

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 12, 2020, 7:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order, Councilmember's Devlin and Vick were both present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments

4. Approval of Minutes

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

6. Administrative Reports

a. Airport

There is not an airport report tonight.

b. Building Department

c. Finance

d. Fire Department

Chief Motley gave his report that was provided in the packet. new command rig is completed and looks good. Overhead lights in the truck bays have not started yet but spoke with the electrician, hoping for Thanksgiving time. Overhead door will come along. Watch when you are burning your wood stoves and fireplaces. New member on the roster in December, not new to town but new to the roster in town. Questions?

e. Parks & Recreation

Bobby: gave his report that was provided in the packet. Over all Bobby has heard a lot of good feed back from the community with the scare crow festival.

f. Police Department

Chief Marble: gave his report that was provided in the packet.

g. Public Works

Report provided in the packet.

7. Guests

No guests.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence. Mayor Dewey: there is no public correspondence, but you did receive

## 9. Public Hearings

### 10. Unfinished Business

#### a. Discussion/Decision: Conduct of Councilmember Michalson

Councilmember Vick: I guess I am going to make a final statement on this as I stated several weeks ago, I did forgive Mr. Michalson. However, the conduct towards the citizens of the town and the employees of the town is defiantly uncalled for and I if he did not resign, I think that it would have been in the best interest of the council to seek some sort of punishment.

Councilmember Devlin: I think having it on the agenda, I appreciate you having it on there Mayor Dewey. Our staff people, victims' staff that were victims, victims of our community, victims of our council, victims Mayor Dewey. Everybody needs some closer with this with the understanding that this kind of behavior has been accepted in Stevensville and in our government for decades. It is not allowed anymore it is not okay to treat other people this way and I would personally like apologize for those that were treated negatively. In this instance this behavior went on for so long and that we were not able to reach a decision as a council on your behalf but I think with resignation that happened I think we are able to put this to rest with a very bold statement that it won't be tolerated moving forward from anybody it doesn't matter we all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect so you know on behalf I do apologize for everyone that receiving backlash from this but we have a great opportunity to move forward and put that behind us and I just hope that we do so.

Mayor Dewey: To rap this up I appreciate the sentiments shared by both Mr. Vick and Ms. Devlin as the executive of the organization I look forward to the opportunity to turn the page on this and move into an aura were this type of behavior is not exhibited by council members and if it is we will swiftly address it and resolve the issue as it has festered in a way for far too long, with that is there anything further from the council on that subject? Okay I will consider the matter closed and you will not see it again.

#### b. Discussion/Decision: Review of policies relevant to conduct of Councilmembers

Mayor Dewey: introduced unfinished business (b) policy review. If you decide that you want to continue with policy review and if you are not prepared to go into policy review tonight, I suggest that we throw this on a future agenda when more time can be devoted to the subject. Ms. Devlin?

Councilmember Devlin: I think it would be in the best interest not to review policy when there is just two of us serving on the council at this time. I think we need some influence some ears and input from a full council instead of Mr. Vick and I's opinions and thoughts and making a policy change.

Councilmember Vick: that is about the same think that I was going to say. I was thinking the second meeting in January.

Councilmember Devlin: I think we can personally bring it back as an agenda item.

Councilmember Vick: I think it is best to wait until we have a full council set in.

Mayor Dewey: We will let that rest until the council is back up.

### 11. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Suspension Council Rules to cancel the November 26, 2020 Town Council meeting in observance of Thanksgiving and authorizing claims to be paid out of cycle

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business (a) Mr. Vick?

Councilmember Vick: wasn't this included in my motion last year for the day off after thanksgiving?

Mayor Dewey: as we recalled in the office your motion was the day after thanksgiving but not necessarily canceling that meeting and paying the claims.

Councilmember Vick: would there be any Montana or federal code preventing us for allowing us to pay claims out of cycle through perpetuity?

Mayor Dewey: not necessarily I guess the reason that we bring this up in the meeting prior you know the first meeting in the month is to give you the opportunity to say you want to pay claims out of cycle or change that forth Thursday meeting. You have the opportunity to do so, I think that it is going to depend from council to council in any given year.

Councilmember Vick: I will make a motion.

Councilmember Devlin: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Dewey: moved by Mr. Vick and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Devlin. Any further council comments on the matter. I don't see any public comment, Ms. Berthoud anything on your end. With that, Ms. Berthoud would you please call for the vote.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

b. Discussion/Decision: Extension of Final Plat Filing Deadline for Phase 2 of the Twin Creeks Subdivision

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business (b) extension of final plat filing Twin Creeks Subdivision. New owners of the property now asking for a deadline extension

Ron Ewart: PCI, spoke about the next phase of Twin Creeks, Phase 2.

Councilmember Vick: I am going to make a motion to extend it to one year and one day, because the 15<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday.

Mayor Dewey: Mr. Vick has made a motion to extend it by one year and a day.

Councilmember Devlin: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Dewey: any further questions? Giving it a second for public comment to come in. Hearing no public comment coming in I will call for the vote. Ms. Berthoud?

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: great thank you, Ms. Berthoud will schedule for you to come in and sign paperwork.

c. Discussion/Decision: Placement of a "No Outlet" sign on Peterson Place

Mayor Dewey: introduced the new business item(c) Ms. Holcomb is requesting from the last council meeting to place this on the agenda.

Councilmember Devlin: I make a motion.

