



City of Sidney, MT  
Water and Sewer Committee Meeting  
March 24, 2025 5:30 PM  
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

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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. New Business**

Visitors: John Heini, Morrison Maierle (via Zoom)

**a. North Park Water Tower Replacement-Authorization to Advertise for Bids for Phase II**

Clerk Treasurer Chamberlin investigated federal grant funding, approval, and pay status. The previous concern was if there was a long lag time in grant repayment that the city cash reserves would be depleted or not enough to pay the contractors on the contractors net 30 schedule. At this time federal grants are fully funded and on track to pay on schedule for this project. The North Park Water Tower Replacement is funded from three sources, SRF loan, ARPA loan, and the city cash contribution.

Recommendation to approve North Park Water Tower Replacement- Authorization to Advertise for bids for Phase II.

Motion made by Christensen, Seconded by DiFonzo.

Voting Yea: Buxbaum, Christensen, DiFonzo

**b. Meadow Village Storm Water Project and Amendment 2 Morrison Maierle to contract**

John Heini, Morrison Maierle, presented amendment 2 for a total additional phase cost increase of \$60,693. The cost increase is due to rate increases, additional modeling effort, and additional labor cost.

The Meadows Flood Mitigation Project was originally contracted to be completed in 2022 and 2023. The fee estimate was developed using Morrison Maierle's 2022 standard rate schedule. The rate schedule increased by an average of 14.5% from 2022 to 2024 and 18.4% from 2022 to 2025. This is a rate increase of \$23,293.

Additional modeling complexities beyond what was originally anticipated is an additional fee of \$13,100. The city has elected to self-perform the detention pond improvements for the project in

partnership with Richland County. Additional effort is required to separate the plan set and separate the bid items from the bid form. Mr. Heini stated that much of the storm drain for the project will be constructed directly adjacent to the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Canal. The original scope for the project included coordination with the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project but the property is actually owned by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The USBR requires a permit for constructing the project on Federal property.

Construction staking and record survey was not included on the original scope, which are required for the project to be constructed and recorded. This is an additional cost of \$24,300.

The new contract ceiling is \$254,295.00.

Alderwoman Buxbaum asked if any of the price increase is negotiable. Mr. Heini responded the estimate is time and material and nothing will be billed that is not used.

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this project is primarily funded by the FEMA BRIC grant, with the City's match being funded by a state grant. She stated the BRIC grant is on the list of grants that will have lags on reimbursements, up to 12-24 months. She stated that this is a storm water project and therefore the sewer department would have to fund the project upfront and wait for reimbursement, but it only has \$3,000,000 of the \$5,000,000 available. She stated FEMA is also running slow on reviewing the plans for the project, which could take up to 8 months and the plans for this project have not been sent to start the review process. She stated City Staff is recommending approval of the amendment, having the plans for the project at 100% and getting FEMA's review done. She stated once that is completed, they will then evaluate if the project can go to bids with the grant reimbursement situation.

Motion was made to approve Meadow Village Storm Water Project and Amendment 2 Morrison Maierle to contract.

Motion made by Christensen, Seconded by DiFonzo.

Voting Yea: Buxbaum, Christensen, DiFonzo

c. Anderson Drainage Improvements Proposal

PWD Hintz stated a small project was completed in 2024 to improve storm water drainage on 22nd Avenue NW near Richland Opportunity's property. Around the same time Franz Construction completed landscaping on 28th Avenue NW property that disrupted storm water drainage in the area causing flooding at Tri-County Implement. John Heini, Morrison Maierle, submitted a plans proposal of \$19,900 for engineering additional drain piping, outfall detention pond, and manhole near the intersection of 25th Avenue NW and 5th Street NW at Anderson Park. PWD Hintz stated that this project completion will be a joint effort with MDT purchasing the pipe, Franz Construction laying the pipe, and the city paying for the engineering fees and supplying the manhole.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if this project will solve the drainage for the area without causing new drainage issues. Mr. Heini responded that he conducted a hydraulics investigation to analyze the impact to the area. No structure impacts and no overtopping is anticipated.

Motion was made to approve the Anderson Drainage Improvements Proposal.

Motion made by DiFonzo, Seconded by Buxbaum.

Voting Yea: Buxbaum, DiFonzo

Voting Abstaining: Christensen

Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm