



Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019
7:00 PM

Council for the Town of Stevensville came together in the Council Chambers, this being the time set for the regular meeting of the Town Council.

Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Roll Call: Mayor Dewey, Councilmembers Barker, Holcomb, Phillips and Michalson were all present. Staff and members of the public were also present.

2. The Council and all present rose, faced the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. March 14, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes
- b. March 14, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Michalson moved to approve the March 14, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes and the March 14, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips. The vote was called and all voted "aye". Motion passes 4-0

4. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

Councilmember Holcomb moved to approve the Bi-Weekly claims for March 28, 2019 financial claims. Seconded by Councilmember Michalson.

Council asked several questions about the claims and cash reserves.

The vote was called and all voted "aye". Motion passes 4-0.

5. Administrative Reports - None

6. Guests – None

7. Correspondence – None

8. Public Comment – None

9. Unfinished Business

- a. **Discussion/decision to approve Resolution 444, a Resolution of the Town of Stevensville, Town Council Establishing Code of Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials**

Mayor Dewey introduced the item.

Councilmember Phillips moved to approve Resolution 444, a Resolution of the Town of Stevensville, Town Council Establishing a Code of Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials. Councilmember Holcomb seconded the motion.

Council asked the Mayor who he intends to pick for the Ethics Committee. Mayor Dewey responded that there will not be an Ethics Committee and explained that this is simply a policy of behavior. There are no ethics standards included and explained that in a previous Council meeting, Council considered creating a Code of Ethics and creating an ethics committee or ethics board, and that Council chose not to move forward on that.

Mayor Dewey informed Council that April VanTassel pulled together a receipt page that is formatted similarly to our Personnel Policy Manual where the elected officials and those it all applies to, sign that they have received a copy of the code of conduct, which will be kept on file.

The vote was called and Councilmembers Holcomb, Barker and Phillips voted “aye”. Councilmember Michalson abstained. Motion passes 3-0.

10. New Business

a. Discussion/decision regarding the Planning and Zoning Board’s 2019 Work Program

Mayor Dewey introduced the item and explained that Planning and Zoning Board Chair, John Kellogg is seeking Council’s direction on what the Board’s 2019 work program should look like and what types of things that Council would like Planning and Zoning to move forward with – such as policy revisions, code reviews etc. before the Planning and Zoning Board meets next month.

Council asked if it would be okay for Carolyn Micken’s item to go before the Planning and Zoning Board as he thinks it falls under their prevue and suggested that it would not hurt to have a second pair of eyes review it.

Mayor Dewey responded that he doesn’t think that the Planning and Zoning Board is looking for direction on specific issues but looking for general things that they should be working on, not necessarily at a level of resolving issues for us. However, if that is Council’s direction, they can undertake that alley vacate, but alley vacates are typically not a Planning and Zoning issue.

Council discussed the new Physical Therapy business going in across from the laundry mat, suggesting that there may be issues with it such as curbing that the Planning Board could look at.

Mayor Dewey explained the kind of direction that the Board is seeking.

Council asked if it is possible to know about projects as they are approved.

Mayor Dewey explained the building permit approval process and explained that Chair John Kellogg intends to hold a meeting, but is asking for Council direction in advance of the meeting.

Council requested to see more communication about what is coming to town.

Mayor Dewey explained that is not a Planning and Zoning Board item, those are things that are handled administratively. The Board is primarily looking for direction from Council.

No action taken.

b. Discussion/decision to replace Police Department tasers

Police Chief Marble provided an overview of the Police Department tasers. Chief Marble provided 3 possible options for Council consideration:

- 1 – purchase on payment plan at \$1299 a year
- 2 – \$6495 purchase outright
- 3 – \$1299 first year and pay the remaining balance next year. Drawback would lose the 5-year warranty. Would then need to purchase a warranty.

Chief Marble recommends Option 1.

Council asked about the warranty for option #2 and #1.

Police Chief Marble explained the benefit of having tasers. Council asked how long the last ones lasted and how many times has Stevensville used the tasers.

Police Chief Marble explained that the only time they were used was in the “spark” capacity. Stating that we haven’t used them, but we do use them as a deterrent. Council asked if the capacitor could be replaced.

Police Chief Marble explained that it is a self-contained unit, molded together. You essentially have to destroy the unit to replace its guts.

Council asked why the Town was considering replacing the tasers for the reserve officers.

Police Chief Marble explained if we move forward to augment the police department, we should always have one in reserve in case one goes down. Have 3 officers with a taser, plus one for the court officer, and then one in reserve.

Councilmember Holcomb made a motion that we allow the Police Department to purchase 5 tasers using the 5-year payment plan. Seconded by Councilmember Michalson.

Brad Smith, 827 Airport Road, asked about how many times the tasers sent in under warranty. Clarified that you had no failures from the time of purchase till now.

The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion passes 4-0.

11. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey provided an update the following items:

- Extended an offer of employment for a new police officer. Will send out additional details to Council when it becomes available
- New Physical Therapy building on Main Street
- Highwater issues and road surface problems

12. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Holcomb commented that she guesses she made a weird face when the Mayor read his letter last Wednesday so she finds she needs to defend herself. At the Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 20th when the Mayor read a letter into the record, he stated he emailed the Council daily on the issue of the snow removal. Councilmember Holcomb informed the Town that he only emailed her three times, 2/25, 2/26 and 2/27. That is far from being emailed daily. The one that he sent on 2/27 was at 9:07 pm, and he had already stated that the contractors had already been hired. She would like to see the Mayor start taking accountability for his mistakes and quit blaming it on the past Mayors and Councils when he makes a mistake on something.

Councilmember Barker on the February 14 meeting, we talked about Resolution 435, which was amending the wages and compensations of elected and appointed officials along with the discussion of the reorganization of the Mayor's Town employees. That item was actually tabled and she believes that Jerry commented on the fact that there was a Court Clerk that was going to be hired for that position and at that time we were told that it was undecided due to the fact that we had not been able to go back in and discuss this item. This item was tabled; however, she received an email from the Mayor stating that a new Court Clerk was in the works. Councilmember Barker's question is in regards to her pay scale, because we are taking that away from Audree's job description and questioned if we are going to cut Audree's pay down as well because she is no longer taking that. The other concern that she has is in regards to an email she sent to the Mayor on the fact of some meeting minutes that still had not been addressed. It was over a week before she got a response from the Mayor. Councilmember Barker commented that she is appalled because the it says that the clerk is doing her best she can based on her part-time status as the Town Clerk. Training the new Court Clerk should be completed soon and Audree will have more time to commit to the Council affairs. However, it is important to note that the existing schedule of deadlines of the Council packet is currently challenging to complete the minutes on time. Audree only has Fridays and Mondays to complete the

minutes after Thursday's meeting and she will be committed to the Court on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This issue is obviously compounded if we have more meetings in between regular meetings. I appreciate your understanding, patience as we can do our best, with this, with available resources going forward, please expect the times presented for approval at the second meeting following the meeting minutes related to.

Councilmember Barker stated that she has a problem with that because we rescheduled our Town Council meetings by moving them to Thursdays so we would have more time for the Clerk to be able to get our packets out and all that information. Councilmember Barker stated that she does believe when went to a training, we talked about also having three meetings a month. There was possibly 4 and we decided to go with three. She would sincerely like to see this changed, five weeks of those meetings from January 24's meetings that we did not approve on February 14, there has been five weeks in there. All we asked was for the comments to be addressed.


13. Board Report

Councilmember Holcomb commented that they finally had TIFID/TEDD Board meeting and hopefully Julie will be putting that together for Council's next meeting.

14. Adjournment


Mayor Dewey adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:40 pm.

APPROVE:



Brandon Dewey, Mayor

ATTEST:



Audree Tribbensee, Town Clerk