



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 1-21-25 (Tuesday)
January 21, 2025 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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Aldermen Present

Christensen, Godfrey, Stevenson, Koffler, Rasmussen and DiFonzo. Absent: None.

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. January 6th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

b. January 15th, 2025 Street and Alley Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

5. Visitors

Jared Troudt, Jacky Gonzales, Jody Wells (Roundup) and Sidney High School Students: Corey Christensen, Jori Horsburgh, Rhett Rossol, Jolene Molloy, Amiya Steinbeisser, Gracie Hentges, Clem Bayless.

Via Zoom: James Falcon-Sidney Herald

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

Nothing.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Street and Alley Committee-Oil Lease Proposal for City Shop

Alderman Christensen stated the Street and Alley Committee met to discuss the proposed lease agreement with Phoenix Capital for the city shop mineral rights. She stated they have recommended that PWD Hintz respond with the better terms recommended by Gordon Torgerson. PWD Hintz stated he will contact them when Mr. Torgerson is back to assist.

Motion was made to table this until updated terms can be presented.

Motion made by Alderman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Rasmussen.

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

b. Street and Alley Committee-Review City Code for Commercial Maximum Fence Height

Alderman Christensen stated they Street and Alley Committee met and reviewed the zoning code for fence height for all business, commercial and industrial zones. She stated they have recommended updating the zoning code the B-1 district only to allow for up to 96 inch height fences instead of the 72 inch maximum height currently allowed.

Motion was made to approve moving forward with this code amendment ordinance.

Motion made by Alderman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

9. Alderman Requests and Committee Reports

Budget and Finance – Chairman Christensen – DiFonzo, Koffler. **Police and Fire**– Chairman DiFonzo – Rasmussen, Stevenson. **Parks and Recreation** – Chairman Christensen – Stevenson, Rasmussen. **Water and Sewer** – Chairman Godfrey – Christensen, DiFonzo. **Street and Alley** –

Chairman Rasmussen – DiFonzo, Koffler. Sanitation– Chairman Stevenson – Koffler, Godfrey. City Buildings & Street Lighting – Chairman Koffler – Godfrey, Christensen

a. City Council Committee Assignment Rotation

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the Committee Assignments have been updated on the agenda and she also attached the updated committee assignments, per the rotation scheduled approved by the City Council. She stated the Council President and Vice-President positions are 2-year terms in line with the municipal elections, and in January 2026 they will be presented with the election of those positions.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. CDBG Planning Grant Award of \$40,000 and Main Street Montana Grant Award for \$20,000 for Downtown Master Plan (Chamber of Commerce)

Alderswoman Godfrey announced the award of the CDBG Planning Grant and the Main Street Montana Grant for a total of \$60,000, both of which will be used by the Chamber of Commerce for their Downtown Master Plan. All present congratulated the Chamber on these grants.

12. City Planner

PWD Hintz stated he and City Planner Sanderson have been working on the grant application for the 22nd Avenue Bike Path Project. alderman DiFonzo aksed if they are looking at the east or west side and PWD Hintz stated the east side.

13. City Attorney

a. Resolution 3945- A Resolution Adopting an Official Newspaper for Official Publications

City Attorney Kalil read Resolution 3945, adopting an official newspaper for official publication, out loud. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the Sidney Herald has reached out to her asking for the resolution to be tabled to give them the opportunity to come to the table in the cost discussion. She stated she did inform them of the other issues that have arisen since the Sidney office closed and the online publication software has started, including the price, the 10% processing fee added to the publication cost, publication deadline issues, lack of communication or assistance with publications and most recently an issue with submitted publications not being ran when submitted for, which can be extremely detrimental when meeting state codes for publications. She stated as an example of the cost difference between the Round-up and the Sidney Herald they ran the Phase 4 Water Tower Phase 1 Bid in both newspapers, the Sidney Herald charging \$857.87 for 2 publications (including the processing fee) or \$429.94 for one publication and the Round-up charging \$169 for the exact same publication.

Motion was made to approve with the correction of 2025 for the year of passing.

In discussion Mayor Norby thanked the Round-up for what they do for the community.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

14. Chief of Police

a. December 2024 Police Department Report

Chief Kraft provided the December 2024 Police Department Report.

