



City of Sidney, MT  
Water and Sewer Committee Meeting 6-27-23  
June 27, 2023 6:00 PM  
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

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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

**Alderman Present:** Ken Koffler, Kysa Rasmussen, Kali Godfrey

**Others Present:** Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Water Commissioner Elletson, Jordan Mayer-Interstate Engineering, Rebecca and Jeramy Thompson, Cole and Melissa Houchen, Scott Senn, Kim & Shane Usselman, Dexter & Sherry Thiel, Don & Val Franz.

**1. New Business**

**a. Anderson Subdivision Water & Sewer SID**

PWD Hintz stated Mr. Mayer has looked into this project, as the homeowners in this subdivision are wanting to do sewer, water, lighting, and curb and gutter. He stated Mr. Mayer has put together cost estimates and plans for the sewer only. Mr. Mayer stated he has been contacted by several people about the sewer in Anderson Subdivision and there is an existing sewer line on 25th, which makes it easier for making a plan for servicing these properties. He stated his plan breaks the subdivision into 6 segments, making the projects still possible if not all areas want to participate in an SID. He stated an SID must go through the City, with property owners willing to pay for the improvements, which the cost estimate for the sewer \$200-\$250/foot. He stated this is a good time to gauge interest for the city to start the SID process, which can take up to 2 years. He stated the alternative would be to treat the properties similarly as a developer, which would mean all properties would have to hire an engineer, contractor and pay for everything upfront themselves.

Mr. Houchen asked if the \$250/foot is just the front of each property cost and Mr. Mayer stated SIDs can be assessed by the frontage, by the area or a mix of both for each property to pay their fair share, but that is just an average estimate for the full cost. Mr. Mayer stated if property owners are serious about having an SID done, it needs to be established with the City to start this process. PWD Hintz stated he would like to hold an official public meeting to establish if properties want to do this before the City invests a lot of money into engineering.

Mr. Franz asked if the hookup and impact fees would apply and PWD Hintz stated the City Attorney would have to look into that, as under normal circumstances impact fees cannot be waived. Mr. Franz asked if the property owner has to pay to have the service connected and PWD Hintz stated yes the cost to put the service line from the house to the main is at the cost of the property owner.

Mr. Mayer stated getting water to these properties is more difficult than sewer connections, with a lot of improvements needed to get water to that area. Mr. Houchen asked if the City would be willing to help to keep project costs down and Mr. Mayer stated there are grants available because of the cares act, but those are for shovel ready projects. He stated some Cities do pay for the design engineering to contribute to the project out of cash, but that is not required.

Mr. Thiel asked if there is enough water to supply in the current tanks and Mr. Mayer stated they would have to look into that to be sure but he and Water Commissioner Elletson believe there would be sufficient.

Motion was made to recommend to the City Council to get rough cost estimates for the project and each property and have a public meeting to gauge property interest in the project prior to starting the engineering.

Motion made by Koffler, Seconded by Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Koffler, Rasmussen, Godfrey

#### **b. 9th Avenue Sewer Extension**

PWD Hintz stated the City was approached by residents, specifically Mr. Lake, to connect to the City Sewer. This project has been discussed in front of the City Council previously, but not pursued due to properties not showing up to the public meeting. He stated since then Agri-Industries has stated that they are willing to contribute \$25,000 to the project and more properties have shown interest.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the purpose of this being on the agenda is to have City Attorney Kalil looking into a repayment agreement and if that can be done in place of an SID since it is such a small project. She stated the repayment agreement would be they pay their property portion when they connect to the system and the City would pay for the project out of cash.

Motion was made to recommend starting engineering for this project and have City Attorney Kalil look into the repayment agreement.

Motion made by Koffler, Seconded by Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Koffler, Rasmussen, Godfrey

#### **c. Water FY23-24 Budget**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the water proposed expenditures and budget. She stated the revenue and expenditures are highly inflated because of the SRF water improvement projects

that are currently happening and will happen again next summer. She stated the anticipated revenues exceed the expenditures, and that savings will go towards future capital purchases and projects. She stated there are no planned rate increases in the water department.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the preliminary water budget.

Motion made by Godfrey, Seconded by Koffler.

Voting Yea: Koffler, Rasmussen, Godfrey

#### **d. Sewer FY23-24 Budget**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the sewer proposed expenditures and budget. She stated the anticipated revenues do not exceed the expenditures, but there is over \$500,000 in capital purchases and expenditures with only using a little over \$100,000 out of cash. She stated there are no planned rate increases in the sewer department.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the preliminary sewer budget.

Motion made by Koffler, Seconded by Godfrey.

Voting Yea: Koffler, Rasmussen, Godfrey

Adjourned 6:48pm.