



March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Local Government Review Board  
115 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE  
Sidney, MT 59270

Subject: Public Hearing on Change of Form of Government

Dear Public and Local Government Review Board,

This public hearing is being held as part of the Local Government Review process required under Montana law. The purpose is to receive public comment on the potential change of form of government.

Currently, the City operates under the **Mayor-Council form of government**, where the Mayor serves as the chief executive officer and the City Council serves as the legislative body responsible for adopting policy, ordinances, and the budget.

During the review process, the Board has also discussed other structures allowed under Montana law. One option is the **Council-Manager form of government**, where the Council hires a professional manager who is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the City while the Council focuses on policy and legislative decisions.

Another concept that has been discussed is maintaining the **Mayor-Council structure while recommending the administration explores the potential hiring of a City Administrator**. In this model, the Mayor would remain the chief executive officer and all his powers and duties, but a professional administrator could assist with coordinating daily operations and implementing policy under the Mayor's direction. To assist in answering questions previously posed about this model, the Budget and Finance Committee of the City Council have prepared two documents that are available to assist in better understanding what the City Administrator position could look like.

No decision has been made by the LGRB at this time. The purpose of tonight's hearing is simply to receive public comment and input regarding these potential governance structures as part of the review process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Chamberlin".

Jessica Chamberlin  
Clerk/Treasurer and LGRB Assistant