



City of Sidney, MT
Street and Alley Committee Meeting 6-27-23
June 27, 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

Alderman Present: Tami Christensen, Joe Stevenson, Frank DiFonzo

Other's Present: Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Jordan Mayer-Interstate Engineering

1. New Business

a. Contribute to RC Transportation Safety Action Plan SS4A

Mr. Mayer stated this is the letter of support approved at the previous Council Meeting for the County doing a Transportation Safety Plan that will include anything that will make traffic safer. He stated the application is due July 10th and if successful, it is a 20% match or approximately \$22,000. He stated Richland County is wondering if the City of Sidney would like to participate and pay part of the 20% match, include projects in the plan to get implementation grants. He stated last year they awarded over \$800 million in plan and implement grants that are 20-80 match. He stated there is a website that shows who was awarded and how much. The website is www.

He stated they are asking the Committee if the City would like to participate and who would negotiate how much of the match the City would like to participate with. PWD Hintz stated the City has 3 potential projects that include more bike bath on 22nd, East Main and 10th intersection, and 6th Street and Lincoln intersection (getting rid of the Y). Mr. Mayer stated there would be multiple planning meetings in all of the jurisdictions to establish what for sure should be included in the plan. He further stated this transportation plan would be able to be used as a planning tool with cost estimates and opens opportunities for grants.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated a third of the match is approximately \$7,500 which is not a lot of money when it gives the opportunity for 80% of designated projects to be paid for. Mr. Mayer stated he would recommend giving Mayor Norby a max amount to negotiate to. Alderwoman Christensen stated there are more than just the 3 jurisdictions that stand to gain from this

plan. Alderman DiFonzo asked if the projects are prioritized in the plan and Mr. Mayer stated each jurisdiction would have priority projects but not to compete against the others.

Alderman DiFonzo stated up to a third of the match is a fair offer with the city priority being on 22nd bike path. PWD Hintz stated we can apply for a TA project for that project, and we have but it was not granted because the Holly Bridge was funded. Alderman Stevenson asked if the project is in the plan, can we still apply for the other grants and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated it is just a plan so it is nothing concrete that the City has to follow whether there is not enough match for the grants, or the projects are funded in other ways.

Motion was made to recommend to the City Council to allow Mayor Norby to negotiate the joining of the Transportation Planning Grant, up to one third of the match.

Motion made by DiFonzo, Seconded by Stevenson.

Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Stevenson, Christensen

b. Streets FY23-24 Budget

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the proposed streets, sweeping, and gas taxes budgets. She stated the street maintenance tax assessment needs to be increased from \$140/year to \$160/year and the snow removal tax assessment needs to be increased from \$25/year to \$75/year. She stated the last time these assessments were increased was in FY2019-20, which is when the snow removal assessment was created. The increase would be for the increase in operations expenditures.

Alderman DiFonzo asked what would happen if the increase is approved in the snow removal assessment and then there is no snow that winter? Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the payroll operation costs are a set cost as employees are paid out of funds via percentages. She stated if there is no snow, there is a chance of operations being less than anticipated as the City would not have to pay contracted services for assisting in snow removal, but she would recommend saving that money for the purchase of equipment to lessen the need for contracted services.

Alderman Stevenson stated he feels with the snow issues this last winter there will be blow back for this increase. Alderman DiFonzo stated the amount of \$75 over 12 months is not that large, but it is the public outreach so they understand the process and why.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the other option for snow removal is to cover the difference with the Oil and Gas or General funds. Alderman Stevenson suggested spreading the \$50 increase over 2 years with the policy review and changes this fall on the snow removal that is already planned with this committee. Alderman DiFonzo stated having the public be aware of the policies will help.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she could amend the budget to have the shortfall be covered by a transfer from the Oil & Gas Fund with only doing a \$25.00 increase this year. Alderwoman Christensen agreed that would be the best option.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the provided preliminary budgets with the \$20/year increase for streets and to split the snow removal increase doing a \$25 increase over 2 years.

Motion made by DiFonzo, Seconded by Christensen.

Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Stevenson, Christensen

Adjourned 5:51pm.