



City of Sidney, MT
Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
May 08, 2023 12:00 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: 879 4086 9849 Passcode: 4332809 Call: 1-346-248-7799

Aldermen Present: Rasmussen and Godfrey

Others Present: Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Shanks, PWD Hintz, Chief Kraft

1. New Business

a. FY2023-24 Payroll Budget

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the City Council with the options for the FY2023-24 payroll COLA. She stated the social security COLA this year was 8.7% and the MACO COLA was 8%, so the options vary from 8% to 2%. She stated these scenarios also include the 9% health insurance increase. She stated the health insurance increase is inflated above the 9% in the budget numbers because of the need to increase several employees from employee only to employee family coverage this year. She stated she did not change the comp time payouts from the previous year, even though only 2 police officers have cashed out comp time other than salaried employees. She stated that although she does not foresee this changing this fiscal year, she would rather keep that built in to the budget for one more fiscal year to garner a better picture of the new policy.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated after running what-if scenarios in the payroll with Mayor Norby and Chief Kraft to see what would be the best case scenario for employees. She stated they examined covering all of the health insurance increase with a lesser COLA or having the employees cover part of the health insurance increase but getting a higher COLA. She stated in the end they are recommending the City covering the full 9% health insurance increase, while providing up to a 4% COLA, based off of individual employee evaluations. Alderwoman Rasmussen stated she feels this is generous to the employees but she doesn't feel the City could afford any higher COLA and everyone agreed.

Alderwoman Godfrey asked if the City had looked into getting HSA accounts for the employees to contribute to as another option when the health insurance increases are high. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she has looked into them, but to change to a HSA insurance with MMIA, the

deductibles and max contributions increase substantially for the employees and it is not something that they have wanted to pursue because of.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated although Alderwoman Christensen was not able to attend the Budget and Finance Committee due to a last minute scheduling conflict, she did review the information with her prior to the meeting and she is in favor of the proposed.

Motion was made to recommend approval of covering the 9% health insurance increase and giving up to a 4% COLA based off of evaluations.

Motion made by Godfrey, Seconded by Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Rasmussen, Godfrey

Meeting was adjourned at 12:22pm