fee

PWD Hintz stated the impact fee review is moving forward and part of that has been the discussion of discontinuing the street equipment impact fee. He stated this does not generate enough funds to accomplish the initially desired outcomes of being able to purchase the expensive street equipment. He stated AE2S, the consultant, highly recommended not continuing this impact fee.

Motion was made to approve not continuing the street equipment impact fee.

In discussion Alderwoman Godfrey asked if this was going to be a deterrent to not have this fee and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this is for street equipment that is costly to replace and hard to prove an impact to purchase. PWD Hintz stated for the limited amount is very hard to use.

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

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

Nothing.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. Healthy Is Wellness BIO 2.0 Screening April 22nd

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the BIO 2.0 screening with Healthy is Wellness will take place April 22nd. She stated this is for employees, elected officials and spouses and will contain HbA1c testing, total Cholesterol, HDL, LDL and Triglycerides testing, grip strength testing, body composition (muscle mass %, visceral fat, intra- vs. extra-cellular water to check for edema and inflammation and lean mass of each limb) and results explanation and coaching. She stated she will be sending out a link to sign up for a time to everyone, as each person's testing will take approximately 30 minutes they do want appointments made.

b. SCHR RFP's:

15-Exterior Lighting \$25,057.00

16-Clean and Seal Brick \$10,184.00

18-Stair Railing \$7,012.00

19-City Hall Signs \$5,062.00

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the Sidney City Hall Remodel RFPs 15, 16, 18 and 19. She stated all these RFP's are at our request to expand the project using the excess funds available. She stated there is still a millwork reconciliation RFP that will be at max \$10,424 that is still outstanding and a small RFP to change the baseboard around the blue cupboards in the front office. She stated with these outstanding RFP's that still leaves approximately \$100,000 in excess funding that she feels should be left for improvements to the back parking lot and flooding and concrete work around City Hall.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if the gooseneck lighting enough lighting for exterior and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she believes it will be. Alderman Koffler asked if the exterior lighting will be on a timer and PWD Hintz stated it will be on a photo eye.

Motion was made to approve RFPs 15, 16, 18 and 19.

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

c. Update:

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated they will be attending Swim Team sign-ups to sell swim passes April 4th and April 9th.

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: \$97,092.43

b. Building Permits to be approved: 24-056 and 24-057

19. Adjournment

at 7:38 pm.