



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 3-18-24
March 18, 2024 6:30 PM
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

The City Council meetings are open to the public attending in person. 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**

The regular meeting of the Sidney City Council was called to order by Mayor Norby at 6:30pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.

3. **Aldermen Present**

Godfrey, Stevenson, Koffler, Rasmussen, DiFonzo. Absent: Christensen

4. **Correction or Approval of Minutes**

a. **March 4th, 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

5. **Visitors**

a. **MonDak-Summer Bash and Bake-Off June 22nd** (Close street directly in front of MonDak from 1pm-4pm)

Mrs. Bailey-Will came before the City Council to request the closing of 3rd Avenue SE, the block directly in front of the MonDak Heritage Center, on June 22nd, 2024 from 1pm to 4pm for their Summer Bash and Bake-Off. She stated it is a free event for the community and they would like to have the Sidney Fire Department do a "fire truck war" which is similar to tug-of-war. She stated

she would also like to have law enforcement and their vehicles there for the kids to look at. She stated Ford Garage has no issue with this closure.

Chief Kraft stated he is ok with it and so did PWD Hintz.

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

Mrs. Bailey-Will further stated she is also representing the Sidney Leadership Class who will be having a Clean-up day on May 10th, 2024 where they are asking all of the community to join them in cleaning up Sidney. She stated they will be in contact with the Public Works Department on any details that need to be lined out.

b. Other Visitors:

Scotty Sturgis (Richland County Baseball), Nikki Baily-Will (MonDak Heritage Center and Sidney Leadership Class), Kayla Wick (Sidney Leadership Class), Jody Wells (Round-Up), James Falcon (Sidney Herald), Raychelle Brooks (Sidney Leadership Class)

Mr. Sturgis stated Richland County Baseball and the High School have been discussing potentially leasing Moose Park or keeping it locked. He stated they have been putting money into the improvements of the parks and don't want to see it get. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated this is the outstanding Park and Recreation Committee meeting and it was scheduled for Wednesday March 20th, 2024 at 5:00pm.

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Four way stop at White Drug

Mayor Norby stated there was an issue brought to his attention and several complaints with the 4-way stop by White Drug. He stated he went over to look at the 4-way stop and witnessed several drivers not coming to a stop and putting pedestrians at risk. Chief Kraft stated he looked back at the traffic collisions for the last 10-years and there were 6 accidents in that area but none involved the traffic signs, but he does agree that people do not pay attention to the stop signs as they should. He stated they do issue warnings and violations for not coming to a complete stop at that location. PWD Hintz stated we could look into having a suspended flashing light or flashing stop signs to bring more attention to the need to stop at that location. He stated the flashing signs cost \$1,700/sign, needing 4 of them, whereas the suspended flashing red light will be \$2,600 and the City can install on existing poles. Alderman DiFonzo stated there used to be a light there and the 4-way stop was installed for the school and kids crossing and he would not have any issue with either option.

Alderman Stevenson asked if the suspended light would be intrusive into residential and Chief Kraft stated he feels the suspended light would be less obtrusive than the lit stop signs. Mayor Norby stated he feels the flashing stop signs would be more effective. Alderman DiFonzo stated we need something to attract their attention, but ultimately if they want to run the stop sign they will. Chief Kraft stated he would recommend the suspended light.

Motion was made to approve moving forward with the suspended flashing red light.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

8. Committee Meeting Work

Nothing.

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 Godfrey stated she had 2 individuals approach her about the pool, one of which was 100-meter lap swimming as a private session in the pool for his endurance workout with the ropes being relocated and back stroke flags installed and there is approximately 10 people who would be joining in. PWD Hintz stated he does think the City has the ropes for the lanes. Alderwoman Godfrey stated they could do the lap swimming with water aerobics as long as they had 2 lanes designated for lap swimming.

