



City of Sidney, MT
Budget and Finance Committee Meeting 6-28-23
June 28, 2023 5:00 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

Aldermen Present: Christensen, Godfrey and Rasmussen

Others Present: Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, Chief Kraft, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin

1. New Business

a. Library Service Cooperation Agreement with Richland County

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the contract provided by Richland County, that amends the standing agreement from a joint City/County Library to being a Cooperation Agreement. She stated under the previous joint agreement, the City and County shared administration responsibilities, meaning the Board of Trustees where City and County appointed and the City has a Council Representative who attends the meetings. She stated under the Cooperation Agreement, all of the oversight and budget would fall under Richland County, while the City would still contribute \$130,000 for the country free library being available to Sidney residents equally with county residents.

Alderwoman Rasmussen asked if the other incorporated municipalities in Richland County also pay for their residents to have access and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she does not believe Fairview contributes. Alderwoman Rasmussen asked what benefit this would be to change the format of the agreement and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated it would set the City's contribution amount and would ensure the County cannot say the City of Sidney needs to pay a higher portion of operations costs.

Alderwoman Godfrey stated after attending several of the Library Board of Trustee meetings, she knows the concern of board is that they will become commission under County control and not continue to operate as they have. She further stated Kelly Reseig has given her 30-day resignation.

Alderwoman Christensen asked if the City does not share administrative responsibilities, why contribute full \$130,000?

Alderwoman Rasmussen stated the Library highly used by all in Richland County and around, and that she supports a joint agreement, stating if Sidney is going to contribute substantial amount of money should have a say in the administration.

Chief Kraft asked what the annual budget of library is compared to what the City of Sidney contributes and Alderwoman Godfrey stated \$372,000 according to Mrs. Reisig but those expenditures do not include anything directly billed to the County. She stated from usage reports Sidney residents don't make up half of the users of the library.

Motion was made to recommend to the City Council to reject the Library Service Cooperation Agreement with Richland County and request to keep the same joint agreement had previously.

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

b. Marijuana Tax MOU

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated that although the City of Sidney does not have any point of sales within the City limits, there are no laws/rules that state that excludes Sidney from receiving their portion of the Richland County Excise Tax. She stated Richland County enacted the excise tax, which is a 3% tax on the revenue from the sale of recreational marijuana in the County. That 3% is then split: 5% to the Department of Revenue, 50% to Richland County and 45% to be split between incorporated municipalities by their population.

She stated Fairview has made it clear to Richland County that they feel the City of Sidney does not have claim to their portion of the excise tax because of not allowing the sale in the city limits and because of this Richland County Attorney Tom Halvorson drafted a memorandum of understanding that states the City of Sidney does not make claim to that money unless they allow sale within the city limits. She stated this MOU is just a starting point for the discussion. She stated that although the City does not have sales within the city limits, there are direct impacts considering the majority of the dispensaries either are close to or directly about the City of Sidney city limits. She stated it also falls on the City Building Inspector and Fire Marshal for all permitting and inspections within Richland County.

Chief Kraft stated in 2022 there was sharp increase in marijuana impaired DUI's, and he knows it is affecting our jurisdiction and the police department is the feeling impacts.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this revenue would be general fund revenue that could be used in any way and there are other options than just not making any claim to the revenue. She stated the City of Sidney could do a MOU with Fairview to share a portion of Sidney's revenue. She stated with the first quarter allocations, the municipalities would be splitting \$32,061.61, 81.7% or \$29,442.18, of which would go to Sidney. She stated that only leaves \$2,619.43 in that quarter for Fairview, who does face budget and revenue difficulties.

Alderwoman Rasmussen stated this has to be the same way every county, why would Sidney be any different with reaping the impacts and having dispensaries right on borders

Motion to recommend to the City Council to make claim to the marijuana excise tax and keep as statute states, split by population by incorporated cities within Richland County.

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

c. Pickleball Court

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin suggested moving this to the Park & Rec Committee meeting that will be had to review the Parks budget.

Motion was made to move the pickleball discussion to the Park and Rec Committee.

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

d. FY23-24 Budget-Donations/Oil & Gas Fund

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the donations made in FY22-23 out of the Oil and Gas Fund and the Richland Economic Development (RED) request for \$10,000. The mineral rights revenue that fund these donations has not dropped substantially enough to lesson total amount donated.

Mayor Norby suggested taking the RED payment down to \$5000, splitting the the remaining \$3000 between he Boys and Girls Club and the Food Bank. He stated RED did not assist with the last 2 legislative sessions and they do not provide the services they used to for Sidney. He stated it was a crazy legislative session with no assistance or even outreach and he feels those funds could be better utilized by other groups/non-profits in Richland County.

Motion was made to change the donations to Richland Economic Development to \$5,000, Boys and Girls Club to \$4500 and the Food Bank to \$1500, keeping all other donations the same as the previous year.

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

e. FY23-24 Budget & Meetings Plan

The following Committee meetings where scheduled to continue the review of the FY 2023-24 budget:

Park & Recreation: July 12th, 2023 at 5:15pm

Police & Fire: July 12th, 2023 at 5:45pm

Budget & Finance: July 12th, 2023 at 6:30pm

Meeting was adjourned at 5:56pm.