

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes For

Thursday, August 27, 2020 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order Councilmembers Devlin, Holcomb, Michalson and Vick were all present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments

Mayor Dewey: this is an opportunity for public comment on things not on tonight's agenda. We have not received any public comment from our public comment forms on our website. We have received public comment on future meetings but none for this meeting specificity and does not appear that we have anyone on the phone either so we will move on.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Memo from Mayor Dewey regarding meeting minutes

Council has a memo from me in their packet, when Jenelle returns she will continue to work through the back log that was created from when Monica was vacant from the position so she is working on that and I accept that you will have some minutes to approve if not the whole on slot pending. I know that people were eager to see public comments submitted from the past meetings and we have made that available on our website under the view details sections of each meeting on the meetings page so folks can go there to review all of the comment received by email or in writing and those were scanned in as well.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

Mayor Dewey: you have approval of the bi-weekly claims, Mr. Underwood sent them to you folks last night, is that correct Robert?

Robert: yep.

Mayor Dewey: so you have in front of you tonight claim number 16167-16189 with the addition of 16179 that is included in that range but it is a separate sheet for you folks outlining the liability insurance claim for our annual liability renewal. I will entertain a motion to approve the claims.

Councilmember Vick: I make a motion to approve the claims.

Councilmember Holcomb: 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Mr. Vick and 2nd by Ms. Holcomb of the bi-weekly claims, questions from council. Hearing no questions I will call for the vote.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Holcomb: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes animus.

6. Administrative Reports

None.

7. Guests

None.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Public Hearings

None.

10. Unfinished Business

None.

11. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 387E, amending Town Council Rules

Mayor Dewey introduced new business item (a). This primarily comes from Mr. Vick that proposed a time limit on public comment he has initially had written a separate resolution for the time limit the administration went ahead and incorporated that into the amendment of the council rules so that everything thing was in one place rather than in two separate places in terms of rules. In the spirit and nuts and bolts of Mr. Vicks sentiments from his original motion are incorporated here in. Mr. Vick do you want to speak to this any further?

Councilmember Vick: I want to go ahead make a motion to table this until we go back to in person meetings.

Mayor Dewey: okay is there a 2nd?

Councilmember Devlin: I will 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Mr. Vick and 2nd by Ms. Devlin to table the item until we return to in person meetings. Is there any further discussion from council? (making sure I am not receiving any comment) okay you did receive a comment from Vicky Motley under general public comments for your review look at that it will be uploaded on the website. If there is no

council discussion or public comment, I will call for the vote to table this item until in person meetings.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Councilmember Holcomb: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

b. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 479, declaring certain property as surplus and authorizing its disposal

Mayor Dewey: introduced the new business item (b). you have three additional vehicles for last round of surplus since you declared; 2005 Crown Victoria which is the police cruiser, the 1982 Chevy van from the public works department and the 1998 Chevy Lumina from the administrative. Administration asks that council consider all of these vehicle surplus we do not need to keep them around by any means and once this action is complete the administration, mainly finance and the town clerk, will undertake the bidding process to dispose of these items forth with.

Councilmember Michalson: I make a motion to approve Resolution 479 declaring certain property as surplus and authorizing its disposal.

Councilmember Holcomb: 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Mr. Michalson and 2nd by Ms. Holcomb to approve Resolution 479 declaring certain property as surplus and authorizing its disposal.

Councilmember Michalson: I was going back through the minutes and last August this came up when you were discussing the police vehicles and it was discussed and approved then to put three squad vehicles to be surplus and then I had an email from February 19th from Chief Marble and I, where he was going to surplus these vehicles. I guess my question is why just this one and not those three that are sitting out there.

Mayor Dewey: the rest of those were already declared surplus in your last resolution so this is one vehicle that we were keeping for a backup and now that we have ordered the two police vehicles there is no need for this vehicle to serve as a backup because we will have vehicles to serve as a backup. So, when the third officer is hired this will leave us all total in police vehicle it will leave us with one spare vehicle as a reserve. Those other vehicles sitting there are already declared surplus the council already completed that action.

Councilmember Michalson: so, you are going to surplus the ones tonight and the ones already declared surplus?

Mayor Dewey: correct the ones that have already been declared surplus will be sold with these ones we are waiting on the sale of those until these were declared, these were holding up the other vehicles, other wise the other ones would have been gone by now.

Councilmember Michalson: okay thank you.

