



City of Sidney, MT  
City Council Regular Meeting 4-17-23  
April 17, 2023 6:30 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: 845 0963 5323 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, Godfrey, Stevenson, Koffler, Rasmussen and DiFonzo

**4. Correction or Approval of Minutes**

**a. Addition to Agenda: Advertise for 200-gallon Water Tank Project**

Mayor Norby asked for the City Council to approve adding to the April 17th City Council Agenda the advertising for the 200-gallon Water Tank Project.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

**b. April 3rd, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

## 5. Visitors

### Other Visitors:

**Brandon Batty**-Anderson Subdivision: Mr. Batty stated they have been annexed in for numerous years and his drainage field is becoming defunct. He stated he is wondering when that subdivision is getting city sewer services as it is inconvenient and expensive to get his drainage field updated. PWD Hintz stated it would be approximately 300 feet to get to Mr. Batty's property, he would have to hire a sewer engineer to design the project, get DEQ approval and then pay a contractor to install. He further stated if the entire subdivision would like to get connected to the city sewer the City could do an SID to engineer and install the sewer. Mr. Batty stated he wanted to make sure he can connect before hiring an engineer and stated he will come and discuss this further with PWD Hintz.

**Ross Rosaaen**

**Jordan Mayer**-Interstate Engineering

**Stan Parker**-MT PBS

**Greg Hitchcock**-Sidney Herald

### a. Tammy Kyhl-Barking dog ordinance

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated Ms. Kyhl could not be in attendance but that she had forwarded her concerns to Chief Kraft who provided the report in front of the City Council. Chief Kraft stated the barking dog incident log shows the City Code that shows pertaining to the barking dog nuisance. He stated they do get numerous calls about barking dog calls and do respond if not already occupied. He stated the log assists with watching for repeat calls, etc. He stated he did push this log out to the officers to hand out when they respond to a barking dog complaint. He stated this is a similar process and log form as in Billings. Chief Kraft stated once documented and sufficient complaints and/or supporting evidence, there can be tickets issued. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she feels posting this information on the Police Department Facebook page that the City page could share would help notify the public that this is available.

### b. Richland Economic Development-Report

Mrs. Messer and Mr. Brothen came before the City Council to give an update and report on Richland Economic Development. Mrs. Messer stated they are returning the City's investment in numerous ways. She thanked Councilwoman Christensen for her many years on the RED Board. She stated they have done 8 consultations with employees from Sidney Sugars, some of which are using their severance to start businesses in Sidney. She stated they hosted meeting with employees, state and local representatives and now 15 people pursuing welding via the University of Great Falls. Mrs. Messer state they have also facilitated meetings with interested companies for investing in this area. She stated they are continuing with the revolving loan fund

for local businesses, the most recent being PSC installation that created 20 jobs building installation covers for heavy equipment.

Mr. Brothen stated he is a RED Board member and on the executive board. He stated the revolving loan fund is a huge asset to the community. He stated they have hired a marketing company to assist in rebranding the RED and how they are presented to the community and to show all they do. This will also tie into the revolving loan fund, job creation and assist in finding jobs in growth in the community. The marketing will assist with oil and gas, ag, retail, and many more. He stated he feels this is a great opportunity for the community.

## 6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

## 7. Mayor Norby

Mayor Norby stated he is having issues with attending the RED meetings being at 7am, so if anyone is interested in attending in his place he would appreciate it. Alderwoman Godfrey agreed to attend and it was the general consensus to approve.

### a. Election for City Council-Filling Opens April 20th to June 19th

Mayor Norby announced the filling will be open for the 3 ward positions on April 20th until June 19th.

### b. Chamber After Hours at City Hall-Thursdays 4-20-23 from 4pm-6pm

Mayor Norby announced the City will be hosting the Chamber After Hours at City Hall this Thursday. He stated there will be many things presented to the public who come, including the proposed city hall remodel tentative plans and plans for the many projects this summer.

## 8. Committee Meeting Work

Nothing.

## 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**

Nothing.

**11. New Business**

**a. Boys and Girls Club-Svarre Pool Use Agreement**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the Boys and Girls Club received a Michael Phelps Foundation grant to do swim trainings this summer. She stated one staff member, Grant Christensen, will be trained by the Michael Phelps Foundation on swimming skills that he will teach small groups of kids when they go to the pool this summer with the Boys and Girls Club during open swim. She stated part of the grant is they need a certificate of insurance from the City naming the foundation, which in order to get the City and the Boys and Girls Club need a pool use agreement, which was drafted by City Attorney Kalil.

