



City of Sidney, MT
Parking Commission Meeting 5/27/26
May 27, 2026 12:00 PM
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

Committee meetings are held in a hybrid format, allowing both in-person and Zoom participation. Members will attend in person unless remote attendance is necessary. Consistent with the Montana Constitution's Right of Participation and Right to Know, the City is committed to open and accessible meetings. Public participation via Zoom or phone is available using the information below:

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7130805898?pwd=tJpmtgBdGbsjBXS0EAU50ANb4u7h3l.1&omn=82797269564>

Call: 1-346-248-7799 **Meeting ID:** 713 080 5898 **Passcode:** 4332809

Commission Present: Chief Kraft, PWD Hintz, FM/BI Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Mr. Meldahl

Other's Present: Mayor Norby, CAO Chamberlin

1. New Business

a. General Parking Issues

Discussion began regarding general parking concerns throughout the City, prompted by concerns raised at a previous Public Works Committee meeting regarding vehicles parking too close to intersections and obstructing visibility and traffic flow.

Staff requested clarification from the Commission regarding when Public Works must obtain Parking Commission approval before painting curbs or designating no parking areas. Commission members discussed that areas already established by City Code as no parking zones should not require additional approval and that Public Works should retain authority to paint curbs where appropriate under existing code.

Discussion followed regarding consistency between painted curbs and posted signage. Members noted that some areas have signage without paint while others have paint without signage, creating inconsistency for enforcement purposes. Law enforcement representatives stated enforcement becomes more difficult when restrictions are not clearly marked.

The Commission discussed parking enforcement practices and acknowledged that parking violations are generally handled with discretion due to the nature of the community. Law enforcement representatives indicated that enforcement efforts have increased somewhat since December but emphasized the importance of balancing enforcement with community relations.

Members discussed the use of yellow curb paint, particularly within business districts and near intersections. Concerns were raised about vehicles parking too close to corners, reducing sight visibility and creating hazards for motorists and pedestrians. Commissioners generally agreed that Public Works should be able to address standard no parking areas without requiring Commission approval for each instance.

The Commission further discussed setback distances at intersections and visibility concerns within commercial areas. Public Works representatives stated that painting and signage decisions should focus on safety and traffic volume while avoiding unnecessary micromanagement.

Consensus of the Commission was that Public Works may continue routine curb painting and parking marking activities as needed under existing City Code and established standards, with unusual or unique situations brought to the Commission for review.

b. Angled Parking in Downtown District

The Commission discussed angle parking concerns in the downtown area, specifically on Third Street/Third Avenue near local dealerships and businesses. Staff referenced prior discussions regarding converting portions of the area to a combination of parallel parking on one side and angle parking on the other.

Commission members expressed concerns regarding delivery trucks, employee parking, snow removal difficulties, and emergency vehicle access in areas where angle parking exists on both sides of the street. It was noted that no significant emergency response issues have occurred to date; however, narrow traffic lanes and blocked access remain ongoing concerns.

Public Works staff discussed challenges with snow removal and street maintenance due to improperly parked vehicles and oversized trucks extending into travel lanes or alleys. Specific concerns were raised regarding commercial vehicles parked perpendicular to curbs and delivery vehicles obstructing alleyways.

The Commission discussed whether formal action should be taken regarding parking restrictions in the area. Members generally agreed that a cooperative approach with business owners would be preferable before implementing formal restrictions or changes to parking configurations.

Staff indicated they would consider meeting informally with affected business owners to discuss concerns related to delivery access, snow removal, and maintaining clear travel lanes while avoiding formal enforcement measures if possible.

Adjourned at 12:45pm