



City of Sidney, MT  
City Council Regular Meeting 1-6-25  
January 06, 2025 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, Godfrey, Stevenson, Koffler, DiFonzo and Rasmussen (via phone).

**4. Correction or Approval of Minutes**

**a. December 16th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

**5. Visitors**

**a. Visitors:**

Jody Wells (Round-Up), Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering), Bailey Tupper (Sidney Leadership Class), Jared Troudt and SPS Government Class: Kylie Schoepp, Ryleigh Kleinke, Kyle Humphries and Joseph Yaden. Via zoom: Jake Holley (Sidney Herald).

**6. Public Hearing**

Nothing.

**7. Mayor Norby**

**a. Announcing: City Council will be on TUESDAY 1-21-25 due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Mayor Norby announced the second meeting in January.

**8. Committee Meeting Work**

Nothing.

**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

**a. Alderman Stevenson Resignation from Ward 1 Council Position**

Alderman Stevenson announced his resignation from his Ward 1 City Council position, effective when his replacement is found or when he no longer resides in the correct Ward, whichever comes first. Alderwoman Christensen stated all will miss Alderman Stevenson and his perspective and reviewed what the next steps will be for appointing his replacement, which included soliciting for letters of interest, which are due by January 30th, 2025 at 5pm. She stated the City Council will then review all letters, interview if necessary and make a decision by the second meeting in February, all of which will be done at the open regularly scheduled City Council meetings.

**10. Unfinished Business**

Nothing.

**11. New Business**

**a. King & King LLC (Ace Hardware) Variance**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this is a 2 foot fence height variance for Ace Hardware who would like to install a 8 foot fence to the north of their building, when only a 6 foot fence is allowed. She further stated that they will be moving the current posts out of the right-of-way to meet correct setbacks. PWD Hintz stated the Zoning/Board of Adjustments have recommended approval with the condition that the posts be moved out of right-of-way.

Motion was made to approve.

In discussion Alderman DiFonzo stated by approving this the City will have to justify to anyone else wanting an 8-foot fence and allow them to have it, at which point the ordinance should just be changed to allow 8-foot fences. Alderwoman Christensen stated other 8-foot fences have been approved through the variance process and PWD Hintz stated this has included other commercial properties except one residential property that abutted a commercial gas station. Alderman DiFonzo asked if they were permitted for the fence and PWD Hintz stated they are permitted. Alderman DiFonzo asked what other locations have the 8 foot fence and PWD Hintz stated the Radke residential property and other commercial properties. Alderman DiFonzo asked if the poles were placed and PWD Hintz stated they are but they can be moved or cut down if the variance is not approved. Alderman DiFonzo stated he recommends changing the code to allow 8-foot fences in commercial instead of approving numerous variances. Alderwoman Godfrey suggested approving this variance and sending the review of the code to committee.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman DiFonzo

## 12. City Planner

PWD Hintz stated he will be working with City Planner Sanderson on the grant application for the 22nd Ave project.

## 13. City Attorney

### a. Update:

Nothing.

## 14. Chief of Police

### a. Update:

Chief Kraft stated New Year's Eve was quiet for calls and there was nothing of substance to report.

## 15. Public Works Director

### a. Phase IV-North Park Elevated Water Tank Replacement Project Phase 1 Water Main-Permission to Advertise for Bids

PWD Hintz stated they are seeking approval to go to bids and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin added this is only for the first phase of this project, the water mains. She stated the other two phases for the water tower itself and the ground work will be bid separately. Mr. Mayer stated the project will be done in phases to ensure there is the right contractors for the right portions of the job, instead of having a water tower contractor in charge of the entire project that is out of their wheel

house. He stated this allows for more flexibility, will save on markup costs and both the DEQ and SRF have approved the phases. He further stated that the City will be noticing in both the Sidney Herald and the Round-up.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

#### **b. Oil Lease Negotiations**

PWD Hintz stated he was approached by Phoenix Capital about leasing the oil rights for the property under the City Shop. He stated he presented their lease proposal to a local landman who believes the City can negotiate a better deal than what they are presenting. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin recommended this be sent to Committee to review.

Motion was made to send this to Committee.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she will reach out to the Street and Alley Committee to schedule a meeting to discuss this and the zoning code fence height.

#### **c. Update:**

PWD Hintz stated they have removed the Christmas decorations and are working on equipment while having project downtime. Alderman DiFonzo asked if the pedestrian bridge project is still planned to happen and PWD Hintz stated they are planning to start this spring and he will be attending a virtual meeting pertaining to it on Friday if anyone is interested to join.

#### **16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector**

Nothing.

#### **17. City Clerk/Treasurer**

##### **a. SCHR Pay Application & (Final) for \$81,128.84**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the final pay application for B&B Builders for the Sidney City Hall Remodel. She stated this is not the final expenditure for the remodel, as there is still budget authority to do further work discussed such as replacing the garage bay doors. She further stated that in the claims was the final bill to SDI Architects for their work on this project.

Motion was made to approve.

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

**b. Phase IV-North Park Elevated Tower Replacement Project-Bond Council Engagement Letter**

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the engagement letter for bond council for the water tower project. She stated Dorsey/Whitney has been the City's bond council for all 6 of their SRF loans and have been great to work with. She stated she is recommending approval of the engagement letter.

Motion was made to approve.

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

**c. Update:**

Nothing.

**18. Consent Agenda**

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits.

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

**a. Claims to be approved: \$730,468.59**

**Intermediary Claims to be approved (included in total): \$31,934.07**

#43400	USPS	\$ 1,060.10
#43399	MDU	\$ 3,981.87
#43398	Verizon	\$ 895.65
#43428	Stockman Bank	\$25,996.45

**b. Building Permits to be approved: 2025-041**

**19. Adjournment**

at 6:53pm.