Motion was made to approve the Boys and Girls Club Svarre Pool Use Agreement.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

Voting Abstaining: Alderwoman Christensen

**b. Donated Score Board-Lyndale Park**

Alderman DiFonzo stated Ross Rosaaen business Niehenke Welding and Yellowstone Bank donated 2 score boards for Lyndale Park. He stated they are delivered and ready to be installed, but the City Council must approve the new score boards donation and installation. He stated they will be at the same location just behind the current spots, taking out the current score boards and the pipes. Mr. Rosaaen stated they donated the score boards and posts to help the baseball fields and improving the looks of the field. He stated the old boards have not worked for numerous years and one gets very hot when turned on. He stated the new score boards beams will be wind resistant and very strong with a pedestal stile mount. Alderman DiFonzo stated it will be a great contribution to the park. PWD Hintz stated he will go to the park with Mr. Rosaaen to look at how best to do the installation.

Motion was made to approve the donated score boards and their installation, working with PWD Hintz on how to install.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

The City Council thanked them for their generous donation.

**12. City Planner**

**a. Public Hearing-May 1st for Gem City Motors Lot Aggregation**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there will be a public hearing at the May 1st Council meeting for the Gem City Motors lot aggregation. She stated because of the number of lots they are requesting to aggregate, 12 lots, it is state law they must be reviewed as a subdivision, which includes a public hearing. She stated City Planner Sanderson plans on being in attendance for this public hearing.

**13. City Attorney**

Nuisance enforcement status update this morning, with further enforcement coming.

**a. Resolution 3909-Sidney Phase III Water Project Bond Resolution**

City Attorney Kalil read Resolution 3909 out loud. He stated this is the resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds and fixing the terms and conditions there of. This is for the Phase 3 water project which the City will be getting an SRF loan, on top of grants, in the anticipated amount of \$2,180,000. He stated this resolution has been reviewed and approved by City Bond Council for this project.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 3909.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

**b. Ordinance 598-Adopting 2021 Fire Codes**

City Attorney Kalil read Ordinance 598, adopting the 2021 International Fire Codes, out loud for its first reading. He stated it is a requirement that the City adopt the most current approved fire codes.

Motion was made to approve first reading.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

**14. Chief of Police**

**a. Easter Montana Drug Task Force MOU-Final**

Chief Kraft provided the final Eastern Montana Drug Task Force MOU for the Sidney Drug Task Force position with the changes requested by MMIA included.

Motion was made to approve the EMDTF MOU.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

**b. March 2023 PD Report**

Chief Kraft presented the City Council with the March 2023 Police Department Report.

**15. Public Works Director**

**a. March 2023 Public Works Report**

Public Works Director Hintz presented the March 2023 public works report. He stated the Phase 3 water line replacement project is moving along well. He stated they have a construction progress meeting tomorrow at 10:30am at Interstate Engineering office. Mr. Mayer stated they do have the project website up, cityprojects.com, that you can go to for direct updates and a calendar.

PWD Hintz stated in preparation of phase 4 of the WWTP project, they have to de-water the original pond and they will start that this week. It has to be done prior to sludge removal and the water will be put through the City evaporation pond. They will also be installing man holes starting in the next couple weeks. He stated they are waiting on Franz to mix asphalt to start fixing pot holes.

**b. Advertise for 200-gallon Water Tank Project**

PWD stated they need permission to start advertising for bids for the 200-gallon water tower tank lining of inside the tank project.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

Mr. Mayer stated the bid opening will hopefully be May 2nd via teams and he will send the invite out.

**16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector**

**a. March 2023 Fire Run Report**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the March 2023 Fire Run Report from FM/BI Rasmussen.

**17. City Clerk/Treasurer**

**a. March 2023 Treasurer's Report**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the March 2023 Treasurer's Report. She stated that in a deep dive review of the expenditures, she did discover there is the need for journal vouchers to correct the coding. She stated this will change the Treasurer's report for April 2023 in comparison to March and they will be listed in the April JV Report.

**b. March 2023 JV Report**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the March 2023 JV Report, which consisted only of the usual payroll and utility billing journal vouchers.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

**c. Fiscal Year 2023 MMIA Liability, Property and Workers' Compensation Rates**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the City Council with the rate changes for the liability, property and workers' compensation programs via MMIA. She stated the liability rates will have no changes from FY2022-23 and a small refund will be issued of \$7,601.00. She stated the property aggregate rates for auto damage is increasing 10.51% and the real and personal property rates are increasing 11.11%. She stated that she does not know at this time what that amount in dollars will look like, as there was changes made to the property schedules. Finally she stated there is a 8.25% decrease in workers' compensation rates, which will be a cost savings of around \$15,000 in FY2023-24 versus the current fiscal year. Clerk/Treasurer stated the 9% increase in health insurance will increase the City payroll budget a total of approximately \$225,000.

**18. Consent Agenda**

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits as presented.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

**a. Claims to be approved: \$65,885.26**

**b. Building Permits to be approved: 2023-46, RC2023-22, RC2023-23 and RC2023-27**

**19. Adjournment**

at 7:20pm.