



City of Sidney, MT
Street and Alley Committee Meeting
July 24, 2024 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: 713 080 5898 Passcode: 4332809 Call: 1-346-248-7799

Committee Members Present: Christensen, Rasmussen, DiFonzo

Other's Present: Mayor Norby, PWD Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Schmierer

1. New Business

a. FY2024-25 Preliminary Budget-Streets Funds

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the preliminary budget for the Streets Funds that includes the street maintenance fund, snow removal fund, gas tax fund, street equipment CIP and street construction CIP. She stated the street maintenance fund, which is the property tax assessment fund, pays primarily for payroll and operations of the street department with capital projects or purchases coming out of the other funds. She stated overall there is approximately \$1,600,000 in capital being spent on streets this year, most of which coming out of the gas tax fund that received a large payment last year when the BARSAA fuel tax account was closed out by the State of Montana. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated she is seeking approval of the preliminary budget except the CIP that requires a transfer from the oil and gas fund, which will be approved by the Budget and Finance Committee once the taxable valuation is delivered.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the streets preliminary budget, except the CIP street fun 4030, by Alderman DiFonzo and seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen. All present voted aye.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated due to increased operations and payroll costs, there does need to be an increase in the fee assessment. She stated the previous assessment was \$160/year per property and to cover the increased costs it would need to be raised to \$180/year per property. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated also the snow removal fee assessment needs to be increased from \$50/year per property to \$75/year per property. Alderwoman Christensen stated they knew the increase was coming for the snow removal as it was discussed in the last budget process and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated that was correct and to avoid doing the increase

all in one year they transferred money from the oil and gas fund to the snow removal fund to cover the additional costs.

Alderman DiFonzo asked how much increase in property taxes there is anticipated, total across all areas and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the proposed increases beyond the mill levy increase approved with the local government review is: \$20 for street maintenance, \$25 for snow removal and \$50 for garbage, so a total of \$95 increase per year.

Alderman DiFonzo asked why so much of an increase for the garbage fund and PWD Hintz informed him that it is mainly due to the increase costs in garbage trucks but also fuel and truck maintenance increased costs are factors. He stated in 2017 a new garbage truck cost \$280,000 and in 2024 it had increased to \$440,000-\$480,000. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated these garbage rates are still low compared to the garbage services in the county. It was discussed how county garbage is being brought in to city cans and increasing city costs, but there really are not feasible solutions to stop this.

Alderwoman Rasmussen stated streets improvements are always what people ask about and the increase to the street maintenance and snow removal is something that has to be done. Alderman DiFonzo stated a less than \$10 increase per month won't affect most but will affect some on fixed income. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the PWD Hintz has pursued all options to keep costs low, including doing most of the streets projects in house, saving 50% or more of project costs.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the increase to the street maintenance assessment fee of \$20 and the snow removal fee of \$25.

Motion made by DiFonzo, Seconded by Rasmussen.
Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Christensen, Rasmussen

b. FY2024-25 Preliminary Budget-Sweeping Fund

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the proposed preliminary budget of the sweeping fund, which includes the purchase of a new sweeper. She stated the current rates and cash are in line for the capital purchase this fiscal year and the planned capital purchases for in the future, there is no need to do any increases to that fee assessment.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the preliminary sweeping budget.

Motion made by Rasmussen, Seconded by DiFonzo.
Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Christensen, Rasmussen

c. FY2024-25 Preliminary Budget-Street Lighting Fund

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the proposed preliminary budget of the street lighting fund, which pays the electric bill for the street lights. She stated the current rates and cash are in line

for the current since no increases are necessary and there is no need to do any increases to that fee assessment.

Motion was made to recommend approval of the preliminary street lighting budget.

Motion made by Rasmussen, Seconded by DiFonzo.

Voting Yea: DiFonzo, Christensen, Rasmussen

d. 2025 Preliminary CIP-Review Projects for Streets

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the proposed street projects for the 2025 CIP and asked the committee if they have any additional projects that they would like to see added or if they would like the priority changed for the projects, keeping in mind that it is a working plan that the priorities can and likely will shift based off of funding availability. No changes were recommended.

e. 2025 Preliminary CIP-Review Projects for Sidewalks

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin reviewed the proposed sidewalk projects for the 2025 CIP and asked the committee if they have any additional projects that they would like to see added or if they would like the priority changed for the projects, keeping in mind that it is a working plan that the priorities can and likely will shift based off of funding availability. The committee requested moving the priority for the projects to be: #1-22nd Sidewalk/Bike Path, #2-Veteran's Park Sidewalks, #3-Quillings Park Sidewalks.

Adjourned: 6:15pm