



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 12-16-24
December 16, 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

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, Godfrey, Koffler, and Rasmussen (via phone). Absent: Stevenson and DiFonzo

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. December 2nd, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Aldерwoman Christensen asked for the amendment that Alderman Stevenson was not present and amended her motion to reflect.

Motion made by Aldерwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Aldерwoman Rasmussen, Aldерwoman Godfrey, Aldерwoman Christensen

5. Visitors

Troy Jensen, Janelle Jensen, Chris Schoepp, Gary Schoepp, Karen Schoepp, Megan Garza, Sean Riordan, Liz Kleinke, James Netzer, Jon Skinner, Jamie Larson, Zachary Sverdrup, Chris Waters, Joe Kauffman and Cami Skinner.

Sidney High School: Kylie Schoepp, Kaleb Kulzler, Mat Davis, Anndee Eksteen, Dali Avery, Kinely Wieland, Ellie Burns, Jori Horsburgh, Tacy Borg, Corey Christensen, Ryleigh Kleinke, Amara Iverson and Madison Kapp.

6. Public Hearing

a. Transportation Alternative Grant Project

Mayor Norby called the public hearing for the Transportation Alternative Grant Project to order at 6:34pm.

City Planner Sanderson stated the planning project recommendation is from an issue that arose during a zone change meeting that year. He stated the community brought up a serious safety issue on 22nd Ave NW because it is substandard and needs to be upgraded by being widened and adding a bike/walk path. He stated with the residential and the school property in the area impacts these safety concerns and they need to be mitigated to make this road safer. He stated in the Capital Improvement Process the bike path adjacent to 22nd Avenue NW was put as top priority. He stated because of the cost of the project, a transportation grant is an option and Glendive received this grant for just under \$1 million for a similar project, with the TA Grant funding up to 87% of the project. He stated part of that grant process is showing a need, which we have through the previous meetings and CIP, but we are also required to ask if 22nd Avenue is the right project or if there is another project that has a greater need. He stated instead of proponent or opposed, we are also looking for a supplementary project if 22nd is not the project recommended.

Mayor Norby called for any proponents, three times, with the following coming forward:

Ryleigh Kleinke stated she lives in the North Meadow Subdivision and runs both track and cross county with her runs including 22nd Avenue. She stated the narrow shoulder, 35 mph speed limit, and drivers not paying attention contribute to a huge safety issue. She stated that road is used by pedestrians for numerous reasons and there is no other options than the shoulder until bike path.

James Netzer stated he lives on Sage Lilly drive and he is in favor of the 22nd Avenue project that will be a benefit to the community. He stated he did a petition 8 years ago for same project and got 118 signatures with just a small push of going door to door in that neighborhood and he got a large turnout. He stated this would be a great benefit as he would like to bike ride into town safely and all residents will benefit with bike path and walk to dog park. He stated this will provide peace of mind for children going to pool and he feels there is more support than people realize.

Troy Jenson stated he lives in South Meadow Subdivision and owns property on 22nd Avenue. He stated he is a proponent for this project as it is important for community and area. He stated it will benefit the entire area and at other meetings he understands the challenges for the expenses and issues on 22nd and therefore is in favor of this project.

Janelle Jensen stated she lives in South Meadow Subdivision and travels 22nd Avenue 4 times a day minimum and there is always people walking for exercise, biking, children going to and

from school and sees the hazard for pedestrians. She stated she highly encourages this grant and project as it will be a safe measure for neighborhood and citizens of Sidney.

Megan Garza stated she is the Treasurer of the local run club that runs on bike path year round. She stated any addition the the bike path would awesome as well as pedestrian access on 22nd Avenue leading to the Softball field and dog park for children and walking/running. She stated the run club includes 10 to 30 people and avoid this area because no path especially if more than one person is running at a time.

Sean Riordan stated he does not live up 22nd Avenue, rather he lives next to the high school, but he does get his hair cut over there and has flown commercial drones int the area and has biked or road his one wheel on the shoulder of 22nd Avenue. He stated the shoulder is only loose gravel so you have to be careful on turns or you will spin out. He stated the truck traffic that pedestrians have to keep eye on also causes concerns and this project will add a lot of safety.

