



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting
October 07, 2024 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

The regular meeting of the Sidney City Council was called to order at 6:30pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.

3. Aldermen Present

Christensen, Godfrey, Stevenson, Koffler, Rasmussen and DiFonzo

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. September 19th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

5. Visitors

a. Sidney Chamber: Fall Festival and Christmas Stroll

Chamber Executive Director Godfrey stated the Chamber is seeking permission to close the street (100 block of East Main, 100 block of West Main and 100 block of 2nd Street SW) and have extra garbage cans for the fall festival on October 12th.

Motion was made to approve the closing of streets and extra garbage cans by Alderman DiFonzo and seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen. All present voted aye with Alderwoman Godfrey abstaining.

Chamber Executive Director Godfrey stated they are also seeking approval for numerous items for the 2024 Christmas Stroll that has been expanded to last over several days. She stated on November 29th it will be the Parade of Lights so the usual parade streets will need to be closed, additional garbage cans on the streets and the bleachers with vendors on the city lot by City Hall. On November 30th it will be Shop Small Saturday so they are requesting the east half of the 100 block of West Main Street closed and to have sidewalk sales and food vendors. Finally she stated on December 5th will be the Polar Plunge where they are requesting the west half of the 100 block of 3rd Street Southwest be closed (by Elks) and the city's assistance for moving the tank for the polar plunge.

Motion was made to approve the requested for the Chamber Christmas Stroll.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Christensen

Voting Abstaining: Alderwoman Godfrey

b. Other Visitors:

Jody Wells (Round-up), Scott Swanson, Felix Aguilar and Sidney High School Students: Jackson Wick, Liam Steinbeisser, Walker Rohner, Tanner Tiesen, Blake Johnson, Kylie Schoepp, Clem Bayless, Alyssa Batchelor, Ellie Burns, Kinley Wieland, Jori Horsburgh, Garrett Youngquist, Macki Gonzales, Hailey Getcheol, Joael Eggum, Eva Hovelen, Isabelle Doty, Cedar Houde, Maddie Schieber, Maliya Nguewaun, Corey Christensen.

Via Zoom: City Attorney Kalil and James Falcon (Sidney Herald)

6. Public Hearing

a. Announcing Public Hearing at October 21st meeting: Luinstra Zone Change Request

Mayor Norby announced there will be a public hearing on October 21st for a zoning change request.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Update:

Mayor Norby thanked the Chamber for all they do for the community.

8. Committee Meeting Work

Nothing.

9. Alderman Requests and Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation – Chairman DiFonzo – Christensen, Stevenson | **Water and Sewer** – Chairman Koffler – Godfrey, Christensen

Street and Alley – Chairman Christensen– DiFonzo, Rasmussen | **Sanitation** – Chairman Rasmussen – Koffler, Stevenson

City Buildings & Street Lighting – Chairman Stevenson– Koffler, Godfrey | **Police and Fire** – Chairman Godfrey, DiFonzo, Rasmussen

Budget and Finance – Chairman Christensen – DiFonzo, Koffler

Alderman Stevenson stated at the end of 6th Ave by the truck route where the City just painted new signs and did chip seal there is a large pot hole and asked if it will get filled? PWD Hintz stated they will get it filled.

Alderwoman Rasmussen thanked the PWD for painting all the new lines around town.

Alderman DiFonzo stated there is a pot hole by ___ that also needs filled and PWD Hintz stated they will also get it taken care of.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

Nothing.

12. City Planner

Nothing.

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

City Attorney stated there are currently 77 open city court criminal cases with 25 being closed since took over in July. He stated everything is going very well for that contract. Mayor Norby asked if it is more than he bargained for under the current contract and City Attorney Kalil stated it has been reasonable to handle for now.

14. Chief of Police

a. Update:

Nothing.

15. Public Works Director

a. September 2024 Public Works Report

PWD Hintz presented the September 2024 Public Works Report. He stated the pool blasting and painting is done and they will be replacing the filter media this spring. He stated they assisted MDT with repairs on 9th Ave SE and completed street repairs on the 900 block of 5th St SE. He stated this year the City has put over 4,000 tons of new asphalt on streets.

PWD Hintz stated the Waste Water Treatment soil sampling looks promising to leave sludge in place to farm which will save \$5.4M for the removal project. He stated he hopes to seed it to alfalfa and eventually get someone to farm the 40 acres. Alderwoman Godfrey asked when the final testing for sludge will be and PWD Hintz stated last week, and they are using monitoring wells records also. He stated the high cost to remove the sludge is the struggle with so much sludge with so little land to apply with high nitrate levels to locally land apply, with 6,000-7,000 loads to haul. Mr. Swanson stated out west in MT they taking the waste by-product to make fertilizer, and PWD Hintz stated in Missoula they turn it to bio-solids, but you need to be a larger town to be profitable, which our size wouldn't be.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if any information was found out about the paving of the hockey lot, and PWD Hintz stated Franz paved it in the 80's when balloon went up and it is very thin and falling apart. He stated he does not have a current cost estimate and he is not sure yet on who paid to have it paved then, but it possibly was hockey themselves. Alderman DiFonzo stated he wonders if it was it was a fundraiser or grants to do the paving as he does not believe it was paved right away when they took over that location.

b. SAIA Connect to City Water/Annexation

PWD Hintz requested a Water and Sewer Committee Meeting be scheduled to discuss this request. He stated the City needs to review if they would like to require them to annex to be connected to City water or just allow them to.

Motion was made to send it to the Water and Sewer Committee.

In discussion Mr. Swanson asked why there wouldn't be an annexation and PWD Hintz stated it is something that the committee will be discussing to weigh the benefit of annexation.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

Water and Sewer Committee Meeting was scheduled for October 15th, 2024 at 5:15pm.

c. Martha's House Sewer Extension

PWD Hintz requested this be added to the agenda for the scheduled Water and Sewer Committee meeting and general consensus of the City Council did so.

d. Anderson Drainage Vendor Invoice and Progress Report Q3 2024

PWD Hintz presented the Anderson Drainage Vendor Invoice and Progress report for quarter 3 of 2024.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

PWD Hintz stated they had the pre-construction meeting earlier today and the contractor is expected to start on Monday. He stated there is only one easement outstanding and they might be shutting down 22nd Avenue or only have one lane for a couple of days to bore under the road. Mayor Norby stated that will be a nightmare to have closed and PWD Hintz stated they would deter to 5th St to 28th then hit Holly. He stated they are hopeful to leave one lane open but they don't know if the narrow street and banks on each side will be safe for one lane being open and it might be better to close. Alderwoman Christensen asked where they are crossing and PWD Hintz stated between ROI and the King house and it will cross the Tjelde trailer court.

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

Nothing.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. September 2024 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the September 2024 JV Report.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

b. Quarter 3, 2024 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer \$723,483.96

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the Quarter 3, 2024 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

c. September 2024 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the September 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Alderman DiFonzo asked for an update on the fence at Ace Hardware and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated FM/BI Rasmussen had already informed them prior to her discussing with him that they needed to stop work until they got a permit and during that permit process they would have to move the fence out of the right away and either follow code on height or request a variance.

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

a. Claims to be approved: \$470,933.78

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b. Building Permits to be approved: RC2025-11, 2025-028, 2025-029

19. Adjournment

at 6:57 pm.