Councilmember Vick: I 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Devlin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Vick. Council discussion, public comment. I will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: okay.

d. Discussion/Decision: Town Council Vacancies in Ward 1 and Ward 2

Mayor Dewey: When do you want to meet to review the applications? You have until December 5<sup>th</sup> to appoint the new positions.

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (d) the postings have taken place and we post the open positions for 10 days. State statute gives the council 30 days to replace the vacancy you have December 5<sup>th</sup> to fill the vacancy. Ms. Berthoud and I are at your disposal for the calendar.

Councilmember Devlin: could we meet to review the applications on the 20<sup>th</sup>? And possibly do interviews on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Vick: that will work for me as well.

Mayor Dewey: the scheduling wise of the meeting we will work around your availability. If you want to meet in the afternoon or the evening just let us know. Zoom meeting or in person, please let us know.

Councilmember Devlin: I am available after 6:00 that day. (the 20<sup>th</sup>)

Councilmember Vick: and I am available anytime that day.

Mayor Dewey: okay, Ms. Devlin is that 6:00 or later or 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Devlin: there is two of us not hard to social distance.

Councilmember Vick: not at all.

Mayor Dewey: we will check on the availability of space for you on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. from there then so you want to explore dates, do you want us to look at the 30<sup>th</sup> or a different time.

Councilmember Devlin: I am available from 5:00 on.

Councilmember Vick: my schedule at work is not out yet but if we schedule for that time, I will make it work.

Mayor Dewey: we will schedule for the 30<sup>th</sup> on the calendar the time will be determined on how many people you proceed with and how long that will take. In the past appointments we have had to have 2 nights of interviews to get through it. If there are conflicts with those dates the town clerk and I will have contact with you. Are there any further questions from council?

Councilmember Devlin: would it be possible to have the review of applications at town hall?

Mayor Dewey: anything is possible, so if the council wants to adopt a format or proceed with a format where the council itself meets in person and attendance to the meetings in through virtual. That can be facilitated, the challenge with the council chambers is that unfortunately can't accommodate numbers of the public in that room. Given the space that we have available for social distancing. Yes, the council chambers is available as long as the council is okay with the public attending that meeting virtually.

Councilmember Devlin: I think given the circumstances we find ourselves in with the two vacancies, at the same time we are right in the middle of the holidays and in a 30-day time frame I would bet that the people of our town would give us a little grace as we go through this process and try and meet those deadlines, it certainly is Mr. Vick and my doing. Mr. Vick what is your thought on that?

Councilmember Vick: I think that the public would be more forgiving on that, I don't foresee the entire town sitting in while we go through applications, but I would like public participation and what not but if it makes it easier for us to facilitate this where the public joins virtually, I am fine with that.

Mayor Dewey: what I am hearing is our first option is to hold a public meeting at the library room and our second option is to hold a hybrid virtual and in person meeting and our third option is an all-virtual meeting. That concludes the business portion of the town council portion of the meeting.

## 12. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey: Myself and some staff members have attended some webinars today and yesterday a workshop provided by the department of commerce here in Montana. The webinar is attended by communities through out Montana and then when we break out into groups, we are with other towns our size. Stevensville is doing well in terms of the economy and the pandemic.

In terms of Corona virus, we are continuing to monitor that situation very carefully. We had a staff meeting today, social distancing of course about their rolls and their expectations. We do have some potential exposure within the organization. Reinforcing social distancing and wearing masks and reinforcing the philosophy of taking care of each other so we can take care of our community. I have reached out to the public health department via email in Ravalli County with one last plea to see if we can't get any case data for Stevensville to aid in our decision making. If you recall in our previous conversations about public health specifically in Ravalli County and in Stevensville, I had expressed some frustration that public health wasn't cooperating in that regard you know they were giving us the same information as the general public. And I will continue to reach out. I hope to hear back.

Police Chief mentioned briefly about the phone system, tomorrow they will be setting up the phones and getting them squared away in the office then come back next week to switch over.

We are working on some snow response material; we are a little late on that this year. We are going to get some information out to the public. Just a reminder to not deposit your snow into the streets. I think that covers everything in my executive report.

### 13. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Devlin: We will still be having a country Christmas, decorated vehicles, parade of trees, decorate trees or windows, prizes for first and second places for trees windows and yards. Hope that the town will continue to do the coloring contest for flip the switch.

Mayor Dewey: yes, we can get the flip the switch coloring contest going.

Councilmember Vick: try to do some recruiting here, about the same time last year I put together the climate change board. Everyone is eligible to apply for the board, please fill out an application.

Mayor Dewey: Mr. Vick brought up a good reminder about boards. Mark your calendars for the 5<sup>th</sup> Friday in January, the 29<sup>th</sup>. It has been about a year since we workshopped with council members. Ms. Berthoud and I will be setting aside a couple few hours to meet with the boards in January. We really want to get the boards up to speed on their roles and responsibilities. We are going to go over virtual meetings with the boards.

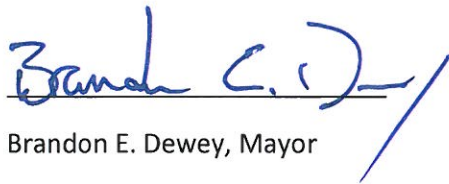
### 14. Board Reports

No board reports.

Councilmember Vick: no fire department banquet, they have decided to give the fire fighters money to go out for their own supper. Being a member of the town council I declined that invitation.

### 15. Adjournment

APPROVE:



Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk