



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 1-16-24
January 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, Stevenson, Koffler, Rasmussen and DiFonzo (via phone)

4. Correction or Approval of Minutes

a. January 2nd, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. January 3rd, 2024 Street and Alley Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

c. January 3rd, 2024 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

5. Visitors

a. Scotty Sturgis-use Moose Park for backup for College Baseball Games

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated Mr. Sturgis was not able to attend the meeting tonight, but he is requesting permission to allow Moose Park to be used as a backup field for college baseball games. She stated that because it will be a back-up field, he will not have much advance notice of the need of the field, but he has agreed to communicate with City Hall on when it is needed and to ensure the field is available. She stated there needs to be a Park and Rec Committee meeting for an update on the proposed changes to the Svarre Pool from Interstate Engineering, and would like to see this sent to Committee also.

Motion was made to send this to the Park and Recreation Committee meeting and it was scheduled for Wednesday January 24nd, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

b. Other Visitors:

Kayson Radke, Amaiya Kirn, Jayden Suko, Parker Sath (Sidney Public Schools)

Mac Strait

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Update:

Mayor Norby stated the Chamber and RED Banquet will be this Thursday January 18th, 2024 starting at 6pm at the Yellowstone Mercantile.

8. Committee Meeting Work

a. Street and Alley Committee Meeting: Remove Jason Schrader from Planning Board

Alderman Christensen stated the Street and Alley Committee met and have recommended removing Jason Schrader from the Planning Board.

Motion was made to approve.

In discussion Mayor Norby stated he discussed this with Mr. Schrader who agreed due to his work schedule he has not been able to commit to attending meetings and is happy there is people who can.

Motion made by Alderman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

b. Street and Alley Committee Meeting: Appoint Janelle Stoner and John Baker to Planning Board

Alderman Christensen stated the Street and Alley Committee met and have recommended appointing Janelle Stone and John Baker to the Planning Board.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

c. Street and Alley Committee Meeting: Review and Update Snow Removal Code

Alderman Christensen stated the Street and Alley Committee met and have reviewed the proposed changes to the snow removal code from PWD Hintz. She stated PWD Hintz and City Attorney Kalil are going to look into some more edits and will return to the Street and Alley Committee for final review.

d. Budget and Finance Committee: City Prosecution

Alderman Christensen stated the Budget and Finance met and reviewed the options for moving forward with getting a City Prosecutor. She stated they have recommended moving forward with using City Civil Attorney Thomas Kalil as prosecutor and the Budget and Finance Committee will meet again to review the contract.

Motion was made to approve using Thomas Kalil with Kalil Law Firm as City Prosecutor.

Motion made by Alderman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

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

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 Rasmussen thanked all of the city employees for their work in the extreme cold weather.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

a. Local Government Review

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated every 10 years, per the State of Montana Constitution, local governments are required to proposed the question to their constituents on if they would like to hold an official review of the format for that local government. She stated she provided in the packet information on the timeline for the process and the corresponding Montana Code information pertinent to the local government review. She stated at the February 5th, 2024 City Council meeting they will have a resolution presented to them to put the question on the ballot. This resolution will set the anticipated expenditures the City of Sidney will be budgeting for this and how many members would need to be elected to the review board. Mayor Norby stated he is hopeful an article can be done to let the public know what this is and what can be done in the review process.

b. City Hall Remodel RFPs

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated there are 5 RFPs in front of the Sidney Council for the City Hall Remodel:

RFP #6 (Demo and Framing balancing) increase of \$6,623.00

RFP #7 (New Main Entry Door) increase of \$6,983.00

RFP #8 (Ceiling insulation for Fire Hall) increase of \$2,692.00

RFP #9 (Vault accent light) increase \$504.00

RFP #10 (Install floor hatch for smoke venting in basement) increase of \$4,371.00

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated RFP's 4, 11 and 12 are on hold pending further information. She stated that these are RFPs that they are recommending approval for, many of which there is not much of an option for. She stated these RFP's combined with the previously approved RFP #1 credit of \$4,181.00 will create change order 1 of \$16,992.00, of which will come out of the \$130,000 contingency budgeted.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

12. City Planner

PWD Hintz stated there will easement and lot splits for the Homestead Subdivision coming before the City Council.

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

Attorney Kalil stated he is thankful for the City Council's faith in him by allowing him to be the prosecutor along with civil attorney. He stated the TBID litigation on going.

14. Chief of Police

a. Patrol Car Replacement Schedule

Chief Kraft provided a proposed patrol car replacement schedule. He stated he would like a long-term plan before the City Council for the rotation of vehicles. He stated in conversations with Action Auto, a patrol car budgeted for this fiscal year will arrive later this month, but the order window for a vehicle for next fiscal year is open, with a long waiting time. He stated he is seeking approval of the ordering of a patrol vehicle that if delivered this fiscal year would use vacancy savings and next fiscal year would be budgeted for.

Alderwoman Rasmussen asked if this should go to the Budget and Finance Committee, Alderwoman Christensen stated Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin has reviewed the budget and there is vacancy savings. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated with the unfilled positions in the police department, there is vacancy savings to cover the cost should the vehicle be delivered this fiscal year and if it is delivered next fiscal year it will be a budgeted item.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

b. December 2023 PD Report

Chief Kraft presented the December 2023 Police Department Report. He stated he is working on a 2023 year end report.

15. Public Works Director

a. December 2023 PW Report

PWD Hintz presented the December 2023 Pubic Works Report. He stated the chip seal project is approximately 3 weeks away from advertising for bids. He stated the engineers estimate was around \$600,000.

b. Richland County Fair Grounds request for garbage services

PWD Hintz stated they have received a request from the Richland County Fair Grounds to service them for garbage. He stated before the City could officially say they could do this service, the current garbage service, Great Plains Solid Waste, would have to provide a letter allowing this since they are the designated County solid waste handler. PWD Hintz stated this has been a request made frequently from businesses within the County.

Alderwoman Rasmussen stated when discussed previously, it was not something that the Council wanted to pursue and so a formal decision before requiring them to get the letter.

Motion was made to deny this request.

In discussion Alderwoman Godfrey asked why deny the request and Alderwoman Christensen stated previous requests have been denied. Alderwoman Rasmussen stated we have limited capabilities and cannot over extend by providing in the County and Alderman Stevenson stated this could open the City up to more businesses requesting to be on city garbage in the county and overextending the city.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

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

Voting Nay: Alderwoman Godfrey

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. December 2023 Fire Run Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the December 2023 Fire Run Report on behalf of BI/FM Rasmussen.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. November 2023 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer \$173,423.36

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the November 2023 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$173,423.36. She apologized for this running late, but they cannot complete the transfer

information without the credit card statements, which have been arriving later and later. She stated they also found an error in the entering of the budget into the Black Mountain Software that they are correcting, which is why they do not have the JV Report or Treasurer's report for December.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Christensen, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

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: \$ 211,146.47

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2024-50, 2024-52 and RC2024-20

19. Adjournment

at 6:59pm.