Zach Sverdrup stated he has and does Coach Softball and play adult softball and feels safety is a great aspect for adding this project. He stated safety of kids trumps but added benefit of extension to the current paths, but he feels any additional sidewalks added to the community is great.

Gary Schoepp stated he lives on 22nd Avenue and feels this would be a wonderful project to get done and hopes it can get as far up hill as possible.

Chief Kraft stated he seconds what everyone else has stated as a previous resident of the South Meadow area and the pedestrian traversing is a safety issue. He stated as the Chief of Police and in interest of public safety, this project addresses safety to the highest level and he does not feel there is any other project that would mitigate a safety issue as this one would.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the following people submitted testimony in support of the TA Grant and the project being the 22nd Avenue Bike Path Extension: Haralson Family on Red River Drive, Madison and Ben Miller, Garth Kallevig and Con Donovan.

Mayor Norby called for any opponents, three times, with none coming forward.

Mayor Norby closed the public hearing at 6:49pm.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Update:

Nothing.

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

Alderwoman Godfrey gave thanks to the many city staff for all the help with the Christmas stroll.

Alderwoman Rasmussen stated she received an email testimony after the closing of the public hearing for the Transportation Alternative Grant from Andee Malarchick who lives on Crocus drive that is in support of the walking path extension on 22nd Avenue with all of the close calls and anxiety for pedestrians.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

Nothing.

12. City Planner

a. Sheehan Minor Subdivision

City Planner Sanderson presented the Sheehan Minor Subdivision and provided his staff report #MNR-24-01 that outlines the statutory requirements and standards/findings. He stated there is proposed mitigations outlined in the report with 7 conditions on approval. Mr. Kauffman stated he has reviewed the report and has no issues with any recommendations/conditions/mitigations. PWD Hintz stated he has nothing further to add.

Motion was made to adopt staff report #MNR-24-01 as findings of fact and approve subdivision with 7 conditions outlined in said report.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

Year end update on prosecuting, took over in July. He stated they have had 128 active cases through city attorney office with 53 closed, 75 open, 16 hearings tomorrow that will probably close another 8-10. He stated they have taken a stronger stance on DUI prosecution and created strong rapport with the Police Department and they are all working to keep community safe. Chief Kraft stated he seconded what City Attorney Kalil stated and that the Police Department is pleased with the work done.

14. Chief of Police

a. November 2024 Police Department Report

Chief Kraft provided the November 2024 Police Department Report.

b.

Chief Kraft stated the Polar Plunge event went great this year, bringing in over \$23,000 in donations and sponsorships, which is substantially more than last years record breaking year of approximately \$7,000. He stated a huge shout out for the officers and community for supporting the Special Olympics.

15. Public Works Director

a. Phase III Water Project Draw #8C for \$270,301

PWD Hintz presented the Phase III Water Project Draw #8C for \$270,301.00. He stated this draw is a reimbursement draw to the City of Sidney.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

b. November 2024 PW Report

PWD Hints provided the November 2024 Public Works Department Report. He stated the crew was out yesterday and today with both sanders because of the freezing rain.

c. November 2024 Compliance Officer Report

PWD Hintz provided the November 2024 Compliance Officer Report.

d. Morrison Maierle Anderson Subdivision Change Order 1-increase \$870.00

PWD Hintz presented the Morrison Maierle Anderson Subdivision Change Order 1, which was an increase in contract of \$870.00. He stated this increase is for engineering services for construction administration.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

e. Anderson Subdivision Pay Application 2 for \$106,693.54

PWD Hintz presented the Anderson Subdivision Pay Application 2 for \$106,693.54. He stated this should be the final pay application for this project and this projects included provisions for the storm water should the bike path extension go into place.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. November 2024 Fire Run Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the November 2024 Fire Run Report on behalf of FM/BI Rasmussen.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. November 2024 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the November 2024 Treasurer's Report. She stated they have completed and submitted the FY23-24 MD&A and Annual Financial Report, both of which are available if anyone would like to review them.

b. November 2024 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the November 2024 JV Report.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permit.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.
Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

a. **Claims to be approved:** \$148,927.71

b. **Building Permits to be approved:** RC2025-13

19. Adjournment

at 7:08 pm.