



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 2-21-23
February 21, 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: 853 8914 5326 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, Stevenson, Koffler and Rasmussen, DiFonzo via phone. Absent: Godfrey

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. City Council February 6th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the February 6th, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

5. Visitors

a. Leslie Watts: Reduction of bill

Mrs. Watts and Michael Cooper came before the City Council asking for relief on their water/sewer bill due to them having a leak in their bathroom.

Alderwoman Rasmussen stated it is hard when bills get high due to leaks, but it is something that has happened even to herself and it is the bill owners responsibility to pay. She stated that she does not feel they can reduce the bill with it being the owners issue and the other Councilmembers present agreed. She stated there are programs that can assist when financial issues arise and information for that can be provided. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there is also funding through the state that can directly assist in water/sewer bills.

It was the general consensus of the City Council to not waive the bill as asked but to provide information on assistance elsewhere.

b. Other Visitors:

Jordan Mayer: Interstate Engineering, Karen Pollari, Burton Pollari, Kassadee Olson

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

Mayor Norby stated he will be going to the Executive Forum in Helena next week, participating in the conference and sitting on a panel. He stated they will be leaving February 28th and will be back March 3rd.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Schedule Park and Rec Committee Meeting-Quilling's Ice Rink

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the Swim Team has also requested to be on the Park & Rec Committee agenda, but due to PWD Hintz being out of town all of next week, it will need to be scheduled for after the next council meeting on March 6th, 2023.

b. Schedule Budget and Finance Committee: Black Mountain Software Cloud and Purchase Orders

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the Jaycee's request for a donation to the fireworks show will also be added to this agenda. The Budget and Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for February 28, 2023 at noon.

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

Nothing.

10. Unfinished Business

a. College Baseball Games at Moose Park

No update.

11. New Business

a. Updating City Council Powers and Duties (Council Committees)

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated after discussing the Committee Assignments for 2023, a rotation schedule was discussed with Mayor Norby so that all Council positions have the opportunity to sit on all committees. She stated there has been a minor change to the presented changes in the packet, which were presented to the City Council. She stated these changes were brought to her attention by Alderman DiFonzo in anticipation of the rare scenario that a Council member refuses to sit on the committee they are assigned in the rotation.

Motion was made to approve the changes to the City Council Powers and Duties.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

b. City Council Committee Rotations (starting January 1st, 2024)

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this would be the addendum A to the City Council Powers and Duties that outlines the specifics of the rotation of the committee assignments.

Motion was made to approve the City Council Committee Rotation schedule.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

12. City Planner

Nothing.

13. City Attorney

a. Resolution 3908-Updating Employee Handbook sections 2.21 (Drug and Alcohol Testing), 5.4 (Workplace Violence Prevention) and 5.6 Weapons on City Property per MMIA

City Attorney Kalil read Resolution 3908 out loud. He stated these changes to the employee handbook are at the request of MMIA in the employment practices insurance renewal process.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 3908.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

In discussion Chief DiFonzo asked if the change in this language changes the ability for the police department to random drug test and City Attorney Kalil stated he believes there is another policy that addresses that, but if that needs to be updated to address that he can present that resolution.

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

14. Chief of Police

a. January 2023 Police Department Report

Chief Kraft provided the January 2023 Police Department Report. He stated last week he testified in Helena on SB 204 that sets up a state program for assisting families of lost law enforcement officers. He stated as of now those families lose their health insurance in 30 days. He stated there was a lot of support for this bill and he was honored to testify on behalf of the city. He stated HB 604, the Sheriff's First Bill, that requires federal law enforcement get written permission from the Sheriff for any action within that county, the County Attorney then must prosecute them as if that action was a crime, such as kidnapping for an arrest warrant. He stated he feels this bill could also affect the police departments and require they get written permission also. He stated the hearing is in House Judiciary Committee on 2-24-23 at 7:00 am and he will be testifying via zoom in opposition. He stated SB 272 makes the Sheriff the chief officer of the County and any duties assigned to him cannot be deferred to anyone outside of that position, making the police department fall under the Sheriff directly. He stated the hearing is not scheduled but he will again be testifying via zoom in opposition when it is scheduled.

Chief Kraft asked for a Police and Fire Committee meeting the first full week of March to discuss a proposed grant position for the drug taskforce. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin will schedule the meeting in the future.

15. Public Works Director

a. January 2023 PW Report

PWD Hintz provided the January 2023 Public Works Report. He stated HB 642 by Casey Knudson is a water right bill that the City will be opposing via email correspondence to the Committee.

PWD Hintz stated he has contracts with Morrison Maierle for the Anderson Subdivision that will be going before the water and sewer committee. He stated the DEQ and the funding agency has approved the award of bid to COP Construction per the City's previous action, but the City is only awarding schedules 1-3 and 5-6. Mr. Mayer stated he is still seeking easements for schedule 4, although he has verbal agreements, once they have been fully documented there will be a change order to include schedule 4 the Council has approved that is not included. He stated the funding is available for schedule 4, but in not wanting to continue to hold off on contract with COP Construction, it was decided to add schedule 4 as a change order and get the bid awards done for the other schedules.

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. January 2023 Fire Run Report

Mayor Norby presented the January 2023 Fire Run Report on behalf of FM/BI Rasmussen.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. January 2023 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the January 2023 Treasurer's Report. She stated the revenue received on interest on the City bank accounts has been substantially higher than budgeted, which is why the revenue in several funds that only have interest revenue are higher than 100%.

b. January 2023 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the January 2023 JV Report for approval. She stated these are the normal UB and Payroll journal vouchers.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

c. January 2023 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$87,604.43

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the January 2023 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$87,604.43.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Stevenson, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits presented in the consent agenda.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$59,193.99

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2023-36 and RC2023-21

19. Adjournment

at 7:09 pm.