Mayor Dewey: your welcome. Any other council comment? All right I don't see any public comment coming through. The motion is to approve Resolution 479 and so with that if there is no further discussion from the council, I will call for the vote.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Holcomb: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: the motion passes unanimously.

12. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey: that covers the business portion of tonight's agenda I know that it was brief and a lot to take. Executive report this evening I can tell you that I plan to return to the office on Monday in my full regular capacity prior to the birth of my daughter I am anxious to get my sleeves rolled up and get back in all though I have been doing this remotely the staff and I are ready to get back to it. and get to work this fall. Regular office hours will resume Monday for me the police department is rapidly preparing to move into their new location on Main Street that facility needs a few finishing touches and then it will be 100% ready to go, some of the equipment and such will start transiting over next week if not later this week and perhaps over the weekend but for sure next week we will start moving over a bulk of that stuff over and we look forward to hosting the council for an open house so you can get your eyes on that facility and see the improvement it will be for the police department we are very excited about that transition. I know that there has been a plethora of correspondence between the council and the planning and zoning board and citizens in the community regarding the Burnt Fork Estates sub division. Please bear with us while we sift through that, there were a lot of email chains to follow. I have expressed my reasoning, position, decisions, theory, and all of that to the council in terms as of why we continue to hold virtual meetings. Mind you the administration and I are watching this on a daily basis we review the press releases coming out of public health and we are tracking the number of cases as they increase and decrease in Ravalli county to get a sense of when it is safe to hold in person meetings again. My intent all along has been that your September 10th council meeting will be an in-person meeting and we are going to plan that direction as much as we can but there are not guarantees. Of course, if we see community spread that may not be the case and we will be stuck this way. A number of municipalities are holding virtual meetings some have not met since March in person some have not met at all. Very small communities out there have chosen to not hold meetings at all, I don't think that is an option for us of course I will leave that issue there as I have already expressed that to the council in an email. Other wise the executive report, obviously I don't have much else to report there that has not already been shared with you, you can expect some more in-depth conversation at the September 10th meeting once I am back in the office and have my hands back on tings and departments have their monthly reports. So, unless there are any questions from council, I will entertain them.

Jeff Motley: Brandon, do you want to give a brief synopsis of what is going on up at the airport. If anyone has some questions on that try to fill them in the best, we can so everyone is on board.

Mayor Dewey: yes, forgive me, I recall Robert sending out an email out and I thought that it went out to the council and if it missed you folks we will recap, the Forest Service has re-activated the land use agreement to use the airport as a heli-base for the Cinnabar Fire, as of today I believe there are 4 helicopters staged up there and they are using the snow removal building we are basically on stand by for any further services whether they need fire fighter services or anything from the town of Stevensville under our contract with them we are prepared fully to provide that to our abilities. We are kind of in a holding pattern they are and have set up a spike camp adjacent to the airport it is no t on town property it is adjacent to it and that relates to the Cynibar Fire as well, fire season certainly looks different this year given the pandemic we are in, but fortunately the fire season being what it has been the fire department and Robert have done a fabulous job on making sure we are prepared when the call comes in so the community can sleep sound tonight knowing that when forest service calls and asks for services we can deliver it. I think that hits everything I need to hit if I forget anything, I can touch base with you folks but I will turn it over to town council comments.

13. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Holcomb: I will not make it on the September 10th so I will send an email to everybody to get an approval, or I will send you an email and you can pass it along.

Mayor Dewey: thanks Robin. If you just copy Jenelle on it we will both see it.

Councilmember Holcomb: I will.

Mayor Dewey: any further council comments from the council?

Councilmember Michalson: Brandon, I would still like to stand fast with my opinion and many others in this town I am glad that you are thinking seriously about coming back to the September 10th meeting public but I would also really encourage you to change you mind on the planning and zoning I have talked to Many Old Hands that did the Creek Side Development in 2004 and there was no way that they did not one meeting and knowing the depth and the magnitude of this development I think it would be a disservice to try and do it in one night in one ZOOM meeting it could impact our town and our business and everything else in so many ways don't see how we can possibly get it done in one night and rush the public hearings it is something that the public needs to be involved in in person and I know that you have your feeling too Brandon, but I am telling you this is a big deal in this town and these people need to hear by voice. So, please please Brandon reconsider this, thank you.

