

Resolution No. 387d

A RESOLUTION AMENDING TOWN COUNCIL RULES FOR THE TOWN OF STEVENSVILLE

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2016 the Town Council revised and adopted Council Rules by Resolution No. 387;

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2017 the Town Council amended Council Rules by Resolution No. 387A;

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2018 the Town Council amended Council Rules by Resolution No. 387A;

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined a need to revise the Council Rules as indicated at the Town Council meeting on January 9, 2020;

WHEREAS, changes were necessary clarify when the agenda and Council packet are to be made available prior to the meeting;

WHEREAS, changes to the agenda format will allow for the implementation of a consent agenda item, grouping routine agenda items into a single item to be approved in one action;

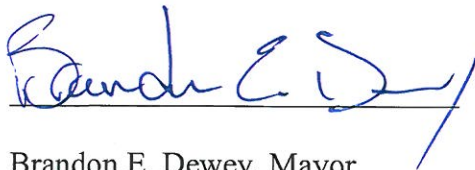
WHEREAS, changes to the agenda format will allow for the implementation of public hearings during a regular meeting;

WHEREAS, changes to the rules allow for the review of agenda item submissions by the Town's Attorney prior to placement on and agenda;

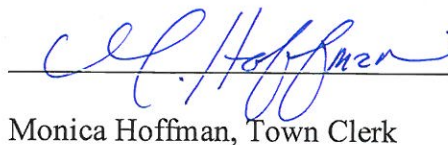
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Stevensville, hereby amends the Council Rules as revised, as attached to this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town of Stevensville, Montana this 13th day of February, 2020.

APPROVED:


Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

ATTEST:


Monica Hoffman, Town Clerk

PART I. General Provisions

Section 1.

These rules are supplementary to the provisions of Title 7, Chapter 1, Part 41, Montana Code Annotated (hereinafter MCA), Title 7, Chapter 5, Parts 41 and 42, MCA and Title 2, Chapters 2 and 3, MCA and Chapter 2 of the Stevensville Municipal Code (hereinafter SMC), as they relate to procedures for conducting meetings and public hearings before the Town Council of the Town of Stevensville.

Section 2.

To assure effective participation by all members of the Council and to protect the right of participation by all individuals appearing before the Council, all Council meetings and hearings shall be conducted in general conformance with "Robert's Rules of Order", except as otherwise provided by law.

Section 3.

A majority of those present and voting may suspend any of these rules or Robert's Rules.

Section 4.

Amendments to the Stevensville Town Council Rules for the Conduct of Council Meetings and Business shall require an affirmative vote of three fourths of Town Council members.

Section 5.

When a Council Meeting is in session, all communication concerning public matters between council, staff, and the public shall be openly performed and subject to public inspection and record keeping.

PART II. Duties of the Presiding Officer

Section 1.

The presiding officer of the Council shall be the Mayor who shall arrange the meeting agenda in accordance with Part IV, coordinate the affairs of the Council, and preside at all meetings of the Council.

Section 2.

In the absence or disability of the Mayor, the President of the Council shall serve as its presiding officer and may vote as other members of the council. In the absence of the Mayor and of the President of the Council, the Council shall select one of its number to serve as its temporary presiding officer.

Section 3.

The Town Clerk shall record and maintain the minutes of the Council's proceedings, showing the vote of each member upon every question, or if failing to vote, indicating that fact; shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions; shall summarize briefly and accurately the substance of all matters proposed, discussed or decided; shall record the names and addresses of all persons appearing before the Council; shall, subject to the direction of the Council and presiding officer, conduct the correspondence of the Council; shall file said minutes and records in the office of the Council, which minutes and records shall be a public record; and shall be the custodian of the files and records of the Council.

Section 4.

The Presiding Officer shall interpret and apply the rules. If the Presiding Officer's ruling is challenged by a majority of those Council members present and voting, the current meeting shall recess, and the Council shall take up the question and issue a parliamentary ruling.

PART III. Meetings

Section 1.

Regular meetings of the Council shall be held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, or at such other time and place as designated by the Council.