The other person addressed more family friendly and seating, Clerk/Treasurer rule no outside clothes. PWD Hintz stated that is for sanitary purposes and Alderwoman Rasmussen stated it is not a rule rule but they would have to spray down every day. She stated it is important for parents to be inside the fence for swimming and it should be researched. PWD Hintz stated he will look into it but he feels it is a state health rule and Alderwoman Rasmussen stated she would like to see if there is a way to work around it. City Attorney Kalil stated he can assist if needed.

Alderman DiFonzo asked if the Zoning Board meeting scheduled for April 10th is for the zoning changes and Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated at this time it is only for a lot coverage variance request, but that might be added to the agenda depending on how it goes meeting with Planner Sanderson.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

Nothing.

12. City Planner

PWD Hintz stated City Planner Sanderson will be here Friday to discuss the proposed code changes.

13. City Attorney

a. Update:

City Attorney Kalil stated he will be doing a job shadow this week with the County Attorney to be up to speed to take over on prosecution in July. He further stated he will be in Sidney for meetings this week.

14. Chief of Police

a. February 2024 Police Department Report

Chief Kraft provided the February 2024 Police Department Report. He stated they swore in the last 2 officers last week, Max Fletcher who has previously been an officer with the Sidney Police Department and Hailey Hinton who will go through the full training process. He further stated Daniel Nieman will be moving into the Drug Taskforce position in June once he has completed some field training with the new officers.

15. Public Works Director

a. February 2024 Public Works Report

Public Works Director Hintz provided the February 2024 Public Works Report.

b. Lead Line Survey Letters

PWD Hintz stated the City has sent out lead line survey letters to 1,200 properties. The survey is required by the EPA and all residents need to respond to the letter, if not the Public Works Department will have to come to the property to look at the line. He further stated that if anyone has any questions or issues figuring out what type of pipe there is, they can call city hall to schedule a time for staff to inspect.

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

a. February 2024 Fire Run Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the February 2024 Fire Run Report on behalf of Fire Marshal/Building Inspector Rasmussen.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. SCHR Pay Application 3 for \$248,696.20

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the Sidney City Hall Remodel Pay Application #3 from B&B Builders for \$248,696.20.

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

b. Pine Cove Quote-6 laptops and 1 desktop for \$7,600

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated part of the technology upgrades for the City Hall remodel included getting all Council members laptops for City Council meetings. She stated Pine Cove provided a quote for the 6 laptops and one additional desktop computer needed for the remodel for \$7,600. She stated this is budgeted in the remodel budget.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

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

c. SCHR-Close City Hall to Move April 1st and 2nd, 2024

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated the Sidney City Hall Remodel is still slated to be mostly closed out by the end of March, with a few minor outstanding items such as the front door installation. She stated she has been in contact with Pine Cove about the moving and re-installing of the server and they are only available to be on-site to do the move, cleaning and set-up April 2nd, 2024. She stated she is requesting to close City Hall to the public April 1st and 2nd to set-up desks and move back over to the primary location. She stated none of their computers or software will be available to work on the 2nd with the server move and once it is installed they will need to have desks set-up and computers relocated to commence work on the 3rd. She stated this will not affect the April 1st, 2024 City Council meeting that will still take place as usual, hopefully in the new Council Chambers.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

Alderwoman Godfrey

d. February 2024 Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the February 2024 Treasurer's Report. She stated the audit has been completed and Alderwoman Christensen and Alderman DiFonzo met with the Auditor for the close-out. Alderman DiFonzo stated the report was good with only some minor issues that have already been addressed by Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin. Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated it was a clean audit with the only issue that is already been addressed in this fiscal years budget. Alderman DiFonzo thanked Clerk/Treasurer for the work she has done in getting the City's books in order and keeping the City in great shape.

e. February 2024 JV Report

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the February 2024 JV Report for approval.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderman Stevenson, Seconded by Alderwoman Godfrey.

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

f. February 2024 Water & Sewer Transfer Report- \$69,330.04

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the February 2024 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$69,330.04 for approval.

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

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

a. Claims to be approved: \$158,919.11

b. Building Permits to be approved

19. Adjournment

at 7:09 pm.