



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting
March 20, 2023 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: 869 9177 5975 Passcode: 4332809 Call: 1-346-248-7799

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Sidney City Council was called to order by Mayor Norby 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. March 6th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

b. March 13th, 2023 Park and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

c. March 13th, 2023 Police and Fire Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

5. Visitors

None.

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

Nothing.

a. Update

Nothing.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Park and Rec Committee: Budget for \$17,630 EZ-ice Skating Rink plus shipping costs

Alderman DiFonzo stated the Park and Recreation Committee met and discussed the Quilling's Park ice skating rink, as it was brought to the City's attention by residents. He stated they reviewed pricing options, which are detailed in the minutes. He stated this will take a lot less water and be easier to take down and put up. He stated the PWD Hintz recommended option 4 and after discussing the Committee recommended moving forward with budgeting for option 4.

Motion was made to approve budgeting for option 4 plus shipping costs.

In discussion Alderman Stevenson asked how the snow will be removed from it and PWD Hintz stated with the walls being shorter they will build a ramp for it. Alderman Koffler stated he has concerns with the upcoming budget and tax dollars, committing to make this purchase. Alderwoman Christensen stated Parks Superintendent Ridl is looking to grants for it and Alderwoman Rasmussen stated it will be a great asset to the community. Mayor Norby stated when budgeting this year, if it is something that cannot be done it can always be cut. Mayor Norby stated he also feels this will reduce the City's liability by having a rink that can be taken care

of instead of flooding the entire area.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

b. Park and Rec Committee: Swim Team Dock-use existing dock for 2023

Alderman DiFonzo stated the Park and Recreation Committee also met with the swim team and discussed the options of their dock at the swimming pool. He stated Interstate Engineering provided plans for the options on correcting the bulkhead/dock issue, since they were told year ago it needed to be addressed. He reviewed the three options, outlined in the minutes and provided in the agenda packet. Part of the options discussed was raising the large pool floor to make it more family friendly. He stated after discussing and reviewing the options, it was the recommendation of the Park and Recreation Committee to allow them to use the existing dock/bulkhead for one more year, 2023, to give time to look into the options and fundraising for them.

The general consensus of the City Council was to approve the Sidney Tiger Sharks using their existing temporary dock/bulkhead for the 2023 season.

c. Police and Fire Committee-Drug Task Force Officer

Alderwoman Godfrey stated the Police and Fire Committee met and discussed the Drug Task Force Officer that will give us an officer in Sidney specific to the Drug Task Force. Chief Kraft outlined the position and how they would be managed. This position would be fully refunded by the Drug Task Force, except the first 8 hours of overtime per week. She stated it was their recommendation to approve the TFO.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated they did reach out to MMIA who was taking the MOU to their Risk Management Board, but they have not heard further on it.

Motion was made to approve with the conditions that MMIA approve the MOU and should the TFO grant terminate, it is not a guaranteed permanent position with the Sidney Police Department and current manpower will be maintained unless approved.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

9. Alderman Requests and Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation – Chairman Difonzo – Godfrey, Christensen | **Water and Sewer** – Chairman Koffler – Godfrey, Rasmussen

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

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

Budget and Finance – Chairman Christensen – Rasmussen, Godfrey

Alderman Godfrey stated Mr. Lake reached out to her wanting an update to the sewer project by his house. PWD Hintz stated he also talked to Mr. Lake, and stated that the only 2 homeowners interested in the project and paying for it were him and another, and the City should not pay for this project, therefore it fell through.

Alderman Stevenson stated he has noticed with this most recent snowstorm, residents are pushing snow into the streets and alleys, into piles and causing issues with traffic, garbage removal, etc. PWD Hintz stated it is illegal, except in the downtown commercial/business district, and that we are having this issue with people covering and blocking hydrants. Alderman Christensen asked who would enforce it and PWD Hintz stated it would be his departments, but they are usually busy moving snow. Mayor Norby stated the current code does not have any teeth in it to enforce stopping this. Alderman DiFonzo stated this could be a liability for the City, especially traffic issues, and should be taken seriously. Mayor Norby and the City Council agreed that a review of the City Code and snow removal policies should be reviewed.

Alderman DiFonzo asked about an update on the nuisance properties and Mayor Norby stated they will be meeting this week or the next to be ready to move forward on them this spring.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. 2023 Svarre Pool Schedule-no changes recommended

PWD Hintz stated Pool Manager Tonya Garsjo is recommending no changes be made to the schedule, as it has been working great.

Motion was made to keep the schedule the same.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

b. 2023 Svarre Pool Ticket Costs-no changes recommended

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated that although the revenues from the ticket sales do not cover the cost of running the pool, the ticket sales have held steady and she is recommending no changes to ticket prices from the 2022 year.

Motion was made to not change the Svarre Pool Ticket prices from the 2022 prices.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

12. City Planner

Nothing.

13. City Attorney

Nothing.

14. Chief of Police

a. February 2023 Police Department Report

Chief Kraft provided the February 2023 Police Department report.

b. Purchase used patrol vehicle-\$24,000 (including shipping)

Chief Kraft stated that as the end of the fiscal year is approaching, the police department budget has vacancy savings with not having 2 positions filled for the first 6 months. He stated they will be in need of 2 patrol vehicles next fiscal year, since none was budgeted for this fiscal year, but they did come across a used one that is in great shape for a very good price of just under \$24,000 that he would like to purchase with that vacancy savings.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided projections for this fiscal year for the police department budget, with vacancy savings around \$178,000.

Alderwoman Christensen asked if they would still need 2 vehicles this next fiscal year and Chief Kraft stated no.

Motion was made to approve.

In discussion Alderman DiFonzo stated it was his understanding that with this body style, the interior outfitting could be used from the existing vehicles and Chief Kraft stated it would.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

Voting Nay: Alderwoman Christensen

c. Purchase 8 Hand Held Radios-\$47,585.12

Chief Kraft stated anticipating a full staff for the upcoming fiscal years, he knows that there will not be vacancy savings to purchase items not able to be budgeted for and so he would also like permission to use this fiscal years savings to purchase 8 hand held radios. He stated the current radios are 20 years old and at their end of service life. He further stated that if vacancy savings cannot be used, the purchase will have to be budgeted for above his normal budget requirements. Chief Kraft stated they have grant for 4 through Victim Advocate Office, which will make 12 radios total that will have the capability of using the statewide radio system for communication around state (trunking), which the current ones cannot. He stated that they could use more but they can make due with the 12 total and that this is a generational purchase that wont need to happen again for a very long time.

Motion was made to approve.

In discussion Mayor Norby asked if there is trade in for the old ones or if they could be used as backup and Chief Kraft stated he does not think they could be traded in but they could be used as backup. Alderman DiFonzo stated we are probably one of the only places that do not have trunking ability, or use of the statewide radio system, and this could be the only opportunity to purchase these and he is not sure we ca afford to budget for them next year.

Alderwoman Rasmussen asked about the life span and Chief Kraft stated the same as the old ones. Alderwoman Rasmussen suggested selling the old ones to a smaller community who could use them and Chief Kraft stated he can look into it but given how old they are it is unlikely. Alderman Stevenson asked if purchasing an extra and having a spare would be beneficial and Chief Kraft stated newer radios where purchased that are not trunking capable but he could see the utilization of 2 more if the council is willing to use the vacancy savings for such. Chief Kraft was asked if there are grant options available and he replied Marathon Petroleum has first responder grants that he was going to apply to for purchasing more radios. Alderman DiFonzo stated he would rather purchase the needed 8 and see what the grant supplies.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

15. Public Works Director

a. February 2023 Public Works Report

PWD Hintz provided the February 2023 Public Works Report. He stated garbage is down a little bit from previous years, fuel prices are continuing to drop, there was 3 sewer calls in February. He stated phase 3 water pre-construction meeting is March 31s, 2023 at 9am. He stated COP has started to move in materials. He stated there was a water break on 9th Avenue that was repaired, the leak was on the main and fixed. They anticipate doing repairs at the pool this spring to start the season on top of cleaning and basic maintenance for the beginning of year.

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

Nothing.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. February 2023 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the February 2023 Treasurer's Report. She stated two funds that are going to need budget amendments are the mowing fund and the BARSAA fund.

b. February 2023 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the February 2023 JV Report for approval, with only the usual JVs.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

c. February 2023 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$89,593.34

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the February 2023 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$89,593.34.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

d. Water/Sewer Transfer Correction for 900 object codes (Oct 2022-Jan 2023) for \$122,010.52

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the correction Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$122,010.52. She stated the October 2022-January 2023 bank transfers did not include the expenditures in the 900 object codes that should have been included.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

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: \$48,375.96

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2023-41 and RC2023-26 (several BP on hold)

19. Adjournment

7:34pm