

May 1st, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Sidney City Council was called to order by Mayor Norby at 6:30 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.
3. **ALDERMEN PRESENT:** Christensen, Smith, Gartner, Koffler, Rasmussen, and Sergeant
4. **CORRECTION OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. **April 17th, 2017 Regular Council Meeting:** Alderwoman Rasmussen made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17th, 2017 regular Council Meeting, and Alderwoman Christensen seconded the motion. After no discussion, all present voted aye.
5. **VISITORS:**
 - a. **Gary Schoepp-Thank you to the City of Sidney for the South Meadow Village Softball Complex:** Mr. Schoepp stated that he would like thank the City of Sidney and City Staff for all of their work on the South Meadow Village Softball Complex. He stated that without it, the tournament could not happen, so on behalf of the Sidney Chamber, the School and the 12 teams who are coming for the State Tournament, thank you. Mayor Norby thanked Mr. Schoepp for all his work not only on the softball complex, but in the community.
 - b. **Tiger Sharks Swim Team-2017 Camp on May 29th to 31st at the Svarre Pool:** Mayor Norby stated that he thought a representative for the Tiger Sharks Swim Team would be present. PWD Hintz stated that he cannot make any guarantees that the Svarre Pool will be ready for the camp at the end of May, but that it is possible. He stated that there is concrete patching that needs to be done before, which includes cure times, priming and painting, which will probably include the need to tent the pool for correct cure temperatures. He said that the schedule depends on independent contractors doing the work on the days designated. He stated that on top of the patching and painting, the pool needs to be acid washed, have drains checked, and other maintenance issues, but that Candy Markwald is walking them through and helping. PWD Hintz further stated that the Tiger Sharks Swim Team has contacted him and offered their assistance in any way needed. Mayor Norby as PWD Hintz when he will know if the pool will be ready, and if it will give the Swim Team enough time to cancel or reschedule their camp. PWD Hintz stated he would recommend that the Swim Team have a back-up plan just in case, but that he will be keeping in close contact with them. Alderman Smith asked who the contractor was, and PWD Hintz stated they are Concrete Solutions, Lowell Nelson, out of Williston.
 - c. **Lowell Cutshaw-Interstate Engineering:** Mr. Cutshaw stated that the USDA Easement has been signed for the North Frontage Road Water Main Project, and that the pre-construction meeting was held the last week of April, with a hopeful start date of May 15th, 2017. He further stated that they are currently working on the storm sewer easement for the new Fire Hall.
6. **PUBLIC HEARING: Nothing**
7. **MAYOR NORBY:**
 - a. **City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield-Graduation of Sidney Leadership Class:** Mayor Norby stated that City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield graduated from the Sidney Leadership Class, and congratulated her on her hard work in the class.
 - b. **65TH Legislation Session:** Mayor Norby stated that the 65th Legislation Session "sine died" on Friday April 28th, 2017, ending the session. He stated that HB 8 and SB 367 failed on the last day, and they both would have helped communities across the State. Alderwoman Christensen asked what effects not having HB 8 pass would have on our community. Mayor Norby stated that Dry Red Water specifically lost approximately \$600,000 in funding, and that he had asked Representative Staffanson to vote yes on both of the bills, as they were connected, because of the help it would bring, and Representative Staffanson's response was that we have lived without Dry Red Water for a hundred years, we can go another 2 years. Mayor Norby stated that the Fuel Tax Increase will bring in an approximately \$100,000 additional funding in 2018 that will help our streets immensely. Alderwoman Christensen stated that all of Eastern Montana needs to find legislators that will listen to their constituents that they represent. Mayor Norby further stated that the public needs to know and understand what their Representatives are doing and how it effects them.
8. **COMMITTEE WORK: Nothing**
9. **ALDERMEN REQUESTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a. Alderwoman Rasmussen stated that the Park and Recreation Board is still reviewing their policies and procedures, and will bring back to the Park and Recreation Committee of the Sidney Council when done.
10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nothing**
11. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Variance Request of the City of Sidney for the South Meadow Village Softball Complex Fence:** PWD Hintz stated that the Board of Adjustments met and made the recommendation to approve the variance for the South Meadow Village Softball Complex, allowing the fence along the public street of 22nd Ave and Sunflower Lane to be 5 feet instead of the maximum 3 feet. He further stated that the fence is a part of the softball complex improvements for crowd control. Motion was made to approve the variance request of the City of Sidney for the South Meadow Village Softball Complex, allowing the fence along 22nd Ave and Sunflower lane to be 5 feet by Alderwoman Rasmussen. Alderman Koffler seconded the motion, and after no further discussion, all present voted aye.

