

STEVENSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, February 25th, 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 Ludington called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Ludington called for a moment of silence in memory of Clayton Floyd.

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

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

Approval of minutes from:

February 11th Public Hearing, February 11th Town Council Meeting and February 18th Committee of the Whole meeting

Councilmember Holcomb made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Barker seconded the motion and all voted "aye". Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of bi-weekly claims:

Council reviewed the claims as presented.

Councilmember held discussion regarding costs for Ravalli County Recycling and the need to revisit the issue.

Mayor Ludington commented he will set up a meeting with RC Recycling.

Council inquired about several claims and requested to have paper copy of claims at future Council meetings.

Councilmember Crews made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Councilmember Holcomb seconded the motion and all voted "aye". Motion carried 4-0.

Administrative Reports:

Airport

Airport Manager Bob Otte was unable to attend. Mayor Ludington read Mr. Otte's written report. Councilmember Crews commented on his plan to give a presentation to the Airport Board on the Airport annexation 5 and 10 year plans.

Police

Chief Marble was unable to attend and no report was given.

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Finance Officer April VanTassel presented her monthly financial report. She reported that 3 more residents have applied for the Help for You program, totaling 6 qualified residents with 5 of those at the 50% reduction and 1 at the 25% reduction. There is a growing interest in the program.

Discussion ensued regarding the water volume billed versus water produced; water leaks; water pulled from the hydrants, and leak detection study.

Councilmember Crews commented on the Finance Officer's Utility Billing Report on being readable.

Guests:

There were no guests present.

Correspondence:

Mayor Ludington read the following correspondence into the record:

- Letter from MMIA regarding employee health insurance increase anticipated this year

Public Comments:

Raymond Smith, 326 Valley View, commented on Council not having a final plan of the Skatepark, but were given a concept plan which Council approved. Ray also commented on remaining landscape and concrete benches being to be installed were part of the plan concept previously approved. He requested approval to move forward.

Gene Mim Mack, 107 E. Third Street, inquired about the TSEP Application for leak detection study and the contract approved previously for leak detection. Town Clerk and Mayor Ludington informed him that the TSEP Application got lost at the Dept of Commerce and was not followed up on until it was too late to resubmit. PCI will apply in the next round of TSEP funding.

Gene then commented on resident and former Council member Clayton Floyd's passing and his lasting legacy and valued role in the Town of Stevensville.

Tonya Eckert commented on placing a plaque in the Town in remembrance of Clayton Floyd during the Arbor Day event. Mayor recommended she contact Mr. Floyd's family first and did not see any issues of installing a plaque within the Town.

Unfinished Business:

A. Standing Agenda Item: Sewer Project

Mayor Ludington gave an update on the Waste Water Treatment Plant project and anticipated a completion date of mid-March.

B. Discussion/decision – Resolution No. 385, Authorizing Amendment of the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget for the Purchase of a Ladder Truck for the Stevensville Fire Department

Mayor Ludington presented Resolution No. 385 for a budget amendment of \$28,000.

Councilmember Crews made a motion to approve Resolution No. 385, Authorizing Amendment of the FY15-16 Budget for the Purchase of a Ladder Truck for the Stevensville Fire Department. Councilmember Holcomb seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 4-0.

C. Discussion/decision – Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 160, An Ordinance Amending Article II and Creating Articles IV and V of Chapter 18 (Parks & Recreation) of the Stevensville, Montana Municipal Code

Mayor Ludington introduced Ordinance No. 160.

Councilmember Crews made a motion to table Ordinance No. 160 and return it to committee for review and revision. Councilmember Holcomb seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 4-0.

D. Discussion/decision – Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No 161, An Ordinance Creating and Adopting Article XV – Swimming Pool and Spa Code – as Part of Chapter 6 of the Stevensville, Montana Municipal Code

Mayor Ludington reviewed Ordinance No. 161.

Councilmember Crews made a motion to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 161, An Ordinance Creating and Adopting Article XV – Swimming Pool and Spa Code – as Part of Chapter 6 of the Stevensville, Montana Municipal Code. Councilmember Holcomb seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 4-0.

E. Discussion/decision – Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 162, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 Article XIV of the Stevensville, Montana Municipal Code

Mayor Ludington reviewed Ordinance No. 162.

Councilmember Holcomb made a motion to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 162, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 Article XIV of the Stevensville,

Montana Municipal Code. Councilmember Crews seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 4-0.

New Business:

A. Discussion/decision – Request Council to Consider a 90 Day Study Regarding the Effects of Resolution 380 and Gather Feedback from the Citizens of the Town of Stevensville to Determine Utility Bill Reduced Rate Program Use and Acceptance by the Citizens of the Town of Stevensville

Councilmember Crews commented on the negative feedback he has received from the community on this program and on the program should have been put to the citizens for a vote. He also commented on the need for a program, but would like to see it done on a volunteer basis. He requested Council conduct a 90-day study implementing a review process.

Discussion ensued regarding water/sewer rates, the creation, public notification process and implementation of the Reduced Rate Program and the need for the program, but not a mandatory fee.

Council suggested sending a survey out to all residents to get feedback from the ratepayers.

Further discussion ensued regarding the Reduced Rate Program, negative feedback received by Council and a survey offered to ratepayers when they come to Town Hall.

Jeff Motley, 318 9th Street, commented on this program just being implemented, giving it a chance to work and reviewing at the end of the first year.

Discussion ensued regarding public notices and negative feedback.

Dawn Geiger, Turner Street, commented on residents not reading the Bitterroot Star and suggested placing notices in the Missoulian or Ravalli Republic.

Gene Mim Mack, 107 E. Third Street, commented on this program being creating based on public feedback regarding elderly and disabled residents needing help with water/sewer rates, the wording on a survey being critical, and that the program was instituted to allow Council the option to modify the program as needed.

Councilmember Crews made a motion to have the Mayor and staff create a survey form to be presented to the public and bring back for Council review at the next Council meeting. Councilmember Holcomb seconded the motion.

Resident John Anderson commented on previous council meetings and the feeling of resident voices not being heard, feeling ignored and his opposition to not having a say in paying the \$1.52, but being forced.

Resident Tonya Eckert commented on the program being optional or voluntary.

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

Executive Report:

Mayor Ludington reported on the following items:

- ✓ Newly hired Police Officer, Reeni Moles
- ✓ NorthWestern Energy Contractor will begin boring for soil tests for the transmission line
- ✓ Council tablet issues, requested Council email issues to him
- ✓ Habitat for Humanity's Groundbreaking on Sunday
- ✓ Upcoming P&Z and Airport meetings
- ✓ Judge candidate interview tomorrow
- ✓ Clayton Floyd's involvement in the Town and his recent passing
- ✓ Engineering estimate to improve Park Street

Town Council Comments:

Councilmember Holcomb commented on Clayton Floyds passing.

Councilmember Michalson commented on Clayton Floyds passing.

Councilmember Crews commented on his friendship with Clayton Floyd. He then commented on the SkatePark, liability concerns and the need to look at the final design of the SkatePark and Playground. He also commented on Council possibly making a quorum if they all attend Clayton Floyd's funeral.

Councilmember Barker commented on the issue with the Turkeys in Town and J-turn signs on Main Street not removed.

Councilmember Michalson commented on the recycling program not being cost effective for the Town.

Board Reports

Councilmember Crews reported on the Stevensville Main Street Association meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVE:


Paul Ludington, Mayor

ATTEST:


Stacy Bartlett, Town Clerk