

STEVENSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, May 26th, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Council for the Town of Stevensville came together at Council Chambers, this being the time set for the regular meeting of the Town Council. Mayor Crews called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken and Councilmember's Barker and Michalson were present. Councilmember Holcomb as absent. There were several members of the public present also.

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

Approval of minutes from:

May 11th Special Meeting and May 12th Town Council Meeting

Councilmember Barker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Michalson seconded the motion and all voted "aye". Motion carried 2-0.

Approval of bi-weekly claims:

Council reviewed the claims as presented.

Councilmember Barker made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Councilmember Michalson seconded the motion. The vote was called and all voted "aye". Motion carried 2-0.

Administrative Reports:

Airport

Airport Manager Bob Otte was unable to attend. Mayor Crews read Mr. Otte's report into the record.

Police

Chief Marble was unable to attend. There was no police report given.

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Finance Officer April VanTassel presented her monthly financial report. She then gave an update on the upcoming pool opening and budget meetings.

Guests:

There were no guests present.

Correspondence:

Mayor Crews read the following correspondence into the record:

- Email from Montana Game Warden Justin Singleterry regarding wildlife (specifically bear) issues.
- Email from Local Government Center Dan Clark regarding Council quorum.

Public Comments:

Mark Adams, 319 College Street, commented on the lack of law enforcement patrolling and issues with traffic, specifically speeding. He commented on this issue getting worse over the last 3 years, SPD officers stating they don't have the resources to patrol, and SPD budget and expenditures. He recommended Council disband the SPD and contract with the County Sheriff's Dept.

Leslie Tadvick, 509 Mission Street, thanked the Town staff for filling pot holes and making the cemeteries look nice for the Memorial Day weekend.

Unfinished Business:

A. Standing Agenda Item: Sewer Project

Mayor Crews gave an update on the Waste Water Treatment Plant Project and informed Council a ribbon cutting/open house is planned for mid-July.

B. Discussion/decision – Terminate the Study for Reduced Rate Utility Billing Program

Acting Mayor Crews informed the Council the survey was terminated at the previous Council meeting and it appears all the results are in at this time for Council to terminate the study.

Councilmember Michalson made a motion to terminate the study for Reduced Rate Utility Billing Program. Councilmember Barker seconded the motion. Joe Moore, 514 Central, inquired the survey and study. Mayor Crews stated the survey was part of the study and were collected over the past month and a half and there was no need to continue the study. **The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 2-0.**

C. Discussion/decision – Terminate or Continue the Reduced Rate Utility Billing Program

Mayor Crews reviewed information he gathered regarding the Reduced Rate Program including the amount collected, expended, how many participants are enrolled in the program and the results of the survey (included in the Council packet). He also commented on reinstating the previous program “Help For You”, but Council needs to consider this funding out of the General Fund of the Town.

Councilmember Michalson made a motion to terminate the Reduced Rate Utility Billing Program. Councilmember Barker seconded the motion.

Discussion was held regarding the previous program screened by LIEAP and funded through the Town General Fund; and a history of the program creation.

Councilmember Michalson commented on the Town being a “poverty town”, collecting more money than needing will be harder to pay back and members in his Ward not having a say in paying.

Joe Moore, 514 Central, commented on Councilmember Michalson’s statement of “poverty town” and if the poverty level is true, then Council should look at continuing the program not discontinuing it.

Leslie Tadvick, Mission Street, commented on terminating the program, using remaining funds for those signed up and putting the issue on a ballot for the entire town to vote on.

Brandon Dewey commented on this issue may not be a ballot issue for voter’s but for water/sewer users.

Vicki Motley, 318 9th Street, commented on Council adjusting the rate to reflect actual need and keeping the program. She also commented on the positive survey results and that she wasn’t necessarily in favor of the program, but a sees a need.

Vote was called. Councilmember Michalson voted “aye” and Councilmember Barker voted “nay”. Mayor Crews declined to break the tie. Motion failed 1-1.

New Business:

A. Discussion/decision – Election of Council President

Mayor Crews informed Council and the public that Councilmember Holcomb was the only Councilmember expressing interest.

Councilmember Michalson made a motion to elect Councilmember Holcomb as Council President. Councilmember Barker seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 2-0.

Councilmember Michalson made a motion to take a 5 minute recess. Council member Barker seconded the motion and all voted “aye”.

The meeting reconvened.

B. Discussion/decision – Stevensville School District Pool Passes

Request

Mayor presented the Stevensville School request for donation of 385 pool day passes to be handed out at their academic awards assembly in June.

Councilmember Michalson made a motion to approve donating 385 one day pool passes to grades 4-8 of the Stevensville School District.

Councilmember Barker seconded the motion. . Raymond Smith commented on this being a vital benefit to the kids in the community. Joe Moore commented on the school possibly needing more passes if new students enroll at the end of the year. **The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 2-0.**

C. Discussion/decision – Donation to the Skate Park for Volunteer Work at the Stevensville Pool on May 15, 2016

Councilmember Barker made a motion to approve donating \$330.00 to the Stevensville Skate Park for volunteer work done at the Stevensville Pool on May 15, 2016. Councilmember Michalson seconded the motion. Jeff Motley inquired about where the funds are used. Raymond Smith informed the Council and public that the funds will be used to complete landscaping and signage. Jeff Motley then commented in favor of the donation. **The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 2-0.**

D. Discussion/decision – FY16-17 Employee Health Care Benefit Package

Finance Officer April VanTassel reviewed the employee health insurance FY16/17 increase of 7.3% and total monthly increase to the Town including 50% of dental and vision being \$393.83.

Councilmember Barker made a motion to approve the FY16-17 Employee Health Care Benefit Package. Councilmember Michalson seconded the motion. Jeff Motley inquired about the insurance increase and coverage. April VanTassel confirmed the coverage will remain the same. **The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 2-0.**

E. Discussion/decision – Planning & Zoning Board Recommendation to Adopt DEQ Joint Subdivision Application Part I and Part IV

Mayor Crews read a letter from P&Z Board Chair Greg Chilcott recommending the adoption of the DEQ Joint Subdivision Application and addressing the issue of no Town Planner.

Councilmember Michalson made a motion to approve the Planning & Zoning Board’s recommendation of adopting the DEQ’s Joint Subdivision Application, Part I and Part IV. Councilmember Barker seconded the motion. Jeff Motley inquired about the use of the application being in Town limits or County. Clerk Bartlett responded by explaining this application would be

used for subdivisions within the Town's zoning. The same application and information would also be submitted to DEQ review making the process more stream-lined. **The vote was called all voted "aye". Motion carried 2-0.**

F. Discussion/decision – Planning & Zoning Board Recommendation Regarding a Town Planner

Mayor Crews informed Council of the Town currently not having a Town Planner. The position was historically held as an honorarium position.

Councilmember Michalson made a motion to table the P&Z Board recommendation regarding a Town Planner until the next Council meeting. Councilmember Barker seconded the motion. Planning & Zoning Chairman Joe Moore commented on the duties of a Town Planner.
The vote was called and all voted "aye". Motion carried 2-0.

Executive Report:

Acting Mayor Crews reported on the following items:
Big Sky Trust Fund amended contract for B.E. Forest Products was signed
Judge Oath is scheduled for 4pm tomorrow
Budget items unfinished needing to be carried into the next FY – Town Hall entry
and a raised bench for Judge O'Connor
Tree Planting w/NWE earlier today

Town Council Comments:

Councilmember Michalson commented on attending an MMIA Local Government Elected Officials Institute in Billings and thanked the Town of letting him attend.

Councilmember Barker thanked the Town Staff for repairing the potholes.

Councilmember Michalson also commented on the road repair and thanked the staff.

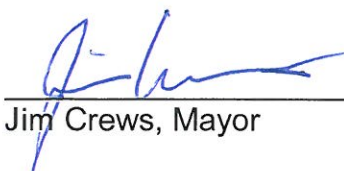
Board Reports

There were no board reports.

Joe Moore inquired about the unpaid business licenses. Mayor stated he has begun to go door to door and talking to the businesses. Further discussion ensued with regards to business licenses. Mayor Crews stated he contacted the Town's Attorney, but asked him to hold off on giving his opinion until the Mayor gathered more information on this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

APPROVE:



Jim Crews, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stacy Bartlett, Town Clerk