



Montana's Sunrise City

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

City Council Regular Meeting 5/4/26

May 04, 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=88229773216>

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.

3. Aldermen Present

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

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. April 20th, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Kauffman, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, 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.

Kelcy Hart came before the City Council for permission to shut down the first block of east main this Friday. The plan has been vetted by CHief Kraft and it is to host sidewalk sales. It would be from 10am to 6pm with self policing for getting vehicles out of the way before the cones are in

place. She stated it was very successful last year and they would like to continue this year. alderman DiFonzo asked if the other businesses are aware and she stated she talked to all of them and they are on board and excited. There will not be food trucks this time but there may be vendors that have to get their own permits.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

Others Present: James Falcon (Sidney Herald), Evelyn Gonzales, Able, Brayden, Paul O., Aubree Whiteman, Rylan Johnson, Jody Wells, Aaron Filler, Kalen T. Miguel T.

6. Public Hearing

- a. Public Hearing at Zoning/Board of Adjustments 5/13/26: Reynolds Market Conditional Use Permit for digital electronic graphic display sign on their existing pylon sign

Mayor Norby announced the public hearing for the conditional use permit.

7. Public Hearing

Nothing.

8. Mayor Norby

Nothing.

9. City Council Comments

Nothing.

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 Safety Committee: Update and Report
Nuisance Committee Report, 4-28-26

The nuisance committee met on April 28th.

With the up coming ratification of the new Nuisance Code update which will go into effect on May 20th, Compliance officer Deedee Schroder recommended 4 property's that will be given notice of defect. These are not originally new properties; they are existing properties that have been given notice but will now be followed by our guideline and policy from the new Nuisance code update.

Deedee also gave us a report that there was a total of 5 warning properties on the list and 1 of the properties did clean up and abate the nuisance.

Kale Rasmussen stated that the County has a junk vehicle program and recommended information be given to nuisance properties that maybe be able to use that service.

Jessie Chamberlin stated that the city is going to hire someone to do mowing instead of using a contractor for nuisance properties.

Meeting was adjourned.

Public Safety Report, 4-28-26

The Public Safety committee met on April 28th.

Morning Star Operating, LLC Team was present and gave a slide show presentation of there proposed 4 well oil pad and saltwater injection well location south of Sidney off South Lincoln (County Road 350).

There presentation gave a scope of how the injection well would be drilled and cased to a depth below the aquifer. There were questions asked regarding their experience, how many well pads they have built, there safety experience, there technology, whether they drill monitoring wells to test water in the aquafer, they stated only if needed. The saltwater injection well will serve more wells in the area along with the 4 wells on the same pad. The Saltwater tanks are made from steel and lined; no fiberglass tanks would be used. There was discussion regarding odors and off gases from the site.

They also stated they would work with our community officials regarding emergency procedures.

Montana Clean Water addressed concerns regarding permitting and following regulations to protect the ground water and community.

Morning Star Operating, LLC's presentation was simply introductory and that no action from the City is needed.

Monthly reports were given for Police Department, Fire, and Compliance Office.

The only new business was a request by the Police Department to pre-order a new patrol vehicle.

Details regarding the purchase are in the meeting minutes. Motion was made to recommend approval.

There was no unfinished business, no questions or comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Joe Kauffman – City Council Member

- b. Public Safety Committee: Request of Police Department FY26-27 Budget-authorization to pre-order Ford per replacement schedule

Motion was made to approve the pre-order of a new patrol vehicle for fiscal year 26-27.

Motion made by Alderman Kauffman, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

11. City Administrator Comments/ Reports

Interim CAO Chamberlin stated the Local Government Review Board will be holding its meeting this Thursday, May 7th, at 5:30pm. They will be taking their final dive into ward representation and general vs self-governing powers. They must have their tentative report complete, a public hearing on it, adopt the final report and have any ballot measures to the election office by July 31st, 2026 so they will be moving quickly in the next couple of months. She further stated the Oil and Gas final YF25-26 payment received, total revenue for the FY is \$704,975.33, up from budgeted \$650,000. Quarterly payments have been declining, however, from \$204,000 for the first payment to \$165,000 this payment. Interim CAO Chamberlin stated the newly drafted employee handbook and several policies will be going before the Budget and Finance Committee. The employee handbook has been simplified, is more user friendly and easier to understand. Finally she reported Governor Gianforte will be in Sidney for a community townhall on Wednesday. If interested, please contact her for more details.

12. Department Head Comments/ Reports

Nothing.

13. Unfinished Business

- a. Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) discussion will be at the May 26th, 2026 Public Safety Committee Meeting
- b. Kratom Ordinance discussion will be at the May 26th, 2026 Public Safety Committee Meeting

14. New Business

- a. B&B Maintenance Contract-WO 10: Mini split for Shop Breakroom \$5,107.00

Interim CAO Chamberlin stated the shop has used in wall air conditioners that when no longer work leave a hole in the wall that often is not the correct size for the replacement and the windows open horizontally so not conducive for window air conditioners. The mini-split is the best option for the new breakroom area. She stated currently, B&B Builders for their maintenance contract have 3 open work orders that include the office/breakroom. For the SLIPA project, there is \$154,463.47 available for the project, if this work order is approved.

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

- b. B&B Maintenance Contract-WO 11: Shop Exterior Siding and Gutters \$80,800.00

Interim CAO Chamberlin the next phase of the SLIPA grant is for the exterior of the shop building getting updated siding and gutters, which the work order for is \$80,800. This phase of the project

is not anticipated to commence is September 15th, 2026 and completed by December 15th, 2026. She stated this will bring the SLIPA project available balance to \$73,663.47 , if this work order is approved.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Kauffman.

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

c. Meadows BRIC Grant Reimbursement Request through Q1/2026 \$1,479.00

Interim CAO Chamberlin presented the reimbursement request for Q1/2026 is for Morrison Maierle engineering work. She stated they did a walk-through for this project and it should be being wrapped up.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

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

d. HB 355 (SLIPA) Grant Draw #2 for \$126,334.10

Interim CAO Chamberlin presented SLIPA Draw #2 which includes \$86,792.79 for B&B Builders WO #8, the demo and remodel for the entry and bathroom, as well as \$39,571.31 in supplies costs the city incurred when relocating the parts storage room and \$18,867.61 in payroll costs for the same. She stated we are unsure if we can use the payroll costs as part of the City's match for the grant and get a credit on what we have already paid. If we cannot, then the payroll portion of the parts storage room will not be included in the grant. The city did this phase of the SLIPA project in house this winter during slow time to save money and allow the grant to go further and she requested approval of the draw with and without the payroll included.

Motion was made to approve the SLIPA Draw #2 with and without the payroll costs for the parts storage room, depending on if that will be an allowable match.

In discussion Alderman Kauffman asked if the original grant amount was about \$455,000 and Interim CAO Chamberlin stated it was, plus about another \$155,000 as match.

Motion made by Alderwoman Larson, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

e. Interstate Engineering Task Order 10-Public Water System Technical Assistance (Not to exceed \$25,000)

Interim CAO Chamberlin presented Task Order 10 from Interstate Engineering that would provide the City with professional on-call technical assistance for our public water system, including training, mentorship, troubleshooting, and other operational support. This would also help us

develop stronger operational manuals, task logs, and long-term training and cross-training resources for staff. She stated our water system is one of the City's most critical public services, and it is important that we continue investing in strong operational standards, consistency, and long-term workforce development and Interstate Engineering has the expertise to help us strengthen those systems and support the Water Department's continued success moving forward.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

15. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Kauffman, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$108,892.32

Intermediary Claims (not included in claims): USPS \$1,136.77

b. Building Permits to be approved:

County RC2026-28, RC 2026-30, RC2026-32 and RC2026-33

City 2026-46, 2026-47, 2026-48 and 2026-49

16. Adjournment

at 6:47pm

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.