If the regular meeting day is on a recognized holiday the Council shall, with proper notice, set an alternate day for the meeting.

In January of each year, the Council shall, after having established a schedule of the time, date and place of regular meetings for the year, cause a notice of the same to be published in the *Bitterroot Star*.

The notice and agenda of all regular meetings of the council shall be posted by the Town Clerk on the Town Hall bulletin board located at 206 Buck Street, Stevensville, Montana, no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting. Additionally, the Clerk shall provide copies of the notice, agenda, and supporting documents to each of the Council members, be made available to the Bitterroot Star, and posted on the Town Hall "notice board" and the Town of Stevensville website.

Section 2.

Special meetings of the Council may be called in accordance with Sections 7-5-4102(1) (c) and 7-5-4122, MCA.

Section 3.

To ensure public participation all meetings of the Council shall be open to the public except as provided in Section 2-3-203, MCA.

Section 4.

A majority of the members of the council constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a less number may meet and adjourn to any time stated and may compel the attendance of absent members, under such rules and penalties as the council may prescribe MCA §7-5-4121. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members physically present at a lawful meeting of the Council shall be necessary to adopt or reject any motion, resolution, or ordinance or pass any measure unless a greater number is required by law.

PART IV. Agenda

Section 1.

All reports, communications, ordinances, resolutions, contract documents, or other matters to be submitted to the Council, shall be submitted by 12 o'clock noon on the Wednesday immediately preceding the Thursday agenda publishing deadline to the Town Clerk.

- A late submission deemed necessary by the Mayor shall be delivered to the Town Clerk with a list of matters according to the order of business.
- Copies of the submissions and list shall be provided to each member of the Council no later than 5 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the Council meeting.

All Agenda Items to be considered by the Council shall be submitted via forms available from the Town Clerk or on the Town's website.

- The Mayor, with the assistance of the Town Clerk, shall prepare all council agendas.
- In addition to the Mayor, any one Council member may submit an item of business for consideration by the council.
- Any member of the public may submit an item for consideration by the Council.
- The Mayor must approve all agenda items before they are added to the agenda.
- The Mayor may delay the addition of any agenda item submission to the agenda in order for the submission to be reviewed by the Town's attorney within 30 days.
- Any two Council members may override the Mayor's objection to adding of any agenda item by jointly requesting that the item be placed on the agenda.
- The Mayor may elect to revise the agenda by adding an item for consideration, provided the revised agenda shall be posted and distributed no less than 48 hours before the meeting.

PART V. Order of Business

Section 1.

The presiding officer shall prepare the Council agenda, which shall be in substantially the following form and order of business:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Call to order and Roll Call | 8. Correspondence |
| 2. Pledge of Allegiance | 9. Public Hearings |
| 3. Public Comment (Public comment from citizens on items that are not on the agenda) | 10. Unfinished Business |
| 4. Approval of Minutes | 11. New Business |
| 5. Approval of Claims | 12. Executive Report |
| 6. Administrative Reports | 13. Town Council Comments |
| 7. Guests | 14. Board Reports |
| | 15. Adjournment |

Council members may, by voting to “Suspend the Council Rules,” consider and act upon routine and/or administrative items not on the agenda.

Unscheduled Matters: An item that is not listed on the agenda for the current meeting may be addressed during the Council comments section of the Agenda. As a general rule, no matter of significant interest to the public shall be decided by the Council without prior notice to the public as a scheduled Council agenda item.

Section 2.

The order of business may be adjusted by consent of the Council by Suspension of the Council Rules by a majority of the Council Members Present.

PART VI. Rules of Council Debate

Section 1. Debate

Council debate shall proceed in accordance with the following rules:

1. Every member desiring to speak shall address the presiding officer and, upon recognition, shall confine himself/herself to the question under debate, avoiding abusive and indecorous language.
2. A member, once recognized, shall not be interrupted when speaking unless it is to call him to order, or as herein otherwise provided. If a member, while speaking is called to order, he/she shall cease speaking until the question of order is determined, and, if in order, he/she shall be permitted to proceed.
3. Order of rotation in matters of debate or discussion shall be at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Section 2. Motion to Reconsider

A motion to reconsider any action may be made at any time before or during the second regular meeting after such action is taken. Such a motion may be made only if it has been regularly placed on the agenda by a Council Member who voted with the prevailing side in the original vote on the item. Approval of a motion to reconsider requires two-thirds of those members present and voting.

