



City of Sidney, MT

City Council Regular Meeting

August 31, 2026 6:30 PM

115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

1. Call to Order

The Special Budget Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.

3. Aldermen Present

Aldermen: Alderwoman Christensen, Alderwoman Buxbaum, Alderwoman Larson,
Alderman DiFonzo, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman Kauffman (via Zoom)

Other Public Officials: PW Operations Manager Meissel, PWD Hintz, Chief of Police Kraft,
Interim Clerk/Treasurer Lange, Interim CAO Chamberlin, Mayor Norby

4. Public Comment/ Visitors

Your opportunity for the public to address the Council on items not included on the agenda,
no action will be taken during this time.

Other's Present: Jody Wells (Roundup) and via Zoom: James Falcon (Sidney Herald) and
DW.

No public comments were presented.

5. Public Hearing

a. FY26-27 Budget Public Hearing

The public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget was opened at 6:31pm. CAO Jessica Chamberlin reviewed modifications made to the preliminary budget following the previous Council budget discussion and subsequent Public Works Committee meeting. Chamberlin also clarified that no increases are proposed for the City's special assessments from the previous fiscal year, including garbage, street lighting, street sweeping, mowing, South Meadow Village Parks, SID snow removal, and street maintenance assessments.

The Water Fund was amended to include approximately \$80,000 in engineering costs for the proposed Third Street water line replacement, where recurring water line breaks have occurred. With the additional engineering expense, the Water Fund is projected to use approximately \$37,000 in existing cash reserves. The Sewer Fund was amended to include approximately \$150,000 in miscellaneous engineering costs.

These funds are intended to support establishment of the proposed storm sewer utility and engineering for the railroad stormwater project. Staff explained that advancing the engineering is important for future grant eligibility, as the project may need to be approximately 90% designed before applying for FEMA funding.

With the additional engineering and planned capital expenditures, the Sewer Fund is projected to use approximately \$430,000 in existing cash during the fiscal year.

Chamberlin noted that approximately \$650,000 in capital purchases are included in the Sewer Fund budget above normal operations. Current sewer rates continue to cover operating expenses, payroll, and debt service. Some stormwater-related costs may ultimately be transferred from the Sewer Fund to a separate storm sewer utility once established.

The Council discussed the timing of potential FEMA grant funding and the value of completing engineering in preparation for future applications.

Mayor Norby called three times for opponents to the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.

No opponents were heard. Mayor Norby called three times for proponents. No proponents were heard.

With no additional public testimony, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Public hearing was closed at 6:36pm.

6. New Business

a. **Resolution No. 3971-FY26-27 Preliminary Budget**

Resolution No. 3971 adopting the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 annual budget, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Rasmussen to approve Resolution No. 3971 and seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum. The motion carried unanimously.

b. **Resolution No. 3972-FY26-27 Budget: Garbage Assessment**

Resolution No. 3972 levying and assessing property within Maintenance District No. 23 for the costs of collecting, removing, and disposing of garbage, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Christensen to approve Resolution No. 3973 and seconded by Alderwoman Larson. The motion carried unanimously.

c. **Resolution No. 3973-FY26-27 Budget: Residential Street Lighting Assessment**

Resolution No. 3973 levying an assessment upon property within Maintenance District No. 25A for the costs of maintaining streetlights and furnishing electrical service, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderman DiFonzo to approve Resolution No. 3973 and seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen. The motion carried unanimously.

d. **Resolution No. 3974-FY26-27 Budget: Commercial Street Lighting Assessment**

Resolution No. 3974 levying an assessment upon property within Maintenance District No. 20 for the costs of maintaining streetlights and furnishing electrical service, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Buxbaum to approve Resolution No. 3974 and seconded by Alderwoman Larson. The motion carried unanimously.

e. **Resolution No. 3975-FY26-27 Budget: Residential Sweeping Assessment**

Resolution No. 3975 levying an assessment upon property within Maintenance District No. 64A for the costs of sprinkling and sweeping streets, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Christensen to approve Resolution No. 3975 and seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen. The motion carried unanimously.

f. **Resolution No. 3976-FY26-27 Budget: Commercial Sweeping Assessment**

Resolution No. 3976 levying an assessment upon property within Maintenance District No. 64 for the costs of sprinkling and sweeping streets, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderman DiFonzo to approve Resolution No. 3976 and

seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen. The motion carried unanimously.

- g. **Resolution No. 3977-FY26-27 Budget: Mowing Assessment**
Resolution No. 3977 levying an assessment of \$30,000 upon property within Maintenance District No. 84 for the costs associated with maintaining and mowing lots within the City, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Buxbaum to approve Resolution No. 3977 and seconded by Alderwoman Larson. The motion carried unanimously.

- h. **Resolution No. 3978-FY26-27 Budget: South Meadow Village Parks Assessment**
Resolution No. 3978 levying an assessment of \$2,900 upon property within Maintenance District No. 98 for the costs of maintaining designated parks, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Larson to approve Resolution No. 3978 and seconded by Alderwoman Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

- i. **Resolution No. 3979-FY26-27 Budget: Delinquent Utilities Assessment**
Resolution No. 3979 levying assessments against lots or parcels of real property for which sewer services have been furnished and payment remains delinquent, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Rasmussen to approve Resolution No. 3979 and seconded by Alderman DiFonzo. The motion carried unanimously.

- j. **Resolution No. 3980-FY26-27 Budget: Dutch Elm Assessment**
Resolution No. 3980 levying an assessment of \$0 upon property within Maintenance District No. 2550 for the costs associated with removing Dutch elm trees, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Rasmussen to approve Resolution No. 3980 and seconded by Alderwoman Buxbaum. The motion carried unanimously.

- k. **Resolution No. 3981-FY26-27 Budget: SID 104 Assessment**
Resolution No. 3981 levying an assessment of \$45,861 upon property within Special Improvement District No. 104 to defray the costs of improvements within the district, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Christensen to approve Resolution No. 3981 and seconded by Alderman DiFonzo. The motion carried unanimously.

- l. Resolution No. 3982-FY26-27 Budget: Snow Removal Assessment
Resolution No. 3982 levying an assessment of \$222,100 upon property within the Snow Removal District to defray snow removal costs, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Buxbaum to approve Resolution No. 3982 and seconded by Alderwoman Larson. The motion carried unanimously.

- m. Resolution No. 3983-FY26-27 Budget: Street Maintenance Assessment
Resolution No. 3983 levying an assessment of \$554,730 upon property within the citywide district to defray the costs of street maintenance and improvements, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderman DiFonzo to approve Resolution No. 3983 and seconded by Alderwoman Larson. The motion carried unanimously.

- n. Resolution No. 3984-FY26-27 Budget: Mill Levy's
Resolution No. 3984 establishing the mill levies and annual budget for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Christensen to approve Resolution No. 3984 and seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen. The motion carried unanimously.

- o. Resolution No. 3985-FY26-27 Budget: Fund Updates-Large Taxpayer Reserve and CIP Funds Consolidation
Resolution No. 3985 addressing Fiscal Year 2026-2027 fund updates, the Large Taxpayer Reserve, and CIP fund consolidations, was read out loud.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Rasmussen to approve Resolution No. 3985 and seconded by Alderman DiFonzo.

7. Adjournment

Chamberlin advised Council that printed copies of the adopted budget would be made available to members who requested them.

Council expressed appreciation to Chamberlin and Karmen for their work preparing the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and navigating the numerous changes made during the budget process.

With no further business before the City Council, the Special City Council Budget Meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]