



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 12-2-24
December 02, 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, Stevenson, Koffler, Rasmussen and DiFonzo. Absent: Godfrey

4. **Correction or Approval of Minutes**

a. **November 4th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

b. **November 18th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

5. Visitors

Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering)

Sidney High School: Kylie Schoepp, Myah Hughes, Corey Christensen, Tacy Borg, Kyle Pust, Madison Kopp, Amara Iverson, Kinley Wieland, Ellie Burns, Garrett Youngquist, Jackson Wells, Hailey Getchell, Macki Gonzalez.

Brandi Azure with the RC Adult Softball stated they have 2 new score boards for fields 1 and 3 that they received through a grant. She stated they are asking for permission to replace those score boards as the current ones have LEDs that don't work. She stated there will be Stockman Bank and Kraken Oil sponsors signs on the scoreboards.

Alderwoman Rasmussen asked if there is any specific installation requirements or obligations from the City and Ms. Azure stated there is no cost to the City and the only difference with the new boards will be if they have to replace posts they would like to move one to center field instead of right field. Alderman DiFonzo stated there should be no problems and this is really good. Alderwoman Rasmussen asked if they need to mark for sprinklers if moved and PWD Hintz stated they would be outside the fence where there is no sprinklers.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

6. Public Hearing

a. Upcoming Public Hearing: Transportation Alternative Grant

Mayor Norby announced there will be a public hearing at the December 16th, 2024 City Council meeting to hear public comment on the City pursuing the Transportation Alternative Grant. PWD Hintz stated this will be for the pedestrian bike path grant up 22nd Avenue.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Update:

Mayor Norby thanked Ms. Godfrey, the Chamber and all that were involved in festivities last weekend and stated it was great to see with more to come this week.

8. Committee Meeting Work

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there is still a Street and Alley Committee meeting outstanding to continue to review the snow removal code update, which she will schedule when city staff has gathered the information requested by the committee.

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

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. Local Government Review Board-Request Administrative Assistant be Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin and be paid with current budgeted wages

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated one of the first items the Local Government Review Board (LGRB) had to take action on was the details of their board, including bylaws and how the board will be administered. She stated that although the common perception is that she would be Administrative Representative for the LGRB, the laws state that they must hire their own. She stated that she can and is willing to take on this task, but the question then becomes compensation. She stated the LGRB has authority over the \$31,000 that was approved by the voters with the review and the two options would be to have them hire her out of that budget or have the City Council approve these duties be a part of her normal duties and there would be no pay out of the LGRB budget. She stated if the LGRB hires her, she would not be able to do any of the work, preparing, investigating or administering while clocked in and she would need special permission to utilize the city facility's and technology outside her work hours to do all this work. She stated if the City Council approves this being part of her normal duties, the tasks would be done during her normal work hours and all infrastructure could be used. She stated she is a salaried employee, so either way this will not change or impact the city's budget. She stated she is asking for the availability to do these tasks along with her current duties to save on her time and not cause her to have to come in after hours and do double work. She stated the LGRB is asking for this to save the budget authority for training, public involvement and election expenses. Mayor Norby added that this is common practice.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if this is something that Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin wants to do and is capable of taking on with work load and she stated yes. She stated that if she is unable to do it, she will have to train someone to do all the work and by her doing it ensures to the City Council that her experience is being used to make sure open meeting and other laws are being followed. Alderman DiFonzo asked how many hours this will add to her current work load and she replied at most 5 hours a month. She stated the board is currently planning to meet quarterly.

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

b. Local Government Review Board-Draft Budget Approval

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the LGRB has prepared their draft budget for the City Council to approve, per Montana Code. She stated this budget aligns with the City's current budget for the \$31,000 in property tax revenue and next FY's budget will be for the remaining funds. She stated this budget will not budget amendments to the City Budget.

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

12. City Planner

Nothing.

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

City Attorney Kalil stated he will have a yearend report for the City Court at the next meeting.

14. Chief of Police

a. Update:

Chief Kraft stated the parade went well but there is always room to make improvements to ensure the safety of the community and so he will continue that conversation with the Chamber.

15. Public Works Director

a. Update:

PWD Hintz stated they have been doing snow removal and sanding. He further stated the rear load garbage truck had the body removed and sold at auction and it was converted to dump truck which found a second life for truck. He further stated that inside the building at Moose park had the water service froze and the park department is trying to make repairs.

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. Update:

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the City Hall Council Chambers will be hosting its first event on December 10th, which will be the Local Government Review training for Northeastern Montana.

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$152,684.21

b. Building Permits to be approved: None at this time.

19. Adjournment

at 6:51pm.