



City of Sidney, MT
Water and Sewer Committee Meeting
April 11, 2022 5:30 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: 856 2753 1847 Passcode: 4332809 Call: 1-346-248-7799

Present: Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderwoman Godfrey

Others: Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin, Jordan Mayer (Interstate Engineering)

1. New Business

a. 9th Avenue Sewer Extension

PWD Hintz and Mr. Mayer provided the City Council on information for an SID for the 9th Avenue Sewer Extension. PWD Hintz stated the Council was approached by Fred Lake over a year ago about getting connected to City Sewer. He stated to do this conventionally it would not be cost effective, but he had the idea to utilize 10-inch pipe the City has in its possession that they purchased from a Developer. The plans had already been drawn up because of a subdivision that did not go into place. By utilizing the existing pipe, hire a contractor to dig the trench and then the City install pipe, the total project would be around \$115,000, versus the engineers original estimate of over \$400,000 (that does not take into account current prices). PWD Hintz stated there is 4 manholes, around \$5,000 a piece, plus the pipe would be sold to the project for the cost the city acquired it. The project would then be sold back to the property owners, similar to an SID without the bonding. He stated the pipe needs to be used before it become brittle in the sun. Mr. Mayer stated it was designed at a 12-inch pipe, with the 10 -inch pipe the crew would have to jet more frequently. PWD Hintz stated Interstate Engineering would be responsible for updating the plans and getting DEQ approval. The project would take around 2-3 weeks.

PWD Hintz stated we would have to contact each of the property owners for approval, like an SID. Mr. Mayer stated that there are to many vacant lots that could prohibit the SID. He stated some of it may be paid by the City, it could be set up like an SID or it could charge a connection fee, then if the vacant properties develop, they would have to pay that connection fee then. Mr. Mayor stated that the property owner can choose to allow to have this amortized out over a set number of years with interest to pay it, with the option to pay off penalty free, without having to pay the cost to connect upfront. He further stated this would be the cheapest this project will ever be able to be done.

Alderwoman Godfrey asked how many property owners the City has to have on board, and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated that would be up to the Council since the City is upfronting the costs and risks not getting paid back. Mr. Mayer stated he feels the City should still send the letter out to get a feel for who all will want to connect right away, but ultimately the City is fronting the project and may never be paid back for all of the cost. He further stated that the services will be available, but no property can connect without paying for it. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there is over \$4 million in cash. She stated that by borrowing money, the City will have to pay interest on that loan amount, and possibly never get all of that recouped, but by using cash the City would only be losing the interest they would have accrued for that money being in the bank. There is already water services to this lot.

Mr. Mayer stated those residences are currently pumping their sewer to a manhole, but they are responsible for all of those lines. He stated Agri Industries has issues and want to get attached very much. Other others will no longer have to be responsible for the mains that they pump their sewer currently through.

Motion was made to recommend moving forward with this project at this time. Mr. Mayer stated the next step would be narrowing down the cost estimates for the entire project, and then send letters.

Motion made by Koffler, Seconded by Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Koffler, Rasmussen, Godfrey

Adjourned at 6:02pm