



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 7-7-25
July 07, 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

Buxbaum, Larsen (via Zoom), Koffler, Rasmussen and DiFonzo.

Absent: Christensen

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. June 16th, 2025 Regular 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

5. Visitors

Jordan Mayer, Kade (Interstate Engineering), Jody Wells (Round-Up).

Via Zoom: James Falcon, Jared Jurgens

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Update:

Mayor Norby announced the Local Government Review Board will be having a public hearing seeking the public input on the form of government they feel is best for the City of Sidney: Mayor/Council or City Manager/Council. He stated they will be meeting this Thursday at 5:30pm at the City Council chambers and asked for all to participate.

Mayor Norby announced the Kiwanis Pie Social Friday 11:30 to 1:30pm at the Sidney Middle School.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Budget and Finance Committee: FY25-26 Payroll (tabled at the June 16th, 2025 meeting)

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

Motion was made to un-table.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

Alderman DiFonzo stated the Budget and Finance Committee met and reviewed the proposed FY25-26 payroll. He stated after reviewing they recommended a permanent 85-15% health insurance split, so it will not have to be a part of the discussion every year, instead the increases will be applied proportionately. He stated they also recommended up to a 2.9% increase for employee wages with increases for certain employees designated for promotions and to cover the health insurance increase. Lastly he stated they recommended a a 5.8% increase for the Public Works Director and Clerk/Treasurer positions, with increases to follow in upcoming fiscal years until their salaries match that of the other department head of the Chief of Police.

Motion was made to approve the FY25-26 payroll as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

Alderman Koffler asked to re-evaluate the fireworks code due to veteran's, proposing to cut the sale down to 3 days. Alderman DiFonzo stated we have done this before. Chief Kraft stated they only had a single incident with juveniles for criminal incidences, there could have been suspicious fires. He stated as for fires outside allowed hours, there was no citations and in comparison, to other years it was a pretty mild year. Alderman DiFonzo stated they can purchase them outside the City and will light them off and it is a difficult thing for the police to police and suggested putting out information on the rules prior to next year and see if that helps prior to changing the code again. Alderwoman Rasmussen also suggested looking at changing the date range to better fit when they light them off.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. Richland County-Request to waive Building Permit Fees for Public Works Shop \$17,184.82 (\$12,729.50-Building Permit, \$4,455.32 Plan Review)

Mr. Mahlen came before the City Council to request the waiving of the BP fees and plan review fees on behalf of Richland County. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this is a county permit,

Motion was made to approve waiving both building permit and plan review fees.

Alderman DiFonzo asked where this is planned to be and Mr. Mahlen stated it is out by the landfill. Alderwoman Godfrey asked why there is not an agreement stating these fees will be waived instead of them having to come to the city every time. City Attorney Kalil and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated they will look into expanding the Building Inspector agreement.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

b. Update Compliance Officer Job Description

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated since the position of the Compliance Officer has become available, they decided to update the Job Description and have recommended the changes outlined.

Motion was made to approve.

Alderman DiFonzo asked why they would be doing the agenda, packet and minutes and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated it would be for the Nuisance Committee only. Alderman

DiFonzo asked about the manage park agreement addition and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated they would be assisting herself and Parks Superintendent Ridl for the park agreements such as softball or baseball.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

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

12. City Planner

Nothing.

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

PWD Hintz asked for an update on Sunrise Village building and City Attorney stated there is an agreement for them to take care of the two required items and there is no building in the subdivision until they are taken care of.

14. Chief of Police

a. Update:

Chief Kraft stated it was a quiet week over the 4th. He stated the K9, Drug Task Force and other officers have been doing great work.

15. Public Works Director

PWD Hintz stated they are paving, having done 5th Street by Westside, _____ and will be doing ____ in the next week. He stated they hope to be wrapped up with paving by the fair. He stated the sewer screen is back together. The newest garbage truck is broken down again after only 3 weeks of service with a tech coming out to work on it. Alderwoman Rasmussen asked if we need to look at getting rid of this truck and PWD Hintz stated they have tentatively agreed to give us an extended 1 year warranty but if this continues he will be looking into the lemon law. He stated he has hired 2 people in the water department in the last month, one not showing and the other taking another job. He has hired a new seasonal sweeper.

