



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 10-20-25
October 20, 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

Christensen, Buxbaum, Larson, Koffler, Rasmussen, and DiFonzo.

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. October 6th, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

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

5. Visitors

Other visitors: Evelyn Gonzalez, Treyce Bower, Madison Kapp, Carter Heggen, Logan Lowrey, Dawson Baltrusch, Amara Iversen, Landry Larson, Izzy Baisch, Brady Collins, Jody Wells (Roundup), Jared Trout, Tom Robertson, Rhys Larson, Joe Kauffman, Kalen Price, Aiden Rasmussen, James Falcon via Zoom (Sidney Herald).

a. Christensen Seasonal Lawn Account- Requesting Refund for 2022, 2023, and 2024:

2022: Connect fee \$30.00, monthly billing \$121.46

2023: Connect fee \$30.00, monthly billing \$147.68, late fees \$20.00

2024: Connect fee \$30.00, monthly billing \$184.10

Gert and Wanda Christensen (via Zoom) came before the City Council to request a refund from 2022, 2023, and 2024 seasonal water billing on the townhouses they own in Sunrise Subdivision. Mr. Christensen stated that the lawn was never watered during those summers, as proof with the zero usage stated on the billing and previous inquiries with Karmen Schmierer, past Utility Clerk for the City of Sidney (current Deputy Clerk/Treasurer). Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer replied that although there was no water usage during those billing cycles, the City does charge a minimal base rate for all active water and sewer accounts. Alderwoman Christensen stated that the issue presented seems to be a communication issue between the property owners and property managers and with them communicating with the City of Sidney Water Department.

Motion was made to deny the requested refund.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

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

b. Sidney Chamber of Commerce-250 Grant in Veteran's Park

Shannon Wicks, Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, came before the City Council to present information on a commemorative 250 grant that has been applied for. The grant is to build veteran memorial tributes in communities to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. Mrs. Wicks presented preliminary plans to add four pillars in Veteran's Park for the four branches on military service as a memorial. The plan would be to place the pillars, along with illuminated flagpoles, and sidewalk extension. PWD Hintz stated that the Chamber of Commerce is working with the Stephanie Ridl, City Park Superintendent. The plan will not interfere with the irrigation system and power for the illuminated flagpoles may be run from the park pavilion.

Motion was made to approve moving forward with 250 Grant in Veteran's Park plans.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

Mrs. Wicks asked if the Donald Nutter statue currently in Veteran's Park could be moved to the Nutter Building or another location on the downtown memorial walk extension, as that is the ideal place for the pillar memorial. The Nutter Building is a county building, request to move the statue would need to be presented to the Richland County Commissioners. Further discussion of this will be moved to committee.

6. Public Hearing

7. Mayor Norby

a. 2025 Extra Mile Day Proclamation

Mayor Norby read the Extra Day Proclamation in entirety, proclaiming November 1, 2025 to be "Extra Mile Day".

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

b. Update:

Mayor Norby thanked the council and council president, Alderwoman Christensen, for their support during his medical absences.

8. Committee Meeting Work

Nothing.

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 Christensen has received numerous complaints regarding the Centre Theater appearance. There is a trailer and items being stored on the south side of the building and alley area.

Alderwoman Christensen would like to schedule a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting and would like to add Sidney Swim Team to the agenda.

Alderman DiFonzo stated that the Sidney High School would like to place school banners on eight utility poles around the high school, on 4th Avenue SE, 8th Street SE, and 14th Avenue SE. The banners will be 2 foot by 4 foot and similar to what other schools in the area have done. PWD Hintz stated that utility poles are the owned by the utility company and suggested the school contact them directly.

Alderman DiFonzo asked about the 22nd Street retention pond for the stormwater overflow. PWD Hintz requested that Alderman DiFonzo stop into his office to look at the project details to answer any further questions he may have.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. Robertson Variance Request

Motion was made to approve the Robertson variance request to build a garage at 823 6th Avenue SE with the mandatory driveway no parking sign condition. The garage would be built within 7 feet of the west property line and 5 feet from the south property line.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

12. City Planner

Nothing.

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

Nothing.

14. Chief of Police

a. September 2025 Police Department Report

Chief of Police Kraft presented the September 2025 Police Department Report. He stated that a new officer was sworn in today and there is another great prospect from last week job interviews.

15. Public Works Director

a. Morrison Maierle Amendment 1 to TO 14 (Lagoon Sludge Removal and Reclamation)-reduction \$40,500

Motion was made to approve the Morrison Maierle Amendment 1 TO 14 (Lagoon Sludge Removal and Reclamation)- reduction \$40,500.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

b. September 2025 Public Works Report

PWD Hintz provided the September 2025 Public Works Department Report. He stated the North Meadow Storm Water Project started today, one week behind schedule. He also stated that remodel of the city shop is going well and that paving is now complete for the season.

c. Meadows BRIC Grant Reimbursement Q3 2025 \$14,482.19 (\$13,786.18 + \$696.00)

(Invoices paid with claims #44117, 44247)

Motion was made to approve the Meadows BRIC Grant Reimbursement Q3 2025 \$14,482.19 (\$13,786.18 + \$696.00)

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

d. NPWTRP ARPA Q3 Report

PWD Hintz presented the NPWTRP ARPA Q3 Report.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. August 2025 Fire Run Report

The August 2025 Fire Run Report was presented to the City Council.

b. September 2025 Fire Run Report

The September 2025 Fire Run Report was presented to the City Council.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. September 2025 Treasurer's Report

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer presented the September 2025 Treasurer's Report.

b. September 2025 JV Report

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer presented the September 2025 JV Report.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum.

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

c. Quarter 3-2025 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer \$1,399,684.80

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer presented the Quarter 3 2025 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer \$1,399,684.80.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

d. USDA Rural Development Loan

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer presented the USDA Rural Development Loan information that Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin prepared. On October 6th, 2025, the City Council requested information on paying of the City of Sidney's USDA Bond for the 200,000-gallon water tower extension. Recommendation is for more time to investigate.

Motion was made to table the USDA Rural Development Loan to allow more time to investigate.

Motion made by Alderwoman Buxbaum, Seconded by Alderwoman Larson.

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

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$68,445.70

Intermediary Claims: (\$249.00)

Sweley \$249.00

b. Building Permits to be approved:

19. Adjournment

at 7:09pm.