15. Public Works Director

a. December 2024 Public Works Report

PWD Hintz presented the December 2024 Public Works Report.

b. December 2024 Compliance Officer Report

PWD Hintz presented the December 2024 Compliance Officer Report on behalf of Compliance Officer Schroeder.

c. Nathan and Samantha Damm (313 14th St SE)-Request to connect to city sewer

PWD Hintz stated he was approached by the Damm's to connect to city sewer. He stated they are across truck route (s side of 14th street), borders current sewer by Saia and Martha's place where the City has provided services or has agreed to at their cost to connect. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this is a private residential property that is not in the City limits. Alderwoman Christensen asked if they have to be annexed to do so and PWD Hintz stated they would also be provided a protest of annexation letter as Martha's House and Saia have been. Alderman Koffler asked if they are aware of the cost to connect and PWD Hintz stated they are.

Alderman DiFonzo asked how many properties in this location should be allowed to connect without annexation. PWD Hintz stated with the Martha's Place addition to services, more will want to and if that happens then annexing the area would be a good idea, which is why they are requiring the annexation protest waiver. Alderman DiFonzo stated he feels the City should be looking into how many of those properties and annexing the area if they want to be connected to City services. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there are steep regulations for annexation which include 100% property owner participation, or an election is required. She further stated if the area is going to be annexed, it would be more cost effective for the City to petition the area and annex everyone that wishes at once. Alderman DiFonzo stated that he feels continuing to provide the services without annexation is a loss of tax revenue.

Motion was made to approve the connection of 313 14th St SE to City Sewer without annexation but requiring a annexation protest letter be signed.

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

Alderwoman Christensen stated the question of annexation for the area needs to go to the City Planner for review. Alderwoman Rasmussen amended her motion to include that in her original motion and Alderman Koffler seconded the amendment.

In discussion Alderman DiFonzo clarified that this was still a motion approving this specific connection and that was confirmed.

All present voted aye on the amendment to the original motion.

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. December 2024 Fire Run Report

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

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. December 2024 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the December 2024 Treasurer's Report. She stated they had the in person meeting with Auditor Bob Denning last week for the FY23-24 audit, which they will be expecting the final report on the end of March. She stated due to the \$300,000 loan forgiveness for the Phase 3 Waste Water Treatment Project, the City will have to do a Federal Audit this year, just barely over the \$750,000 threshold of federal funding.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the legislative session has begun, as well as the bills pertaining to property taxes and the cuts to local governments. She stated if anyone would like more details on the bills they are currently tracking, to let her know.

b. December 2024 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the December 2024 JV Report, being the normal UB and Payroll JV's, for approval.

Motion was made to approve.

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

c. Q4 2024 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$1,001,885.63

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin presented the Quarter 4 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$1,001,885.63, which will transfer from the Water/Sewer bank account to the City repurchase bank account. She stated the primary driver for the large amount is the bond payments made.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$205,030.85 + \$26,405.66 = 231,436.51

Intermediary Claims to be approved (included in total): \$26,405.66

#43446	Wex Bank	\$2,773.11
#43447	Power Plain OIB	\$2,815.08
#43448	Utilities Underground	\$5.18
#43449	Builders First Source	\$65.14
#43450	Energy Laboratories	\$1,147.00
#43451	Kalil Law Firm	\$11,403.44
#43452	Global Safety Network	\$48.20
#43453	Grainger	\$143.73
#43454	American Welding & Gas	\$643.50
#43455	Vestis	\$650.56
#43474	MDU	\$252.81
#43475	Lower Yellowstone REA	\$6,457.91

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2025-042 to 2025-043

19. Adjournment

Alderman DiFonzo asked if the City is able to annex one lot at a time and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated yes, as long as 100% of the property owners are in favor of annexation and the land is abutting the current city limits, the City can generally annex property. She stated it is more cost effective to do a survey of the area and find out who is wishing to annex and/or connect to City services and annex all of them at one time. She stated this will also point out any issues such as gaps in properties who want to annex or connect.

Ms. Bayless stated when Mayor Norby and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin spoke to the Government Class it was brought up that if you get stuck in the snow in the center lane you receive a ticket and she was wondering if this was looked into. Mayor Norby stated Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin did address this question with Chief Kraft. Chief Kraft stated every situation is different, but if there is evidence of careless or reckless driving that resulted in getting stuck they would be ticketed, but to just get stuck would not be a traffic violation. He further stated there was also questions pertaining to assisting someone who is stuck, which is not illegal PD will not be issuing tickets for that assisting.

at 6:58pm.