



City of Sidney, MT  
Street and Alley Committee Meeting 1-3-24  
January 03, 2024 5:00 PM  
115 2nd Street SE |Sidney, MT 59270

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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:** Christensen, DiFonzo and Rasmussen

**Others Present:** Mayor Norby, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, PWD Hintz, City Attorney Kalil, Greg Hitchcock (Sidney Herald), Amanda Seigfried, Janelle Stoner and John Baker

**1. New Business**

**a. Appoint Planning Board Member**

Mayor Norby stated it has been brought to his attention that one of the current appointed Planning Board member, Jason Schrader, has missed the last 5 meetings. He stated he would like to see the removal of Mr. Schrader off the planning board and the appointment of both Mr. Baker and Mrs. Stoner. Mrs. Seigfreid stated there is call in or zoom capabilities for the meetings and he has not chosen to attend that way. Mayor Norby stated he appreciates Mr. Schrader's service.

Motion was made to recommend the removal of Mr. Schrader and the appointment of both Mrs. Stoner and Mr. Baker to the two open positions on the Planning Board.

Motion made by Rasmussen, Seconded by DiFonzo.  
Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Christensen, Rasmussen

**b. Snow Removal Code Update**

PWD Hintz presented a proposal to amend the current snow removal code and include a primary and secondary route map. Alderwoman Christensen asked if the routes are the same that has been the standing policy and PWD Hintz stated yes they are the emergency vehicle routes. PWD Hintz stated he would like to have snow route signs installed on Lincoln Avenue and 5th from 9th Avenue to 14th Avenue to help inform the public that these are the snow routes that will be plowed right away and nothing can be parked on the street.

PWD Hintz stated they would dispatch to plow the snow after 4-6 inches have fallen, but the current ordinance states 3 inches. Alderwoman Rasmussen stated with the smaller amount of snows they melt and ice over and that leaves the holes in the roads that cause damage. PWD Hintz stated the compacted snow does cause issues with road and Alderwoman Rasmussen stated the lack of drainage does not help either.

Alderman DiFonzo stated the current route does not accommodate all of the bus routes, including 4th Street where the buses load. PWD Hintz stated that road could be added along with 3rd Avenue in front of Central school. Alderman DiFonzo stated if the school bus routes and pick-up/drop-off locations could be added to the primary routes, it would be preferable.

PWD Hintz stated proposed changes to the ordinance are in red, most of the changes coming from the City of Williston. PWD Hintz stated when it comes to removing snow from sidewalks, he is mostly concerned with the commercial districts. Alderman DiFonzo stated putting a strict 24 hour restriction for residential snow removal is not feasible and flexibility should be allowed given elderly and disabled residents unable to remove their own snow. He stated he would like to see the wording changed to "make every effort to" remove the snow from the sidewalks within 24-36 hours.

City Attorney Kalil stated he would like to clean up assessments section to fit current procedures. PWD Hintz stated he added in clearing their half of alleys or public right of ways should their sidewalk abut their sidewalk, as there was a resident that fell and broke a hip in an alley downtown that has sidewalks on each side of it. He it is a hazard for the public to not have the snow removed but the City will continue to sand those locations also.

Alderman DiFonzo stated 9-7-2 section A should add in push along with deposit the snow or ice, to make it clear for residents that they cannot push or plow their snow into the street. PWD Hintz stated in the Central Business districts they are allowed to do this currently because they have no other location to move the snow to. He stated they are ok with this happening as long as it happens prior to the removal of the snow. He further stated he added section B to stop the pilling of snow on corners and right of ways, and he would like to add a section C that is a penalty clause if they do so. He stated when the city has had to remove snow in such circumstances, they do not have the capability currently to charge them for that work and they do not have the capability currently to charge any property owner if they push the snow into the roadway and it deposits large rocks or items that damage the snow blower when picked up. Alderwoman Rasmussen stated there will have to be a way to track when damage to equipment and time spent that happens from these circumstances so that people can be fined and charged for damages. City Attorney Kalil stated documenting where the incidences happen is important for tracking.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if there could be a completely separate section for commercial districts and residential districts to make it clear to the public. City Attorney Kalil stated that change could happen and would review the proposed changes and update the penalty section.

Alderwoman Christensen stated she believes it should stay at 3 inches in the ordinance for dispatching for snow removal and Alderwoman Rasmussen and Mayor Norby agreed. Alderwoman Rasmussen stated it could be evaluated again in a couple years with the unknown weather that has been happening lately and maybe with the 3 inches it would help the

ruts. PWD Hintz stated there is 140 miles of lanes of roads in the city, with the snowplow moving 3 miles per hour, with that it takes about a week to get every street cleaned in the city. Alderwoman Christensen stated she would not like to see more than 4 inches.

Recommendation for City Attorney Kalil and PWD Hintz to continue to review and update and bring back to the Street and Alley Committee.

Motion made by Christensen, Seconded by DiFonzo.

Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Christensen, Rasmussen

Adjourned at 5:40pm.