May 1st, 2017

12. CITY PLANNER SANDERSON:

- a. **Report:** Nothing

13. CITY ATTORNEY:

- a. **Report:** City Attorney Krautter stated that he and Mayor Norby met with the Richland County Commissioners on the new agreement for the City Justice Court and they liked what was presented to them, so he is currently working on getting the contract drafted to be signed.

City Attorney Krautter stated that he has been working on the new Post Office issues that have been brought to the attention of staff at City Hall. He stated that so far he has been getting the run-around but that he is going to continue to work on it this week. Alderman Gartner asked City Attorney Krautter what new post office issues, and City Attorney Krautter stated that the Post Office is requiring boxes to be placed directly next to the streets again, in the public right of way, causing drilling into sidewalks or the sidewalks to be obstructed by mail boxes placed in buckets. He stated that there is a new acting Post Master since the resolve of the issue that had taken place in January. City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield stated that City Hall has been receiving multiple complaints that mail is being held by the Post Office until they comply with their requirements, which staff at City Hall told them could not be legally met. She further stated that the people who have come to City Hall have been given copies of the correspondence with the previous Post Master that stated that they do not have the authority to require this, but the new acting Post Master has disregarded this correspondence when it was presented to her by them. PWD Hintz stated that he feels that they need to be permitted when in public right of way. City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield stated she would like to see set standards approved by the Council for the Post Office to know and follow for such requirements, to ease any future misunderstandings. Alderman Smith stated that just permitting in public right of way is not the answer as they are not wanted in the right of way anytime. City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield stated that the existing boxes on street right of way will need to be discussed also.

14. CHIEF OF POLICE DIFONZO:

- a. **Report:** Nothing

15. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR HINTZ:

- a. **Report:** PWD Hintz provided the City Council with his April 2017 monthly report. He stated that a lot of hours, approximately 830, went into the parks, specifically in the work at the South Meadow Village Softball Complex. He stated that they are continuing to work on the sweeping, and that Bruce Berndt has returned to assist in this. He stated that one full time employee is out on extended sick leave due to surgery, so Mr. Berndt's help is needed. PWD Hintz further stated that they have completed one full rotation of sweeping, but will do the downtown area again before the State Softball Tournament. Alderman Smith asked PWD Hintz if the landfill is open on the weekends, as he has heard of people dumping the wrong stuff in the drop off area because they are not open. PWD Hintz stated that the County PWD Smith stated the landfill is open Saturdays from 7:30am to 4:30pm, and that some people do not pay attention to the signs that designate what is and isn't allowed.
- b. **Waste Water Treatment Plant Draw # 7-\$865,824.83 (\$224,755.84 in Impact Fees, \$641,068.99 in SRF Loan Funds):** PWD Hintz asked the Council for permission to pay the Waste Water Treatment Plant Draw #7 totally \$865,824.83. City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield stated that the \$224,755.84 to be paid in Sewer Impact Fees expends all that was budgeted in that fund for FY16-17. Motion was made to approve the payment of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Draw #7, with \$224,755.84 being paid in Sewer Impact Fees, and \$641,068.99 to be paid in SRF Loan Funds by Alderwoman Christensen, and seconded by Alderman Smith. After no further discussion, all present voted aye. PWD Hintz stated that the construction meeting will be held on Wednesday may 3rd at 1pm at City Hall and the engineers will be present to discuss the design for phase 3.

- c. **Mon-Dak Heritage Sign in Veteran's Park:** PWD Hintz stated that the Park and Recreation Board made the recommendation for the Council to approve the tear down of the Mon-Dak Heritage sign in Veteran's Park. He stated that the Mon-Dak Heritage Center may come back before the Park and Recreation Board with plans for a replacement sign, but they are not sure yet if the new sign will be in the City Park. PWD Hintz further stated that it was the City Park's Department who asked to have the sign taken down as it was falling down and not been kept up over the years, but that the Mon-Dak Heritage Center is aware of the request to have it taken down. Motion was made to approve the removal of the Mon-Dak Heritage sign in Veteran's Park by Alderwoman Christensen, and seconded by Alderwoman Sergeant. After no further discussion, all present voted aye.

16. FIRE MARSHAL GILBERT:

- a. **2016 Fire Report:** Mayor Norby stated that Fire Marshal Gilbert has provided the City Council with the yearly Fire Report for 2016, and that questions can be directed to him.

17. CITY TREASURER:

- a. **Budget and Finance Committee Meeting for FY17-18 Payroll and Budget:** City Clerk/Treasurer stated that she has been working on the FY17-18 budget, and would like to ask the Council for permission to have a Budget and Finance Committee meeting to officially begin the budget process. It was the general consensus to have a Budget and Finance Committee Meeting on Monday May 8th, 2017 at 5pm at the City Hall Council Chambers.