



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 12-18-23
December 18, 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: 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 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. **December 4th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

5. **Visitors**

a. **Other Visitors:**

Laura Gundlach (Morrison Maierle), Dave Garland (Agri Industries), Greg Hitchcock (Sidney Herald), Lee Harris

Mark Delaney, Tim Pust and Ian Pust (Boy Scout Troop 187)-Ian is working on his Citizenship in the Community badge.

6. Public Hearing

a. HB355-SLIPA Grant Project List

Mayor Norby called the public hearing for the HB 355 SLIPA Grant Project List to order at 6:31pm

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated with the passage of HB355 the City of Sidney was allocated approximately \$463,000 to use for projects, but there is a 25% match on the total project. She stated part of the grant process is to solicit for projects and hold a public hearing. She stated the Budget and Finance Committee met on November 28th, 2023 and reviewed the list of proposed projects for viability for finances and what is needed in the community. She stated the ending list is provided before the City Council now and what the public comment is being sought on.

Mr. Harris asked if there is the match funding available for these projects and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there is in each of the departments, the utility departments having more cash available for match.

Mayor Norby called for an proponents to the proposed SLIPA Grant Project List, three times, with none coming forward.

Mayor Norby called for any opponents to the proposed SLIPA Grant Project List, three times, with none coming forward.

Mayor Norby closed the public hearing at 6:36 pm.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Reappoint Amanda Seigfreid-Planning Board

Mayor Norby stated he is reappointing Amanda Seigfreid for another 2-year appointment to the Planning Board, this is the Mayors appointment position for the Planning Board.

b. Appoint Amanda Seigfreid-Library Board to finish open term

Mayor Norby stated he is recommending approval of the appointment of Amanda Seigfreid for the Library Board. He stated she will finish Karen McNutt's current term and then will have the opportunity for 2 more 5 year terms.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

c. Richland Economic Development Letter of Support

Mayor Norby stated he is seeking approval for the letter of support for Richland Economic Development. He stated the letter of support is for the application for the Federal Disaster Supplement fund under the Economic Development Administration.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Call for Committee Meetings:

Street and Alley-Snow Removal Code Update

-Appoint Planning Board Member

Budget and Finance-City Prosecution

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated they needed to schedule a Street and Alley Committee and a Budget and Finance Committee meeting. The Street and Alley Committee meeting was scheduled for January 3rd, 2023 at 5pm and the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled for January 3rd, 2023 at 6pm.

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

Alderwoman Rasmussen thanked the City for the Christmas Party. Alderman DiFonzo stated they are still working towards getting the tennis court rehab done this summer and so far are on track. He stated this project would provide the pickleball courts along with the tennis courts.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. Agri Industries Flag Pole Height Variance

Clerk/Treasurer stated the Zoning/Board of Adjustments met and reviewed the flag pole height variance of 10-feet as requested by Agri Industries and they have recommended approval. She further stated there was no issue with the airport and Alderman DiFonzo stated the committee also reviewed that should the pole fall it will not interact with powerlines.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. HB355-SLIPA Grant Project List-Set priority list and vote on projects to apply for

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated now that the public hearing was held on the list of projects for the SLIPA Grant, the Council must prioritize the projects, the top priority projects being the ones that they will apply for the grants for. Alderwoman Rasmussen stated she would like to see the bike route being a top priority and Alderwoman Godfrey stated she would like to see the projects with sustainable funding in the water and sewer should be lower priority. Alderman DiFonzo stated he would like to see the Quilling's park warming house and bathroom at the top of the list and Alderwoman Rasmussen agreed. Alderwoman Godfrey stated she has questions on the use of the bathrooms and the frequency and Mr. Harris stated the ice skating rink is being used and Mr. Delaney agreed it is now being actively used. PWD Hintz stated they will be staffing the warming house and bathroom in the winter to be open in the winter but in the summer they keep the bathrooms locked except when functions are being held due to vandalism.

Mr. Harris asked what the project entails and PWD Hintz stated a whole new building. Mr. Harris stated with electronic locks and cameras the bathrooms could be open without being staffed. PWD Hintz stated staffing for the warming house it is for the skates so they do not get stolen. Mr. Harris stated per the Sidney Herald Article it was stated with the 25% match the projects need to remain small and he feels you should go grand with the projects. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the match is meant to be for not wanting to include the large project like the water tower project. Mr. Harris stated doing a project like the bathrooms that constituents can see and use would be appreciated, including the bike baths, cross walks by the lodge and continuation or loop of the walking/bike path.

Alderwoman Godfrey stated she has heard a lot of good comments about doing the Lyndale Park restroom and concessions and the public seems to be in favor of both. Mr. Delaney stated with current technology there is locks that run on timers that could be installed to get the doors open during the day.

Alderwoman Godfrey asked what the downtown project is and PWD Hintz stated it is a street overlay and it could be funded by gas tax or included in the chip seal project in 2024. Mr. Harris

asked if this would include the square curb and PWD Hintz stated those have been replaced in this location.

Alderwoman Godfrey asked if sidewalks around the parks was considered and PWD Hintz stated they did part of Veteran's park this year. Alderwoman Godfrey asked if Quilling's park is being considered and PWD Hintz stated yes eventually. He stated there is other areas in the parks that could be improved upon, with Veteran's Park having taking the focus the last couple of years but while also doing improvements to the South Meadow Softball Complex. Alderwoman Godfrey stated she would like to see the SMV trails overlay replaced with sidewalks around Quilling's park since those trails do have tax money that can be used.

Motion was made to prioritize the projects as:

1. Quilling's Park Restroom
2. Lyndale Park Restroom
3. Rehab Bike Path-Misc locations overlay
4. Rehab SMV Trails-overlay
5. Remaining projects on list from Budget and Finance Committee not to be applied for.

In discussion Mr. Harris asked if Water Tower Park needs a new bathroom and if the same plans and contractors to do the projects and save costs. PWD Hintz stated yes that is what he has done, it will be the same building in any park but the extra space will be utilized differently in each park depending on use. He further stated that because we need a new location for the elevation valve with the water tower park, the new restroom facility will be a part of the Water Tower Project.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

12. City Planner

Nothing.

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

City Attorney Kalil stated he will be submitting a proposal on the City Prosecution to the Budget and Finance Committee. Alderwoman Godfrey asked for an update on the TBID and City Attorney Kalil stated the service of process is taking forever and frustrating to serve the corporations through the Sheriff's Departments in different counties.

PWD Hintz stated they have cleaned up some of the nuisance properties and thanked City Attorney Kalil for his work to be able to get them cleaned up.

14. Chief of Police

a. Confirmation of Joel Rosales

Chief Kraft stated Officer Rosales has completed the academy and has also completed his first year of probation with the Sidney Police Department and he is recommending the official confirmation of his status of him as a Sidney Police Officer. He stated he is doing very well.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. November 2023 Police Department Report

Chief Kraft provided the November 2023 Police Department report.

15. Public Works Director

a. November 2023 Public Works Report

PWD Hintz provided the November 2023 Public Works Report.

b. Morrison Maierle WWTP P4 (Sludge Removal) Contract

Mrs. Gundlach stated the phase 4 will be the last phase and includes the sludge removal of the existing 38 acre pond. She stated this phase has been a part of the plan since the project started 2012 and it is required to remove the sludge within 2 years of the treatment and the project must start. She stated the sludge dates back to 1960. She stated TO 14 is for preliminary and final design and bidding services, with the project being in construction this next fall. She stated that this is a lump sum agreement since it is a small amount and Amendment 1 changes the master agreement to allow for the lump sum agreement. She stated they are hopeful to start design in January, boring will be needed to see the depth of the sludge, bid will be late summer depending on DEQ review and project in the fall.

Motion was made to approve Task Order 14 and Amendment 1 to the Master Agreement with Morrison Maierle.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

c. AE2S-Nexus Impact Fee Update Agreement

PWD Hintz provided the agreement for approval for the impact fee update with AE2S-Nexus, who was approved at the previous meeting through the RFQ process.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. November 2023 Fire Run Report

FM/BI Rasmussen provided the November 2023 Fire Run Report.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. November 2023 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the November 2023 Treasurer's Report.

b. November 2023 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the November 2023 JV Report.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

c. Oath of Office for City Council 4-year Term starting January 1st, 2024-Joe Stevenson, Kali Godfrey and Tami Christensen

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin administered the Oath of Office to Joe Stevenson, Kali Godfrey and Joe Stevenson, term to start January 1st, 2024 and end December 31st, 2027.

d. Elect Council President for 2024

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the Council must elect the Council President and Vice-President. She stated both of these positions will be for a 2-year term per the Council City Powers and Duties.

Motion was made to elect Alderwoman Christensen as City Council President by Alderman DiFonzo and Alderwoman Rasmussen seconded. All present voted aye.

Motion was made to elect Alderwoman Rasmussen as City Council Vice-President by Alderman Koffler and seconded by Alderwoman Christensen. All present voted aye.

e. 2024 City Council Committee Assignments

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated last year the City Council approved a rotation schedule for committee assignments, first year for the official rotation starting in 2024. She stated she provided the rotation to the Council, but with the election of Alderwoman Christensen as Council President, there needs to be a replacement chosen for her placement on the Budget and Finance Committee, so that that committee also has 3 council members.

Motion was made to have Alderman DiFonzo be on the Budget and Finance Committee in Alderwoman Christensen's spot.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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 Stevenson.

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$449,634.44

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2024-49

19. Adjournment

at 7:15 pm.