Councilmember Devlin: a couple of topics that I wanted to touch on Mr. Michalson I agree with what you are saying in the hard position we are in is there is one side people that are saying yes we want to have public in person meetings we have a whole other side of the people that like it how it is. From the emails that I have seen the planning and zoning board there are three member of that board that are not comfortable having in person meetings in the pandemic we are in. I think that imposes a little snafu if you will, I believe that it was referred to Mr. Chilcott

who referred it back to Brandon. I am not sure if the board had made that decision when they were given the opportunity to do so as a whole there were three people for and four people against. Moving forward there are people that are totally thrilled with how things are going and I am not saying that we do it one way or the other I am just saying that we have to be mindful of everyone we are not going to hit it we are not going to make everyone happy. Like I said in our last meeting we have to find that middle ground which brings me to my next point, everything at this moment in our town and in our nation is hugely emotional charged I would like to see us all take a little breath and step back a little bit, it does not always have to be one way or the other we can agree to disagree we can agree to meet in the middle. Everybody has an opinion, everybody has a strong opinion the four of us councilmembers and the mayor are in a tough position because we hear from everyone, we hear everyone's viewpoints, pros, cons, you know we have to be the voice of that I just ask that everybody maybe be kind to one another be kind to us this is a difficult situation difficult just a difficult time we are having to make hard decisions that we would not normally be faced up against, so patience and kindness goes a long way. None of us elected, you have heard me say this before, none of us were elected taking on the role of maneuvering through hatred, right? So I don't think any of us are in the position that we want to be in a hateful situation or be having to negotiate and work through and discuss things in a hateful manner so I would encourage everybody, lets find some medium ground what ever your stance is lets be kind, remember that at the end of the day we are all humans and we all are trying to get through this and make as many people happy as we can sometimes we nail it and sometimes we don't but when we don't it is not for lack of trying, right? So, let's remember that and be kind to inner movements forward.

Mayor Dewey: thank Jaime. Mr. Vick any comment? You are the only one that has not gone yet.

Councilmember Vick: I am just happy to be here and everyone have a good night and hope to see everyone in two weeks.

Mayor Dewey: thanks Dempsey.

14. Board Reports

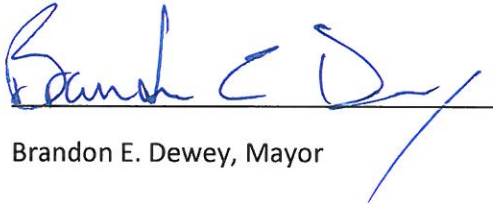
None.

15. Adjournment

Mayor Dewey: you will have some business on your agenda, and of course you will have your administrative reports for September 10th. You will also have some other things to consider we are not planning a whole that of material, not planning to put a lot of business material on the agenda other than some light items that have been requested that is largely in part because September 10th is the first scheduled public hearing, the first of three public hearings on the Burnt Fork Subdivision so that public hearing will occur during the town council meeting and there will be two follow up public hearings following that. A note on those meetings before we adjourn, and this may address one concern Mr. Michalson had, if the Planning and Zoning board meets and they feel that they can make a recommendation in a single meeting then it is up to them to schedule additional meetings. Planning and Zoning Board is not driven by the mayors office in helping facilitate meeting scheduled that is really up there chair person and there board and when they meet on these things in this case I scheduled a virtual

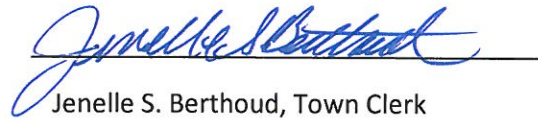
meeting because no one on there board wanted to make that decision and I need to get that notice out on the board for that public meeting but I think if the board decides on September 3rd that they need to have another meeting then we will publish another agenda and have another meeting, that board can meet as many times as they need to, to make a decision or a recommendation and mind you town council can hold hearings in unison with that there is no problem having multiple meetings perhaps the more the merrier, the town is only required to hold one we want to provide as much opportunity as possible to be heard so just know that and if the town council can't reach a decision by the 2nd meeting in September we will schedule a second meeting for you to consider the subdivision. We are trying to stick to that October 1st dead line because we have a commitment to do that out of state statute and if we need to hold more meetings between now ang then that is exactly what we will do, no matter what that venue looks like. I appreciate your consideration in that. If there is nothing else for the good of the order we will adjourn.

APPROVE:



Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk