



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 6-16-25
June 16, 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

The regular meeting of the Sidney City Council was called to order by Mayor Norby at 6:30pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.

3. Aldermen Present

Christensen, Buxbaum, Larson, Koffler, Rasmussen and DiFonzo

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. June 2nd, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

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

b. June 2nd, 2025 Closed Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

c. June 5th, 2025 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

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

5. Visitors

Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering) and Nora Mayer.

Lisa Combel with the New Orleans Food Truck came before the City Council requesting clarification on the solicitor license city code and if it applied to food trucks, and per city code 5-6-1 it is a requirement for operating within the city limits.

a. MonDak Heritage Center-Arts in the Park 2025 and Road Closures at Veteran's Park

Mrs. Bailey-Will, Director of the MonDak Heritage Center, came before the City Council asking for the city street next to Veteran's Park be closed for the Art's in the Park festivities that will be on June 28th. She stated they have over 30 vendors and food trucks that cannot drive on the grass, so must be parked on the street and a touch-a-truck event that would be safer for pedestrians if the street was closed. She stated they would like to have all of 5th St SW between school and the park from Central to 3rd.

Motion was made to approve.

Alderwoman Rasmussen stated she wants to make sure law enforcement is ok with it and Alderman DiFonzo stated it is not the first time. Mayor Norby asked that PWD Hintz coordinate with them and the Police Department.

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

b. Sidney Tiger Sharks Swim Team-Meet July 19-20th

Pete Erickson, Jared Troudt and Ryan Laqua presented to the City Council the details of their request pertaining to hosting a swim meet July 19th-20th, including two maps of the areas showing where they will have things designated and asked to have 6th Street closed for the event, and these are all the same for previous meets.

Motion was made to approve.

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

Alderman DiFonzo asked when the streets would be blocked and Mr. Erickson stated the morning of Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday.

c. Shannon Wicks with Chamber of Commerce-2025 Fire Works Show

d. Sidney Kiwanis Club-Pie Social 2025 and Road Closures at Veteran's Park

Mrs. Chamberlin came before the City Council requesting to street between Veteran's Park and the Middle School be closed from 9am to 3pm on Friday July 11th for the 2025 Pie Social. She also asked that additional garbage cans be provided in the park for this event and expressed her appreciation for the public works for not only assisting with the event but always attending and supporting them.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Update

Mayor Norby announced they are looking to fill the open Compliance Officer/Office Assistant position and if anyone is interested or has questions, to please contact Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Budget and Finance Committee: Svarre Fitness Court Transfers

Alderwoman Christensen stated the Budget and Finance Committee met and discussed transferring the budgeted \$50,000 this fiscal year and an additional \$58,000 next fiscal year out of the Oil and Gas Fund to cover the costs of the fitness court for the Svarre Park and it was their recommendation to do both.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. Budget and Finance Committee: FY25-26 Payroll

1. 85-15% Health Insurance Cost Split

2. Department Head Wages

3. Up to 2.9% Increase on Wages, additional pay increases for designated employees including to cover health insurance increase

Alderwoman Christensen stated Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin has requested the FY25-26 payroll be tabled until the July 7th meeting due to workers comp issues that have arose.

Motion was made to table to FY25-26 payroll until the July 7th meeting.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

9. Alderman Requests and Committee Reports

Budget and Finance – Chairman Christensen – DiFonzo, Koffler. Police and Fire– Chairman DiFonzo – Rasmussen, Larson. Parks and Recreation – Chairman Christensen – Larson, Rasmussen. Water and Sewer – Chairman Buxbaum – Christensen, DiFonzo. Street and Alley – Chairman Rasmussen – DiFonzo, Koffler. Sanitation– Chairman Larson – Koffler, Buxbaum. City Buildings & Street Lighting – Chairman Koffler – Buxbaum, Christensen

Alderwoman Buxbaum stated she would like to see trees in right-of-way and parks agreement and compliance of park agreements added to the Compliance Officer position. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she has started amending the job description and would like to present the changes at the July 7th meeting.

a. Alley's in need of repair

Alderwoman Rasmussen stated there are several alleys in the City that are in need of repair, specifically the alley between Mucho Si and the new office building. PWD Hintz stated Tony Hanson is willing to work with us to replace it since he was the one who caused damage. She asked if that could move forward because it is a safety issue and PWD Hintz stated he would.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. Interstate Engineering-Downtown Master Plan Planning Contract

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the Interstate Engineering Master Plan Planning Contract for \$80,000, all of which will be covered by the two grants the Chamber of Commerce was awarded through the City of Sidney. She stated because the City technically owns the grant awards and projects, the invoices will be filtered through the City of Sidney and submitted for reimbursement, therefore it is up to the City Council to approve the contract.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

Voting Abstaining: Alderwoman Buxbaum

12. City Planner

PWD Hintz stated City Planner Sanderson will be in town on Thursday for the Growth Policy Steering Committee meeting if anyone needs to talk to him.

13. City Attorney

a. Update

City Attorney Kalil stated City Court has been rescheduled the last couple of weeks due to staff vacations.

14. Chief of Police

a. May 2025 Police Department Report

Chief Kraft provided the May 2025 Police Department Report.

15. Public Works Director

a. May 2025 Public Works Department Report

PWD Hintz provided the May 2025 Public Works Report. He stated they have finally got the newest garbage truck back online after 4 months. He stated they have started milling the streets they will be overlaying, paving commencing tomorrow. Patchwork will also be happening and they are wrapping up a water leak by the pool. Phase 1 of the Water Tower Replacement Project is almost complete with a walk-through Wednesday. Mr. Mayer stated the Phase 2 of this project, the actual tank replacement, will have a bid opening on the 24th and they will be meeting with SRF the same day about loan coverage. He stated contractors are not wanting to start this project this year, so they are working to try to get them to.

PWD Hintz stated he was requested again to pave the Hockey parking lot, the estimate from last year being around \$1,000,000. He stated they will patch again this year, but he is looking into breaking the project up over several years to make it more affordable. Alderwoman Rasmussen asked if Hockey should be contributing since they are the main users of that parking lot and PWD Hintz stated it does not sound like they have the funds. Alderman DiFonzo stated it does not get that much use, and he thinks they should just continue patching it.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if the millings taken from the streets to be used in the alley at 3rd St NW from the trailer court to the paved area to give it a better base.

PWD Hintz stated the pre-bid meeting will be Thursday the 19th at 11am for the Meadows Storm Drain.

b. May 2025 Compliance Officer Report

PWD Hintz provided the May 2025 Compliance Officer Report.

c. Request to change right of way at 5th St SW and 14th Ave SW

PWD Hintz stated Nancy Carpenter has requested the right of way change so the yield is on 14th Ave SW instead of on the through street of 5th St SW and this is not the first request he has received for this location.

Motion was made to send this item to the Street and Alley Committee.

Alderwoman Buxbaum asked if that is an emergency route for the hospital and PWD Hintz stated 12th is, not 13th.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. May 2025 Fire Run Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the May 2025 Fire Run Report on behalf of FM/BI Rasmussen.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. May 2025 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the May 2025 JV Report. She stated these JV's include several coding corrections in addition to the normal UB and Payroll JV's.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

b. May 2025 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the May 2025 Treasurer's Report.

c. YTD Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the YTD Treasurer's Report. She stated she wanted to provide a more up to date picture of the finances before requesting the approval of the budgeted transfers, as they now include the last large property tax payments and some of the larger end of year expenditures.

d. FY24-25 Budgeted Transfers

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the FY24-25 Budgeted Transfers and stated she is recommending transferring as budgeted except she is recommending increasing the transfer from

the Oil and Gas Fund to the SID 104 from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and reducing the transfer from the Oil and Gas Fund to the the Street Equipment CIP from \$194,000 to \$175,000. She stated this gives a net decrease on the transfers out of the Oil and Gas Fund of -\$4,000, so withing budget.

Motion was made to approve the budgeted transfers as presented.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$449,790.24

b. Building Permits to be approved: RC2025-31, 2025-070A, 2025-076 and 2025-079

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19. Adjournment

at 7:04pm