Section 3. Potential Conflicts of Ethics or Interests

Any member of the Council who has an interest in a matter before the Council as defined by the laws of the State of Montana (Title 2, Chapter 2, MCA) or as advised by the Town Attorney shall not participate in the debate, nor vote in the matter, nor seek to influence the vote of members of the Council. Any Council member attempting to so participate may be censured by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Town Council. "Censured" is defined as a formal resolution of the legislative body reprimanding a member for specified conduct. It is an official reprimand or condemnation for improper conduct pursuant to §7-5-4103, §7-5-4109 MCA.

If the presiding officer of the Council has an interest in a matter pending before the Council, as defined by the laws of the State of Montana or as advised by the Town Attorney, he/she shall yield the chair to a member of the Council during the course of debate and decision concerning the matter in which he/she has an interest.

Section 4. Motions

After a motion is duly made and seconded by the Council, no person shall address the Council without first securing the permission of the presiding officer.

Refer to Exhibit A for sample motions.

Section 5. Consideration of Section by Section

Any member desiring that a measure be considered section by section may request, stating how the matter is to be divided. After consideration section by section, the entire measure, as amended, shall be voted upon.

PART VII. Presentation to the Council (Other Than a Public Hearing)

Section 1.

The general manner in which items other than public hearings are handled by the Council shall be as follows:

1. The presiding officer or staff member presents the item to the Council along with a brief summary of the matter for discussion, with or without recommendation.

2. For purpose of clarification, Council Members, after recognition by the presiding officer, may direct questions to the presiding officer or staff member.
3. Upon recognition by the presiding officer, comments from the applicant will be heard by the Council.
4. After recognition by the presiding officer, Council members may direct questions to the applicant.
5. All testimony shall be directed to the presiding officer.
6. The Council may, upon a proper motion and second, vote on the matter at hand or table the matter until a date certain.

Part VIII. Voting.

All contracts, service agreements, grant acceptance, ordinances, and resolutions require a roll call vote.

Any action of the Council shall be by roll call vote.

The Mayor has the authority to break tie votes with the exception of when the Council is selecting its officers, when the Council is voting to appoint a Council member as its representative to a board, committee, or commission.

When a Council member is acting as a Presiding Officer during the absence of the Mayor, they have the ability to vote in the same manner as they would as a Council member.

PART IX. Public Hearings

Section 1.

The Council may conduct public hearings or may appoint a committee or hearing officer for that purpose as provided in Section §7-1-4131, MCA. When heard by the Council the items will be presented to the Council in the same format as described in PART VII.

In addition, when public hearings and public interest matters are being heard and it is anticipated that a large number of citizens may wish to present Public Comment, the presiding officer, with the consent of the Council, may, prior to opening the hearing, establish reasonable guidelines, including reasonable time limits for presentations, for the conduct of the hearing. The presiding officer shall explain these guidelines to the audience prior to taking Public Comments.

Section 2.

The Council shall not be bound by the strict rules of evidence, but may exclude irrelevant, immaterial, incompetent, or unduly repetitious Public Comment. The ruling of the presiding officer may be overruled by a majority vote of the Council.

Section 3.

The proponents or opponents, their agent or attorney, may submit petitions and letters during or prior to the closing of the hearing and the same shall be entered by reference into the minutes and considered as other Public Comment received at the hearing.

Section 4.

Following the presentation of all comments, the Council may:

1. Continue the hearing from day to day or to a date certain to allow additional information to be submitted to the Council as a body on any unresolved issues;
2. Close the public hearing and proceed to Council debate of the matter; or
3. Close the hearing and continue the Council debate and vote to a date certain.

A public hearing which has been formally closed may not be reopened. If additional information is required before a decision can be made, the Council, upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, may call for an additional public hearing which hearing shall be duly noticed, specifying date, time, place and subject matter of the hearing.

PART X. Addressing the Council

Section 1.

The public is invited to speak on any item under discussion by the Council after recognition by the presiding officer. The speaker should step to the lectern or front of the room and, for the record, give his/her name and address and, if applicable, the person, firm, or organization he/she represents.

Prepared statements are welcomed and should be given to the Town Clerk to become part of the public record. All prepared statements shall become a part of the hearing record.

Comments are to be directed to the presiding officer.

Section 2.

While the Council is in session, the members must preserve order and decorum. A member shall not delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council nor disturb any member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its presiding officer.

Any person making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks or who shall become abusive or disruptive during the Council meeting shall be forthwith barred from further presentation to the Council by the presiding officer, unless permission to continue is granted by a majority vote of the Council.

PART XI. Ordinances and Resolutions

Section 1.

Ordinances and resolutions must be introduced by a member of the Council or the Mayor.

- If the draft ordinance is approved by the Mayor, it shall then be placed on the Council agenda for first reading, with second reading and final adoption by the Council occurring at least twelve (12) days after the first reading and provisional adoption.
- After being adopted, the ordinance shall be posted on the Town's posting board and copies shall be made available to the public by the Clerk of the Council.
- The reading of the ordinance's title and number shall be sufficient to constitute a reading and an actual oral pronouncement of each word contained therein of the proposed ordinance shall be waived unless required by a majority vote of the Council.

Section 2.

All ordinances, except emergency ordinances, shall become effective thirty (30) days after the second reading and final adoption. All resolutions and emergency ordinances shall become effective immediately, unless a delayed effective date is specified.

Prior to the next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting, all ordinances and resolutions approved by the Town Council must either be vetoed by the Mayor, signed by the Mayor, or returned to the Town Clerk without the Mayor's signature.

If an ordinance or resolution is not signed or vetoed by the Mayor prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting, the ordinance or resolution will go into effect without the Mayor's signature. In the Mayor's absence, the Council President may sign ordinances and resolutions, except those ordinances or resolutions the Mayor requests not be signed.

Section 3.

Resolutions adopting or amending the town's budget and resolutions setting usage, license, and permit fees shall be adopted only after notice given in accordance with §7-1-4127, MCA and a public hearing held thereon.

Section 4.

Details relating to Emergency Measures shall be handled in accordance with §7-5-4204, MCA, Details relating to emergency measures.

- The nature of the emergency must be expressed in the preamble or body of the ordinance
- The ordinance must receive two-thirds vote of all members present and voting
- An emergency ordinance can only be passed if it is immediately necessary for the preservation of the peace, health and safety of the citizens of Stevensville

- An ordinance passed as an emergency ordinance shall remain effective for no more than ninety (90) Days

PART XII. Election of Council President

Section 1.

Prior to the first regularly scheduled Town Council meeting in January following a general municipal election, any member of the newly organized Town Council who wishes to be a candidate for Council President shall notify the Town Clerk, in writing or via e-mail, of her/his desire to be President. The Town Clerk shall communicate the desire to become Council President to the Town Council and the Mayor.

Section 2.

The election of Town Council President shall be taken up as an item of new business on the agenda of the first regular Town Council meeting January following the municipal election. The election of Council President will be by voice vote recorded. A majority vote of Town Council is required to elect a nominee.

Section 3.

If a candidate(s) fails to obtain a majority, new nominations will be allowed after two successive votes fail to produce a majority. Unsuccessful candidates may be nominated.

Section 4.

If the position of Council President is vacated, the Town Council shall elect a new Council President at the first regularly scheduled meeting after the vacancy occurs.

PART XIII. Absences of a Town Council Member for more than 10 days

A Town officer desiring to be absent from the Town continuously for ten (10) calendar days or more shall submit a written or electronic request for permission to be absent to the Town Clerk's office. The request shall be directed to the Town Council members and the Mayor. The Town Clerk shall forward a copy of the Town officer's request to be absent to each Town Council member and the Mayor. If three (3) or more Council members have an objection to the absence, they may object, in writing or via e-mail, within three (3) calendar days after a copy of the request for absence has been sent to the Town Council membership.

If no written objection is filed, the request shall be deemed approved. Pursuant to Section 7-4-4111, MCA entitled, "Determination of Vacancy in Municipal Office," this provision shall be applicable to all Town officers who are elected or appointed to a term of office, and this shall be

the Town Council's mechanism for giving its consent pursuant to Section 7-4-4111 (5), MCA, and shall provide for objecting parties to show cause for objection to request for absence.

After three (3) calendar days, the Town Clerk will notify the Town Officer of approval or objection.

PART XIV. Town Council Procedures for filling a Vacancy in an Elected Town Office

Section 1.

All vacancies within the Town of Stevensville shall be filled in accordance with §7-4-4112, MCA, Filling of vacancy and § 2-118, SMC.

Whenever Town Council has sufficient advance notice of a future vacancy in an elected office, Town Council shall attempt to fill the vacancy in advance of the actual vacancy in order to prevent an elected office from incurring a period of vacancy. A vacating Council member may vote for their replacement, if available.

Section 2.

Pending an election and qualification, the council shall appoint a person within 30 days of the vacancy to hold the office until a successor is elected and qualified.

Vacancies on the Council may be filled by an application process as described in Section 3.

The Town Council may determine the method of filling a vacancy of the Mayor's Office using one of the following methods at the next available council meeting.

In the case of a Mayor who has vacated office before a successor is appointed or elected, the Town Council may, by a majority vote of its members, appoint the Town Council President to act as Mayor until a successor is either appointed, elected by Special Election or elected during the next General Municipal Election.

If a Mayor gives advance notice that he will vacate the office, the council may fill the office as follows:

- Appointment of the Council President to the office of Mayor until such time as a Special Election or General Municipal Election can be held.
- By an application process as described in Section 3.

Section 3.

As soon as the Mayor or Town Council President becomes aware of a vacancy in an elected Town Office, or as soon as the Mayor or Town Council President receives official notice that an elected Town Office will become vacant at a specified date in the future, the Mayor or Town Council President shall

make arrangements with the Town Clerk to publicly announce the vacancy using the same manner of advertising as when publicizing a public meeting, and the Town of Stevensville website.

The Town Clerk will receive written applications from citizens interested in applying to fill the vacancy in the elected office for ten calendar days from the date of the first public announcement by the Town Clerk's office.

The public announcement issued by the Town Clerk's office shall identify all the statutory established qualifications for an individual to be eligible to hold the vacant office.

The Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Town Attorney, shall prepare an application form for use by applicants interested in being selected to fill the vacant position if a preapproved application is not available. The application once prepared, shall be submitted to the Town Council at a regularly scheduled council meeting for approval for use. The application, once approved by the Town Council, shall be maintained for future use and reviewed for accuracy before being used to fill a vacancy.

The application form shall request information as to the full name and address of the applicant, as well as all information necessary to determine if the applicant meets the statutorily established qualifications to fill the office.

The Town Clerk will review the written application in order to determine if an applicant meets the minimum qualification to fill the office as specified by State Law.

A list of all applicants, as well as a status of their eligibility, will be submitted by the Town Clerk to Town Council at its next regularly scheduled or special meeting after the application deadline. Each Town Council Member is entitled to select for interview or nomination a final slate of candidates.

All members of the Town Council who choose to apply for the Office of Mayor via the application process shall recuse themselves from the interview and selection process. The remaining members of the Town Council will complete the interview and selection process.

All applicants shall be interviewed using the same interview questions, without the presence of another applicant. No applicant shall be afforded an advance copy of the interview questions.

Upon completion of the interview process, each member of the Town Council will evaluate each applicant and then nominate an applicant for final selection via a majority vote of Town Council, in accordance with §7-4-4112, MCA Filling of Vacancies and § 2-118, SMC. The successful applicant shall be sworn in at the earliest convenient time and date to assure continuity in Town government.