Kysa-22nd grant? Jeff a year from now.

a. Morrison-Maierle Meadows Stormwater Contract Amendment 3-Increase \$3,400

PWD Hintz presented the Morrison-Maierle Meadows Stormwater Contract Amendment 3, an increase of \$3,400 due to a cultural survey, as required by the United States Bureau of Reclamation special use permit, will be completed by a sub-consultant in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Motion was made to approve.

Alderman DiFonzo asked what this survey is and Mr. Mayer stated they review for anything of significant cultural reference, such as arrow heads, older buildings etc. PWD Hintz stated we are building next to the 118 year old irrigation canal is the reason.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

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

b. Meadows Stormwater Project Bid Award

PWD Hintz presented the Bid Summary and Recommendation Letter from Morrison Maierle and the Bid Tabs from the Sidney Meadows Subdivision Drainage Improvements Project with the apparent low bidder of Western Municipal Construction with a bid of \$1,376,865.00, which was approximately 20% below the engineers estimate. Morrison Maierle are recommending awarding the project to Western Municipal Construction once the USBR special use permit is approved and received.

Motion was made to award the Sidney Meadows Subdivision Drainage Improvements Project bid to Western Municipal once the USBR special use permit is approved and received.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

c. Meadows Stormwater Q2 2025 Reimbursement Request of \$70,103.59

PWD Hintz presented the Meadows Stormwater Q2 2025 Reimbursement Request of \$70,103.59 for approval.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

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

d. Land and Conservation Fund Recreation Grant-Pickleball/Tennis Courts instead of Water Tower Park

Mr. Mayer stated this is the grant the City originally thought to apply for the tennis/pickleball courts, but shifted to the water tower park with the replacement project. He stated that with the bids now received the project time will be outside the bounds of the grant, as so they would again like to shift it back to the tennis/pickleball court. He stated there is two stages to this grant and they would like to attempt to get pre-application approval, the application of which would fall under Interstate Engineering's current contract for the tennis/pickleball courts.

Motion was made to approve.

e. B&B Builders WO 003-City Shop Breezeway for \$164,016.00 (SLIPA Grant)

PWD Hintz presented the B&B Builders WO 003 for the City Shop Breezeway for \$164,016.00 which will come out of the SLIPA Grant.

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 Larson

f. North Park Water Tower Replacement Phase 1 ARPA Vendor Invoice 4 (\$518,000.03) and Western Municipal Pay Application 4 (\$790,228.80)

PWD Hintz presented the North Park Water Tower Replacement Phase 1 ARPA Vendor Invoice 4 for \$518,000.03 and Western Municipal Pay Application 4 for \$790,228.80.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

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

Mr. Mayer stated this is Schedule 1, schedule 2 is after the water tower project, but this schedule will have approximately \$150,000 cost savings.

g. North Park Water Tower Replacement Phase 1 Change Order 1

PWD Hintz presented the North Park Water Tower Replacement Phase 1 Change Order 1 for Western Municipal, which only increased the contract time for the substantial completion date from June 25, 2027 to October 1, 2027 due to the schedule change for the water tower replacement. There is no monetary change with this change order.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

h. North Park Water Tower Replacement Phase 1 Substantial Completion

PWD Hintz presented the North Park Water Tower Replacement Phase 1 Substantial Completion as of July 2nd, 2025 for approval. He stated both Interstate Engineering and Western Municipal did a good job and it was a good project with water tests passing the first time. Mr. Mayer stated it was a little slow, still under the estimate by 3 days only for engineering onsite. He stated he felt they did well working with the public.

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 Larson

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. June 2025 Fire Run Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the June 2025 Fire Run Report on behalf of Fire Marshal/Building Inspector Rasmussen.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. City Employee Fair Buttons (80X\$5=\$400)

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin asked the City Council for approval to purchase employees Richland County Fair buttons again this year. She stated they have done this for several years and even though it is a small thing, it is greatly appreciated by the employees.

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 Larson

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$ 835,741.85

Intermediary (\$13,425.30)

Verizon Wireless	\$901.55
Hawkins Inc	\$6,384.38
MDU	\$5,070.57
USPO	\$1,068.80

b. Building Permits to be approved: FY24-25: RC2025-31. 34, 35A, 35B, and 37. 2025-80 to 83. FY25-26: RC2026

19. Adjournment

at 7:13pm.