



City of Sidney, MT
Water and Sewer Committee Meeting
July 23, 2024 6:00 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

Committee Members Present: Christensen, Godfrey, DiFonzo

Other's Present: Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer and Water Commissioner Elletson

1. New Business

a. FY2024-25 Preliminary Budget-Water Fund

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the proposed preliminary budget for the water funds. She stated the largest capital purchase would be the water tower project that will hopefully commence next spring, but it is SRF funded so the revenue matches the expenditures. She stated the bond payment for that project would not start until January 2026 at the earliest so would not need to be budgeted for until next fiscal year, which is part of the reason why there is approximately \$500,000 in the water fund being put into cash savings. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the water impact fee fund has expenditures to use all of the cash available in that fund, which will be used towards the water tower project.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the water and water impact fee funds preliminary budgets.

Motion made by Godfrey, Seconded by Christensen.

Voting Yea: Koffler, Godfrey, Christensen

b. FY2024-25 Preliminary Budget-Sewer Fund

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the proposed preliminary budget for the sewer fund. She stated the WWTP Phase 4 project will be the largest capital expenditure, which is the final phase of the treatment plant project and removes the sludge. She stated they are attempting to keep the project costs low by land applying the sludge locally. PWD Hintz stated he was just informed that the nitrogen levels on the land they were wanting to apply the sludge to is too high to do

so. He stated they are currently looking at other options. Water Commissioner Elletson stated the levels could be high because when they were tested the land had already been fertilized. PWD Hintz stated they will retest the land and hope it will work. Alderman Koffler asked how much sludge needs to be removed and PWD Hintz stated it is 1.2-2.5 feet deep and Water Commissioner Elletson stated it would be around 6,000 semi truck loads.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the sewer impact fee fund has expenditures to use all of the cash available in that fund, which will be used towards the WWTP Phase 4 project.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the sewer and sewer impact fee preliminary budgets.

Motion made by Christensen, Seconded by Godfrey.
Voting Yea: Koffler, Godfrey, Christensen

c. 2025 Preliminary CIP-Review Projects for Water

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the proposed water projects for the 2025 CIP and asked the committee if they have any additional projects that they would like to see added or if they would like the priority changed for the projects, keeping in mind that it is a working plan that the priorities can and likely will shift based off of funding availability. No changes were recommended.

d. 2025 Preliminary CIP-Review Projects for Wastewater

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the proposed wastewater projects for the 2025 CIP and asked the committee if they have any additional projects that they would like to see added or if they would like the priority changed for the projects, keeping in mind that it is a working plan that the priorities can and likely will shift based off of funding availability. No changes were recommended.

e. 2025 Preliminary CIP-Review Projects for Storm Water

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the proposed water projects for the 2025 CIP and asked the committee if they have any additional projects that they would like to see added or if they would like the priority changed for the projects, keeping in mind that it is a working plan that the priorities can and likely will shift based off of funding availability. No changes were recommended.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there has been discussions over several years for the need to create a storm water utility that would assess a fee to all properties in the city limits, but it has not progressed due to grant funding for projects and planning. She stated as the projects are completed the management of the new systems and the operation costs will continue to increase and the need to have money available for matching the grants makes the need to create the utility now imperative. She stated they are at the point now that by creating the utility the rates can be kept low but will also stop the use of sewer funds going to these projects and operations, which

could cause a need for a rate increase in that department. She stated this will be something they work on over the next year and would not be implemented until next fiscal year at the earliest.