

From: [Jim Crews via Stevensville Montana](#)
To: [Brandon E. Dewey](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 7-22-2020 Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 5:29:01 PM

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Submitted on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 - 5:28pm
Submitted by user: Visitor
Submitted values are:

First & Last Name: Jim Crews
Address: 316 9th St Stevensville, Montana 59870
Agenda Item : Unfinished Business: Discussion/Decision: Code of Conduct violations, Oath of Office violations and Improper Influence all conducted by Robert Michalson
Comment:
The following is my personal opinion and mine alone.

You, as members of the council need to seek proper independent legal council before you proceed with the action that you are considering.

I do not think Council has established policy nor procedure to conduct an investigation into another council members actions, nor have policy or procedure been establish in which to try a member of the council just as not policy or procedure has been established to try an appointed officer of the town for removal from office.

I firmly believe that for any of this to go forward, a legal process must be established by the Town's City Attorney and this needs to be adopted by council.

The reason is that you as a council may punish your own members, but the Mayor may not.

He is not part of the council and has no say so in this proceeding. Although he is the presiding officer of the council he is not a member of the council and has no vote in this manner because it is a council member on council member action. Remember the law says that you as council members make your own rules and punish your own members. The Mayor is a member of the Executive Branch, you are the Legislative Branch. You must keep them separate.

The Montana Code is as follows:

7-5-4103. Council rules and discipline. The council may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for improper conduct, and expel any member for the same by a two-thirds vote of the members elected.

Failure to establish the appropriate process could result in the denial of representation of a ward by a group of hostile council members and loading of the council by those same members during an appointment process, in addition to opening the town up to multiple lawsuits for rights violations and potential illegal process.

In addition to that Council members have spread gossip all over town via social media, the town's agenda and via text messaging. You have thoroughly divided the town and alienated two members of the council and many members of the Town's population.

Please consider that you are inexperienced as members of the council and most of you have not even attended one single MMIA or Local Government gathering.

With all dues respect,

Jim Crews

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