



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 5-19-25
May 19, 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

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

Aldermen present: Christensen, Buxbaum, Larson, Rasmussen, and DiFonzo. Aldermen absent: Koffler.

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. May 5th, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

b. May 7th, 2025 Water and Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

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

c. May 7th, 2025 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

5. Visitors

Chris Schoepp, Gary Schoepp, Karen Schoepp, Cami Skinner (Seitz Insurance), Jody Wells (Roundup), Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering)

Via Zoom: Jessica Chamberlin (City Clerk Treasurer) and David Seitz (Seitz Insurance)

6. Public Hearing

a. Public Hearing: Amended Plat-Homestead Subdivision Phase 2 (tabled at 3-17-25, 4-7-25, 4-21-25 and 5-5-25 Meetings until 5-19-25 Meeting)

Motion was made by Alderwoman Rasmussen to untable the public hearing for the Amended Plat-Homestead Subdivision Phase 2, seconded by Alderwoman Christensen. Voting Yea: Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Larson, Alderman DiFonzo.

City Planner Sanderson presented the Amended Plat- Homestead Subdivision Phase 2 report with recommendation of approval. City Planner Sanderson stated that the waiver of the city policy requiring the extension of the sewer main to the furthest extent of the subdivision on 14th Ave NW was the only sticking point needing to be addressed and voted on. The Homestead Subdivision is in compliance with all zoning, growth policy, frontage access on all lots, and access to water and sewer utilities.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if the city should consider a subdivision policy change for possible future similar situations where water and sewer utilities are not extended. City Planner Sanderson stated that the Homestead subdivision is a unique circumstance that will not set a precedence with approving. Further stating that yes, the city could have required the sewer extension, but the subdivision was two phase and was not necessary during phase one.

Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering) added that the lots were originally designed differently.

Mayor Norby called for proppants three times with none coming forward.

Mayor Norby called for opponents three times with none coming forward.

Mayor Norby closed the public hearing.

7. Mayor Norby

Nothing.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Water/Sewer Committee: Homestead Subdivision Sewer Extension

Alderman Buxbaum presented on the Homestead Subdivision sewer extension on 14th Avenue NW. A current water and sewer line map was presented on the monitors for all to see.

Alderman Buxbaum highlighted lot 2A to show that the lot is served with city water and sewer from 4th Street NW although the lot is L shaped and extends to 14th Avenue NW. Alderman Buxbaum stated should that lot ever subdivide, the developer or owner would be required to install the sewer extension on 14th Ave NW to service the northwest corner of the lot.

Motion was made to grant a variance to the requirement for the sewer extension on 14th Avenue NW.

Motion made by Alderman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderman Christensen.

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

b. Budget/Finance Committee: FY25-26 Workers Comp Coverage Carrier

Alderman DiFonzo presented the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Workers Comp Coverage Carrier quote from Seitz Insurance with the eMOD revision at \$61,777 compared to the current carrier, MMIA, with a quote of \$78,382. Seitz Insurance has sold workers comp with the Montana state fund since 1996 when it was initially offered, and their program is long standing and beneficial. State Fund uniquely offers a dividend program after 3 years of insurance coverage. The dividend program, when we become eligible, will be around 19-20%.

Motion was made to switch the city's workers comp coverage starting July 1, 2025 to Seitz Insurance and the Montana State Fund.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Christensen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Christensen

Voting Abstaining: Alderman Buxbaum, Alderman Larson

Alderman Rasmussen asked if the change of workers comp company will affect the city's health insurance, with is covered with MMIA. Clerk Treasurer Chamberlin responded that the city will continue to received health insurance with MMIA and there will be no ill affects.

Mayer Norby stated that the city is excited to have a local insurance agency and office for a great working relationship.

Alderman DiFonzo also reported on the insurance rate changes for FY 25-26 that include a decrease in liability insurance of 1%, and increase in the aggregate rate for auto physical damage of 2.26%, and increase in the aggregate for the Contractor Equipment and Real & Property Program of 1.02%, and increase for health insurance of 12.2%.

Alderman DiFonzo stated that the Budget and Finance Committee will meet at the end of May to review and discuss the payroll budget. After payroll is completed, Clerk Treasurer Chamberlin will be working closely with the Department Heads on setting 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 Godfrey – Christensen, DiFonzo. Street and Alley – Chairman Rasmussen – DiFonzo, Koffler. Sanitation– Chairman Larson – Koffler, Godfrey. City Buildings & Street Lighting – Chairman Koffler – Godfrey, Christensen

Alderwoman Rasmussen stated that she received a request for the city to consider adding a yield sign on 4th Avenue NW and West Main Street. Chief Kraft said he will look at the intersection and consider adding a yield sign.

Alderman DiFonzo thanked PWD Hintz for adding yield signs by the high school.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. Chris Schoepp Variance Request

Motion was made to approve Chris Schoepp Variance Request for a greenhouse.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

b. Seitz Insurance- Worker's Compensation Policy

Seitz Insurance provided an Insurance Proposal for Workers Comp with Montana State Fund.

12. City Planner

a. Homestead Expedited Subdivision Review

City Planner Sanderson presented on the Homestead Subdivision Expedited Review and lists ten conditions of approval.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

13. City Attorney

a. Resolution 3947-Calling for Municipal Election

Mayor Norby read Resolution #3947 Calling for a Municipal General Election

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

14. Chief of Police

a. April 2025 Police Department Report

Chief Kraft presented the April 2025 Police Department Report

15. Public Works Director

a. April 2025 Public Works Report

PWD Hintz presented the April 2025 Public Works Report.

PWD Hintz stated that June 9th work will begin on the million gallon water tank to repair a leak, this will be the third attempt at repairing it.

PWD Hintz report that the garbage truck purchased in September 2024 has been broken down since February 11, 2025 and may need to involve our City Attorney. Alderwoman Buxbaum asked if PWD Hintz has requested an extension to the warranty since it has been out of service for more than three months. PWD Hintz stated that he has an extension.

PWD Hintz reported on compliance report. All trailers and vehicles noticed have been abated. There are four nuisance properties for the committee to discuss as the committee meeting next week.

b. Water Tank Replacement Project-ARPA Draw #2 for \$11,388.50

PWD Hintz presented the North Park Elevated Water Tank Draw #2 request to pay \$19,388.50. (Not \$11,388.50)

Motion was made to approval Draw # 2 payment for \$19,388.50.

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

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. April 2025 Fire Run Report

FM/BI Rasmussen provided the April 2025 Fire Run Report.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. April 2025 JV Report

Motion was made to approve.

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

b. April 2025 Treasurer Report

Motion was made to approve.

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

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve claims and building permits.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$9,091.43 + \$59,587.75 = \$68,679.18

#43905 MDU \$ 9,091.43

b. Building Permits to be approved: RC2025-28, 2025-50, 2025-053, 2025-60, 2025-63, 2025-64, 2025-65, 2025-66, and 2025-67

19. Adjournment

at 7:06pm.