

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Rick Norby at 6 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.
3. **ALDERMEN PRESENT:** Sergent, Gilbert, Koffler, Gartner, Smith, and Christensen
4. **CORRECTION OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - a. **April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Special Meeting:** Motion was made to approve the minutes for April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting by Alderwoman Sergent, and seconded by Alderman Koffler. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if the Cell Phone policy that was presented in the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting had been changed as stated in the meeting to not be held out of payroll, but rather through a claims check and if it would again be presented to the council. Clerk Redfield stated it had been updated, and if the council would like to review it further she would present it again at the next council. Alderwoman Gilbert just asked to have it e-mailed to her. All council present voted aye.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

- a. **Rate Increase Hearing:** Mayor Norby opened the public hearing for the sewer rate increase at 6:05pm. To start the public hearing Patrick Murtagh, Murtagh Municipal Engineering, presented the citizens and council an informational slide show on the history of the lagoon and why the rate increase is the only option for the City of Sidney at this time. In discussion the citizens of Sidney broached the following key subjects:
  - i. **Low-Income and Senior Citizen aid on water/sewer bills**
  - ii. **New developers impacting Sidney should have to pay their share**After discussion Alderwoman Sergent called to question and made the motion to approve the sewer rate increase, and was seconded by Alderman Smith. In discussion Mayor Norby stated that he would like it added to the motion that he and the City will look into every avenue for low income. Motion was made to amend the previous motion to add the request the Mayor stated, making the new motion that the City of Sidney approve the sewer rate increase and that they look into every possible avenue to aid low-income citizens, and was seconded by Alderman Smith. Voting went as follows:

**Ayes: Sergent, Koffler, Gartner, Smith, and Christensen**

**Nays: Gilbert**

**Absent: None**

Mayor Norby closed the public hearing for the sewer rate increase at 7:28pm, and called for a brief recess.

6. **Mayor Norby called the regular meeting back to order at 7:37 pm.**

7. **Visitors:**

- a. **Ron Rehbien**
  - b. **Cindy Rehbein**
  - c. **Bruce Berndt**
  - d. **Deb Schieffer**
  - e. **Dennis Peplow**
  - f. **Red Lovac**
  - g. **Kerry R. Howard**
  - h. **Holly O'Toole**
  - i. **Laura Kelly**
  - j. **John Kelly**
  - k. **Shane Garder**
  - l. **Bob Harris Jr.**
  - m. **Ruby Sweeley**
  - n. **Lori Utter**
  - o. **Susan Mimichiello: Sidney Herald**
  - p. **Sandy Christensen**
- q. **David Christensen**
  - r. **Rob Gilbert III**
  - s. **Adam Smith: IEI**
  - t. **Lowell Cutshaw: IEI**
  - u. **Stephanie Garvey: Park Superintendent**
  - v. **Jay Sissel**
  - w. **Joe Russell: Lone Tree**
  - x. **Dick Craig**
  - y. **Gordon Torgerson: South Fork Ranch**
  - z. **Terry Klein**
  - aa. **Art Hanook**
  - bb. **Rhonda Fink**
  - cc. **Keith Lindberg**
  - dd. **Brian McGinnis**
  - ee. **Don Garsjo**

8. **MAYOR NORBY:**

- a. **Lt. Governor Angela McLean:** Mayor Norby stated that Lt. Governor Angela McLean will be in Sidney for an informal meeting to answer any questions that people may have. She will be at City Hall on Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 1:15pm for those who want to attend.
- b. **MDT Construction Agreement for Signals at W Holly St:** Mayor Norby stated he needs permission to sign the previously presented MDT Construction Agreement for the Signals at West Holly Street. Motion was made to approve Mayor Norby signing the construction agreement by Alderman Smith, and seconded by Alderman Gartner. All council voted aye.

9. **COMMITTEE WORK:**

- a. **Street and Alley:**
  - i. **Sunrise Subdivision:** Alderwoman Christensen stated that the Street and Alley Committee met on the currently has, but do not have a recommendation to present to the council at this point.
- ii. **SID at 34<sup>th</sup> Ave:** Alderwoman Christensen stated that the Street and Alley Committee met on the SID at 34<sup>th</sup> Ave but they tabled it until further information could be gathered.

b. **Water and Sewer:**

- i. **Ordinance 552:** Alderman Smith stated that the water and sewer committee did not have a meeting discussing Ordinance 552 because of changes that needed to be made according to PWD Hintz and Water Commissioner Anderson.

c. **Park and Rec:**

- i. **Camping in Parks:** Alderman Koffler stated that the park and rec committee met about the swim team camping in the parks. Motion was made to approve the swim team camping in the City Parks by Alderman Koffler, and seconded by Alderwoman Christensen. In discussion Park Superintendent Ridl stated that she thinks this is a huge liability of the City, and that they should follow the ordinances that state the time the parks are closed and that no camping is in the City parks. She also stated that in previous years many issues have arouse in previous years such as not staying in the appropriate place, using steaks that were prohibited, campfires, lines for hanging wet swim suites, and other hazards. Bryan McGinnis, swim team representative, stated that the swim team is willing to follow any guidelines that the City sets. He also stated that this is an important part of swim team and that they are thankful for the City's help in the past but are willing to make sure that the issues do not arise this time. He also stated that the issues were not directly brought to the Swim Teams attention, or they would have been address. Chief DiFonzo stated the Council has the ability, per the ordinances, to approve camping in the park, and that all the safety issues can be addressed in the guidelines. Park Superintendent Ridl asked City Attorney Navratil if people in the parks is a liability issue for the City, and he stated that it is not any more than normal liability depending on litigation. Alderman Smith stated that communication between the City and the Swim Team needs to increase. All council voted aye.

10. **ALDERMEN REQUESTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Nothing to report.