



Montana's Sunrise City

115 2nd Street S.E., Sidney, Montana - 406-433-2809

City Council Regular Meeting 6/1/26

June 01, 2026 6:30 PM

City Council meetings are held in a hybrid format, allowing both in-person and Zoom participation. Councilmembers will attend in person unless remote attendance is necessary. Consistent with the Montana Constitution's Right of Participation and Right to Know, the City is committed to open and accessible meetings. Public participation via Zoom or phone is available using the information below:

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7130805898?pwd=tJpmtgBdGbsjBXS0EAU50ANb4u7h3l.1&omn=86264275946>

Call: 1-346-248-7799 **Meeting ID:** 713 080 5898 **Passcode:** 4332809

1. Call to Order

Mayor Norby called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.

3. Aldermen Present

Christensen, Buxbaum, Larson, Kauffman, Rasmussen, and DiFonzo.

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. May 18th, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

5. Public Comment/ Visitors

Your opportunity for the public to address the Council on items not included on the agenda, no action will be taken during this time.

Visitors: Shannon Wicks (Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director), Larry Christensen (Sportsman Club), Ryan Laqua (Tiger Shark Swim Team), Stephanie Ridl (Sidney City Parks Superintendent), Devan Leo and Rick Marburger (Aero Spray), Kelsey Hart (Sunrise City

Association), Justin Verhasselt (Sidney Volunteer Fire Department), FM/BI Rasmussen, Curtis McGrady (McGrady Construction), Tom Kalil (City Attorney, via Zoom), and James Falcon (Sidney Herald, via Zoom).

Kelsey Hart, representing the Sunrise City Association, requested permission to close the first block of East Main Street for sidewalk sales events scheduled for June 19 and July 21, 2026 from 10am to 6pm. The closure would allow vendors and pedestrian activities to safely utilize the area.

A motion was made to approve both street closures dates.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

a. Tiger Sharks Swim Team-2026 Swim Meet

Ryan Laqua, Board President of the Sidney Tiger Sharks, requested permission to use the Sidney Pool and surrounding facilities for the annual swim meet scheduled for June 20-21, 2026. The request included closure of Sixth Street Southwest adjacent to the pool, camper parking in designated areas at Moose Park, use of the baseball outfield for tent camping, and temporary suspension of irrigation in the area during the event. Mr. Laqua noted that the event would operate under the same arrangements approved in previous years.

Council discussed coordination with baseball activities and parking arrangements. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

b. Sportsman Club Car Show in Moose Park June 25th

Larry Christensen of the Sidney Sportsman's Club requested to move the annual car show from July 18 to July 25, 2026 (not June 25th as posted on the agenda) due to a scheduling conflict with the Old Timers Reunion in Fairview. The Sportsman's Club indicated that they had coordinated with the baseball association and anticipated no conflicts with use of the parking lot area.

A motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

c. Devan Leo-Mosquitos

Devin Leo and Rick Marburger addressed the Council regarding mosquito and vector control services. The presenters provided information regarding mosquito populations, West Nile Virus cases in Montana, and mosquito control programs currently operating in neighboring

communities. They discussed surveillance, trapping, larvicide and adulticide applications, and potential costs associated with implementing a mosquito control program.

Council discussed funding options, service levels, costs, and potential implementation timelines. The council expressed interest in further evaluating the concept but indicated additional information and cost estimates would be necessary before proceeding. Motion was made to add to the Public Works Committee agenda for further review.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

d. Chamber of Commerce-Relocation of Nutter Statue

Shannon Wicks, Executive Director of the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, presented a proposal regarding relocation of the Governor Nutter statue within Veterans Memorial Park as part of the ongoing Veterans Memorial Pillars Project. She further explained that relocating the statue would create a more cohesive layout within the park while improving visibility and preserving the statue's prominence. The Chamber of Commerce will pay all cost of the project and McGrady Construction will be the contractor.

A discussion occurred regarding the history of the statue, visibility from Central Avenue, sidewalk connections, landscaping, and preserving the significance of Governor Nutter's legacy. Council members expressed support for maintaining the statue in a highly visible location while providing a dedicated sidewalk connection and improved setting.

A motion was made to authorize relocation of the statue subject to placement in a visible location a few feet to the southeast with a dedicated sidewalk connection and a sidewalk to surround the statue.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

e. Kiwanis Pie Social 2026-Closing of 5th St SW by Middle School July 10th

Interim CAO Chamberlin, speaking on behalf of the Sidney Kiwanis Club, requested permission to close Fifth Street Southwest adjacent to the middle school for the annual Kiwanis Pie Social on July 10, 2026. The request included use of additional garbage cans and tables consistent with previous years. She also noted a partnership with Jitterbugs for an additional fundraiser during the event.

A motion was made to approve the request.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Kauffman.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

6. Public Hearing

7. Public Hearing

a. Reappoint David Seitz-Zoning/Board of Adjustments (3 year Term)

Motion was made to approve reappointment of David Seitz to the Zoning/Board of Adjustments (3 year term).

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.
Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

8. Mayor Norby

Mayor Norby encouraged all eligible voters to participate in the upcoming election and reminded residents that polls would be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Richland County Event Center.

9. City Council Comments

No council members had comments for the record.

10. Committee Meeting Work

Budget and Finance – Chairman Christensen – DiFonzo, Buxbaum, Skinner

Public Works – Chairman DiFonzo – Larson, Christensen, Harris

Public Safety – Chairman Buxbaum – Rasmussen, Kauffman, Creek

a. Public Works Committee: Update and Report

Interim CAO Chamberlin provided a summary of the May 20th Public Works Committee meeting.

b. Public Safety Committee: Update and Report

Alderwoman Rasmussen provided a summary of the May 26th Public Safety Committee meeting.

c. Public Safety Committee: Fireworks 2026

The Public Safety Committee also reviewed firework restrictions and drought conditions. No recommendation was made at this time pending additional information and future county action.

Fire Marshal Rasmussen and Fire Chief Verhasselt provided historical information regarding fireworks-related fire responses and discussed fire department preparedness for the upcoming holiday season.

11. Chief Administrative Officer Update/ Report

a. LGRB Tentative Report

Interim CAO Chamberlin reported that the Local Government Review Commission had released its tentative report. The report recommends placing two questions before voters: a change to the

City Council representation structure and adoption of self-governing powers. A public hearing on the tentative report is scheduled for June 18, 2026.

Interim CAO Chamberlin also reported that Fire Marshal Rasmussen would be conducting fire extinguisher training, provided an update on Montana Tourism Development Grant activities, and noted that the Budget and Finance Committee would oversee implementation of the tourism grant. She also reported that all four on-call engineering and planning contracts had been fully executed and available for future task orders.

Interim CAO Chamberlin announced her election as MMIA Board Treasurer, Finance Chair, and Audit Chair.

12. Department Head Comments/ Reports

City Attorney Kalil reported that he would be presenting the garbage code ordinance later in the meeting but had no additional items for discussion.

Chief Kraft reported that the Police Department would be conducting another round of testing and interviews to fill an open officer position. He also noted that a recently hired officer was nearing completion of field training and remained scheduled for academy attendance.

Interim Clerk/Treasurer Lange had no report.

PWD Hintz reported that street paving activities were anticipated to begin shortly, weather permitting. He also noted that the Public Works shop remodel project was nearing completion.

13. Unfinished Business

None.

14. New Business

- a. Update to Traffic Control Signs: 5th St SW & 14th Ave SW, 10th Ave SW & 4th St SW, 10th Ave SW & West Main

Chief Kraft presented proposed traffic control sign updates including installation of yield signs at Fourth Street Southwest and 10th Avenue Southwest, as well as West Main Street and 10th Avenue Southwest. He also discussed the prior relocation of yield signs at Fifth Street Southwest and 14th Avenue Southwest to better align with MUTCD standards.

Council discussed the history of the intersection and concerns regarding the changes. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the traffic control sign updates.

Motion made by Alderman Kauffman, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

Voting Nay: Alderman DiFonzo

- b. NPWTR Draw #3 for \$1,077,563.00

Council reviewed Draw Request No. 3 for the North Park Water Tower Replacement Project in the amount of \$1,077,563.00.

A motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

Voting Abstaining: Alderwoman Buxbaum

- c. Meadows Drainage Improvement Project Pay Application #3 for Western Municipal for \$120,381.05

Council reviewed Pay Application No. 3 for the Meadow Village Drainage Improvement Project in the amount of approximately \$120,381.05. This would likely be the final contractor payment for the project.

Motion was made to approve the pay application.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderman Kauffman.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

- d. Interstate Engineering On-Call MSA TO#1-Water GIS \$30,000

Council reviewed Interstate Engineering Task Order No. 1 for Water GIS Survey work in the amount of \$30,000. Interim CAO Chamberlin explained the work would assist with finalizing the City's GIS mapping system.

A motion was made to approve the task order.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

Voting Abstaining: Alderwoman Buxbaum

- e. Senior Swim Pass \$40

Council discussed creation of a discounted senior swim pass for residents age 55 and older. Interim CAO Chamberlin explained that senior citizens generally have limited access to pool programming and that a reduced fee could encourage participation.

A motion was made to establish a Senior Swim Pass at a cost of \$40.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

- f. Waive BP Fee for Veteran's Memorial Pillars of \$818.75 and Plan Review of \$286.57

Council considered waiving building permit and plan review fees associated with the Veterans Memorial Pillars Project. The fee waiver totaled approximately \$1,105.32.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

g. Ordinance 605-Update to Garbage Code (1st Reading)

City Attorney Kalil presented an ordinance updating the City's garbage code. The revisions provide additional property classifications to better align garbage collection rates with actual service demands and establish provisions for multiple garbage containers. The Public Safety Committee has recommended approval.

Following discussion, a motion was made to adopt the first reading of Ordinance 605, updating the Garbage Code.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

15. Consent Agenda

Interim Clerk/Treasurer Lange presented claims in the amount of \$194,884.42, one intermediary claim to the United States Postal Service for water and sewer bill postage, and three building permits for approval.

Motion was made to approve claims for payment and the three building permits.

Motion made by Alderman Kauffman, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Larson

a. Claims to be approved: \$194,884.42

Intermediary Claims: USPS \$1142.39

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2026-53, 2026-55, and 2026-57

16. Adjournment

at 7:56pm.

Meeting Guidelines

- We ask that all participants be respectful and courteous.
- Please direct comments to the Council as a whole.
- When speaking, please state your name for the record.

- Be mindful of others by keeping comments concise and avoiding repetition.
- The presiding officer may guide speaking time to help the meeting run smoothly.
- Disruptive behavior may result in removal from the meeting.