

March 16th, 2020

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, Godfrey, Gartner, Rasmussen, Sergent. Absent: Koffler
4. **CORRECTION OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. **March 2nd, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes:** Motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 2nd, 2020 regular meeting of the Sidney City Council by Alderwoman Christensen and seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen. With no changes or corrections, all present voted aye.

5. **VISITORS:**
 - a. **Casy Thiel-Assembly of God**
 - b. **Heidi Moran-RCHD**
 - c. **Billie Hillsland-Mimi's Kitchen**
 - d. **Heidy MacGrady-Mim's Kitchen**

6. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

7. **MAYOR NORBY:**

- a. **Public Statement-COVID-19-** Mayor Norby gave the following Public Statement:

COVID-19 is a serious infection that all are taking seriously. Governor Bullock, Richland County Health Department, the Federal Government, World Health Organization and CDC have provided guidelines, issued mandates such as the closing of schools and nursing homes, and have been providing updates.

The City of Sidney is following these directives and ask that our community does the same. At this time, City Hall will remain open to the public, but we are evaluating the possibility of closing it to walk-in traffic. Should this happen, you will still be able to call City Hall with questions and phone payments, and you can still utilize the drop box for payments. At this time, I am mandating that no shut-offs of water and sewer happen for non-payment until May 1st, 2020, and all late fees will be suspended until that time also. We will reevaluate the situation at that time. All other City Services, including the hauling of garbage, will continue as usual. If anything changes by either mandates from the State or Federal Government or due to staffing issues, we will inform the public of our plan at that time. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting on April 6th, 2020 will continue as usual at this point.

We are asking that everyone stay calm, stay sanitary by washing hands regularly, stay home if sick, and follow the social distancing recommendations provided by the above-named groups. If you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19 we ask you contact the Richland County Health Department or your primary health care provider.

- b. **Special Meeting March 30th at 5:30pm-Oath of Office for Mark Kraft for Chief of Police Position:** Mayor Norby reminded everyone of the planned special meeting, and stated that should the need arise, he will issue Captain Kraft's Oath of Office in a private ceremony.

8. **COMMITTEE WORK: Nothing**

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

- a. Alderwoman Rasmussen asked everyone keep in mind to not flush anything but designated toilet paper, as it can quickly negatively affect the sewer system.

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. **Assembly of God Church closing of E Main April 11th from 9am to 5pm and April 12th 8am to 1pm:** Chief DiFonzo stated he has concerns about this with liability issues and asked why they are not utilizing the open parking lots. Mr. Thiel stated they will be using part of the lots for parking and the rest for activities but would like the street also. He stated this is not only for activities but for protection from through traffic with kid's activities. Motion was made to approve the closing of E Main on April 11th and 12th during the times posted above by Alderwoman Rasmussen and Alderwoman Christensen seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all present voted aye.

11. **NEW BUSINESS: Nothing**

12. **CITY PLANNER SANDERSON: Nothing**

13. **CITY ATTORNEY:**

- a. City Attorney Kalil stated he is working with other City Attorney's on how to properly handle public meetings moving forward with the social distancing recommendations, while still upholding open meeting and public right to participate laws. He stated he will have a plan ready for the April 6th, 2020 meeting in case it needs to be used.

14. **CHIEF OF POLICE DIFONZO:**

- a. **Update:** Chief DiFonzo stated he has nothing to present at his last Council meeting, estimating he has attending 950 Council Meetings in his tenure.

15. **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR HINTZ:**

- a. **Update:** PWD Hintz stated there was a meeting on the traffic light at 12th and West Holly, and that they are anticipating construction on it to start in 2021. He stated they are working on some snow removal, but with higher temps anticipated they should not have to do much.

16. **Fire Marshal/Building Inspector Rasmussen:**

- a. **February 2020 Fire Department Report:** FM/BI Rasmussen provided the City Council with the February 2020 Fire Department Report.

17. **CITY CLERK/TREASURER CHAMBERLIN:**

- a. **February 2020 Treasurer's Report:** Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the City Council with the February 2020 Treasurer's Report.
- b. **February 2020 Journal Voucher Report:** Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the City Council with the February 2020 Journal Voucher Report for approval. Motion was made to approve the February 2020 Journal Voucher Report by Alderwoman Christensen and Alderwoman Rasmussen seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all present voted aye.
- c. **February 2020 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer:** Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the City Council with the February 2020 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$119,944.68 for approval. Motion was made to approve the February 2020 Water/Sewer Bank Transfer of \$119,944.68 by Alderwoman Rasmussen and Alderwoman Godfrey seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all present voted aye.
- d. **Consent agenda**
 - i. **GENERAL JOURNAL VOUCHERS:** to be reported and approved monthly
 - ii. **Claims to be approved: \$ 54,691.31**

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Motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Alderwoman Rasmussen, and Alderman Gartner seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all present voted aye.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

MAYOR NORBY

CITY CLERK

DATE APPROVED