

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Devlin, Ludington, Shourd and Vick all present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments

4. Approval of Minutes

a. September 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

b. November 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

c. November 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

d. November 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Dewey introduced the approval of minutes. Council discussion?

Councilmember Vick: on page 33 of the packet "no 2nd" when voting for Mr. Shourd.

Councilmember Vick: made the motion.

Councilmember Devlin: 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: any further council comment? Public comment? Ms. Berthoud call for the vote.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: sustained.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims 16292-16426

Councilmember Vick: made the motion.

Councilmember Ludington: 2nd the motion.

Mayor Dewey: council comments/discussion?

Councilmember Shourd: Questions #16395, police department phones.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

6. Administrative Reports

a. Airport

Robert gave an airport report, had a board meeting on Tuesday 12/9/2020 Tim Smead will be the new

b. Building Department

Report included in the packet.

c. Finance

Robert gave a finance report, credit card

d. Fire Department

Chief Motley gave his report, report provided in the packet. Also got in the 3-inch service line. LED lighting to be installed.

e. Parks & Recreation

Bobby gave his report, report provided in the packet.

f. Police Department

Report provided in the packet.

g. Public Works

Report provided in the packet.

7. Guests

No guests.

8. Correspondence

Mayor Dewey read a correspondence from Jim Crews and a correspondence from Desirae Coty.

9. Public Hearings

No public hearings.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

11. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Tim Smead as Airport Manager

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (a). Appointment of Tim Smead as airport manager.

Councilmember Vick: made a motion

Councilmember Ludington: I will 2nd that.

Mayor Dewey:

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

b. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of John Ellington as Interim Police Chief

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (b) appointment of John Ellington as interim

Vick: I will make the motion

Shourd": I will 2nd

Mayor Dewey: council comments? None. Public comments?

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

c. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Bobby Sonsteng as Interim Public Works Director

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (c). appointment of Booby Sonsteng as interim public works director.

Councilmember Devlin: moved.

Councilmember Vick: 2nd

Vick: 2 questions

Shourd: do you have a timeline.

Mayor Dewey: any further council comments? Public comments?

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye

d. Discussion/Decision: Authorization of purchase for auxiliary snowplow

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (d).

Councilmember Vick: moved

Councilmember Ludington: 2nd

Mayor Dewey: council comments?

Councilmember Vick:

Councilmember Shourd: will this help us with the mound on main street?

Mayor Dewey:

Councilmember Shourd: can the vehicle be used throughout the year?

Mayor Dewey: a deicer.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

e. Discussion/Decision: Authorization of purchase for SPD body armor/ballistic shields

Mayor Dewey: introduced new item (e)

Councilmember Vick: made the motion.

Councilmember Ludington: 2nd

Mayor Dewey: council comments? Public comments?

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

f. Discussion/Decision: Suspension Council Rules to cancel the December 24, 2020 Town Council meeting in observance of Christmas Eve and authorizing claims to be paid out of cycle

Mayor Dewey introduce new business item (f)

Councilmember Vick: moved

Councilmember Shourd: 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: discussions from council, none, no public comment. Ms. Berthoud call for the vote.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

g. Discussion/Decision: To nominate and elect a Councilmember to serve as Council President in accordance with Town Council Rules Part XII

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (g) electing council president. Councilmember Devlin and Councilmember Vick submitted emails to town clerk.

Councilmember Shourd: I will make a motion to nominate Dempsey Vick.

Ludington: 2nd that.

Councilmember Vick: spoke about the position of council president.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: elect Vick as the town council

h. Discussion/Decision: Appointment of Councilperson to serve on Planning & Zoning Board in accordance with Stevensville municipal Code §2-313

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (h) P&Z Board

Councilmember Vick: I will make a motion for Paul Ludington to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board.

Councilmember Devlin: 2nd

Mayor Dewey: any council comment? No public comment. Ms. Berthoud call for the vote.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

i. Discussion/Decision: Appointment of Councilperson to serve on TIFID/TEDD Board in accordance with Stevensville Municipal Code §2-330

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (i)

Councilmember Shourd: make a motion to appoint Jaime Devlin

Councilmember Vick: 2nd

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Mr. Shourd and 2nd by Mr. Vick. any council comment? No public comment. Ms. Berthoud call for the vote.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: that passes unanimously.

j. Discussion/Decision: Appointment of Councilperson to serve on Park Board

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (j)

Councilmember Devlin: I make the motion to appoint councilmember Shourd

Councilmember Ludington: 2nd

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Devlin and 2nd by Mr. Ludington. Council discussion?
Ms. Berthoud baring any public comment you can call for the role.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

k. Discussion/Decision: Appointment of Councilperson to serve on the Airport Board in accordance with Stevensville Municipal Code §3-33

Mayor Dewey: introduced new item (k)

Councilmember Shourd: I will make a motion to appoint councilmember Vick.

Councilmember Ludington: 2nd

Mayor Dewey: moved by Mr. Shourd and 2nd by Mr. Ludington. Council discussion?

Councilmember Vick: I am going to make a quick comment about the airport board, in the past I am super proud of our airport board we have gotten a lot of things done and up and running I thank the council for nominating me.

Mayor Dewey: Ms. Berthoud you know the drill.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye

Councilmember Vick: aye.

l. Discussion/Decision: Appointment of Councilperson to serve on the Climate Action Ad. Board

Mayor Dewey: introduced new item (l)

Councilmember Shourd: I will make a motion to appoint Dempsey Vick.

Councilmember Devlin: 2nd

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Mr. Shourd and 2nd by Ms. Devlin. Council discussion? Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: very good that motion passes unanimously.

Mayor Dewey: that concludes the business portion tonight. We appreciate your time to get through all those appointments. I can tell you that we will be reaching out to at least a couple of the board members on their new boards specifically on planning and zoning on a date for the planning and zoning board to meet we have kind of held off on pulling a planning and zoning board meeting together just to get a new councilmember in that seat to undertake the review of Burnt Fork Estates subdivision we are going to dive right in toes first and hope we can pull a meeting together relatively soon. Otherwise in January you will expect the clerk and I will be holding workshops for the boards collectively as we can with COVID getting people together we are going to try to muddle through that, get the boards together after the first of the year explaining roles and responsibilities, procedures get everyone on the same page, introduce each other and then hit the ground running a scheduling quarterly meetings back into place for most of these boards if not monthly meetings for some boards that want to meet monthly so part of that training that the clerk and I will conduct will be some ZOOM training to kind of help the board members that have not homed in on those skills do so, so we can continue to facilitate governance through the virtual word that we have experienced. So, with that the executive report is the next item on the agenda.

12. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey gave his executive report, he stated I have some notes here and some things to brief the council on I will start off in this vein as I mentioned COVID-19 and training and that sort of thing I will touch that I will also coordinate with the council members on some training for you folks right into the new year, we have a pretty healthy training budget because we had budgeted for travel and that is not happening so we are going to work on some on line curriculum for you folks there are some fundamental classes coming out of the local government center currently that would be beneficial for council if they are interested in taking that online that course specifically only takes about an hour a week in my experience. Just know that some of that is coming down the pipe and we haven't done a full orientation with the new councilmembers if there are any questions or something that we missed to explain to the two of you don't hesitate, as some of you have, to reach out to us and say that I am missing this piece and I need some help we are happy to do it just know that sometimes we miss stuff just juggling who we are but we are happy to help out however we can as an administration. You know addressing the correspondence from Desire Cody and the remarks that I made they were not my intent in that November 21st meeting, nor do I believe most people perceived it as blame or

finger pointing at a specific business for giving my wife COVID-19 the fact remains we don't know where she got the virus we can narrow it down to a few likely places and the grocery store happens to be one of those places. With that said I need to verify and further explain my remarks in that it was not my intent to blame any specific industry for the infection that came into our household it is just something that occurred. In the complaints that we received from public health folks regarding business and health directives all of those complaints have to do with wearing a mask specifically staff members in those business not wearing masks but also customers not wearing masks. Frankly, there are a few business', grocery stores, hardware stores even some bars that need to do a better job in wearing face coverings to be clear and this was an issue that Ms. Cody raised, I do not expect grocery store clerks or employees of any business to stand at the door and create a confrontational environment with customers over face masks that is not what we are here for. But I do expect that those employees of those establishments community wide will demonstrate and reinforce precautions that are proven to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 there is a lot of debate on whether masks work or not the bottom line is they work it is science folks. Those in our community that are providing service to customers should be mindful that they may not be aware that the person that they are helping at the grocery store line or at a restaurant drive through or what ever that situation is they don't know if that person they are helping is the first lady or an essential worker at a nursing home who if the virus is transmitted through that person could cause deadly consequences I know of a handful of cases that are in our own assisted living center one number that has been thrown out is as many as 16 cases, 16 people in a community of 2000 where a good portion of our community lives in that facility is a startling number. So, we have to be mindful of those people that is why it is so critical that we are commerce and business with each other that we are mindful of who we are coming into contact with and ask as a preventive measure, it wont completely prevent COVID-19 from spreading but it will help you guys. I just wanted to clarify some of those because I know it was upsetting to Ms. Cody, I do think that we need to be mindful of our behavior and our interaction with each other and those circumstances where people are becoming irate or accosting other individuals those aren't acceptable those aren't what people that live in Stevensville do that is not the behavior that we exhibit. If you find yourself in the role of a customer please do your part to keep our community moving, our businesses open, your neighbors healthy and that means being responsible, wearing your face coverings when you are around other people stay six feet away from any one not in your household, wash your hands, cover your cough or sneeze, very elementary principals, be patient, access to your favorite business' and recreation facilities and the things that you like to do are limited it takes you longer to get an appointment with your doctor and any other service providers that is just the times we are living in currently. Be prepared, call ahead be educated know what it takes to you and others safe and visit our website or give us a call if you have questions or public health is a resource for you as well. In the vein of COVID-19 I do have some updates for the council on the towns response to the pandemic specifically we are collaborating with public health and sanitation department at Ravalli county to address complaints that are received regarding non-compliance with health directives by business that hold a Town of Stevensville business license reminders and best practices information is being emailed to those business that we receive complaints about and those come in on a regular daily basis we are at a point where we are not necessarily receiving complaints about an array of business but we are

receiving the same complaints about the same businesses so at a certain point we will have to address some different outreach with those folks because the same email going out over and over again is not going to cut it as we move to business license renewals for 2021 we will be cross checking complaint records to ensure that businesses are taking efforts to take precautions as we are renewing those business licenses. So, the community and the Town of Stevensville is doing what it can kind of move these public health directives that are coming from the state level into a better light and try to educate folks any feed back there would be appreciated from the council. Shifting gears but in the same track of COVID-19, the administration is rapidly pulling together plans for mobile testing pilot for community-based testing of COVID-19 a local contractor right her in our backyard is successfully developed a test for COVID-19 that is affordable and very quick to process, preliminary we expect that this could cost about fifteen dollars a test and the test results would be ready in as little as 3-5 minutes goes very fast. So, we are pulling some pieces together and some meetings tomorrow with staff and we will have to be reaching out to some other departments for assistance with this so may hope is that we will have some very specific details for the town council in a brief tomorrow that I will email out to you folks in a memorandum just to keep you apprised. Initially the theory is these tests will go or concentrated on certain populations such as front-line workers, first responders and move into larger populations if the program is successful right off the bat. If this program is successful with this pilot, we will revisit this with the council on potential future funding if CARES act not extend past December 30th or if a new aid package does not get passed by congress near the first of the year. While CARES has scaled back a lot of the presumptive expenditures across the state, they are still pushing funding towards these types of measures where we can increase community testing increase community outreach in terms of precautionary measures and those types of things so that is where we are shifting some efforts before that funding expires on December 30th. So just expect more information as that develops. The last piece and then we will leave COVID alone for the evening, we will be implementing a new training software for the organization as a whole that software will come basically, it comes pre-built with curriculum that will aid us in OSHA training or in whatever in house training that is needed a lot of that is pre-loaded in the system, but we are also able to upload our own training into the system things like annual training where we are suppose to hold annual ethics training with all of our employees that training can be built into that system they can complete that on their own time and take a quiz and take care of that without having to get everybody into the same room to watch the DVD on the screen. That is really the push behind this was we could hold more of our trainings remotely were individual staff members can do it at a workstation instead of getting ten of our people in the same room and risking the chance of transmitting COVID-19. So, that will be online very very soon for staff use where we are excited to see how that benefits going forward even after COVID -19 is done. Lastly as you have seen from our department reports and other items on the agenda we are successfully and seamlessly navigating transitions in both the police department and the public works department I think if these transitions had to happen now is the best time to happen you hate to see people go but the people that are being left behind are doing an extraordinary job stepping up and ensuring that the services are being provided to our citizens that I extend my appreciation to them, my appreciation to the public as we get through some of this and a certain amount of appreciation for those that have vacated those positions specifically Chief

Marble and Mr. Thomas have done a good job leaving the organization in a place where these transitions are much less painful than they could be if at the drop of a hat leaving us high and dry we appreciate their service and their leadership in getting us to a good spot before transition. That concludes my executive report barring no questions from council.

13. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Vick: I have something to say, for the last couple of months I have been trying to come up with the words to say something about the political polarities that have been going on not only in our community but in the United States as whole when it comes to politics with COVID -19 the words that I found came from the poem Deserada by Max Herman I am going to read a short portion of it and it really explains my sense of it, "go placidly the noise and the haste and remember what peace there may be in silence as far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons speak your truth quietly and truthfully and listen to others even the dull and the ignorant they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive person they are vexatious to the spirit if you compare yourself with others you may become vain or bitter for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself beyond a whole discipline be gentle to yourself you are a child of the universe no less the trees and the stars you have a right to be here." The way I interpret that is we are we need to as I stated a couple of months ago, we need to really grasp on the one thing that really makes us the same and that is that we are all different no doubt we have many different people in our community that are trying to combat COVID 19 in their own way some believe wearing masks I believe wearing makes helps in combating other people believe in herd immunity, no doubt both trains of thought and sciences have their merits both trains thought and sciences have their thoughts but there is no reason for us to become violent toward anybody because we choose to wear a mask or who we voted for in the presidential election I am pleading to Stevensville to start being the light for the rest of the United States, I am not saying we are all going to get along, but we need to respect each other and understand that everyone of us has a different mindset in everything and lastly in just want to say be excellent to each other, thank you.

Councilmember Ludington: I have a few comments, just to let the mayor and the council know I will be out of the state 22-29 we are going to Alaska for Christmas. Next I would like to mirror a little bit about what the mayor said about George Thomas and James Marble, excellent assets for our community they will be greatly missed there is a lot of history there that I am sure they are parting to those under them and there has been and there will continue to have a lot of things go on in this town that maybe a lot of don't know that those two gentleman are privy to so I am really hoping that they are parting that knowledge to those left behind as they can. Next, I am not going to say anything about COVIDS-19 because I am just sick and tired of it we will get through this it is turning into practically drudgery working at the school every day you don't know what is going to happen they announced at the school board meeting this week that they had 15 staff members and 31 students test positive so there have been quite a bit of comings and goings with people in quarantines and out sick it has turned into a menial task for not only the place I work, but for this entire town, for this community, for this nation I hope that we can get through this the best we can. Last thing that I will say I will try to get into the office tomorrow to finish up paperwork with Robert before lunch. Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

Councilmember Devlin: I have something. We were able to have a wonderful event this past Friday that is actually still going on to help our local business and I just want to take a moment and thank everybody that participated and put that event together but came out and enjoyed it our town is long overdue for a wonderful gathering I just want to extend my thanks to those that did help put that together. I too, there is no excuse, I think we are getting used to using COVID as an excuse for behaviors it has become, oh well I am cranky because I am tired of dealing with COVID or what not enough is enough we have been dealing with COVID since March we are done extending the grace of that we all need to be mindful of our behavior there are no excuses for treating someone poorly it is just as easy if not easier to treat someone with kindness so, if you are having a bad day stay home if you are having a bad day read something nice or breath before you go and interact with somebody it is not their fault that you are having a bad day, enough is enough we all need to work together we all need to stay together and we need to move forward if we are really, really going to move forward it starts with ourselves not with the person that you are seeing standing in front of you. I just encourage people to please be kind. Have an absolutely wonderful Christmas and a great New Year hopefully I will see you all around between now and then if not see you next year.

Councilmember Shourd: I would just like to add and echo what Jaime said, I was in the grocery store the other day and an individual did explain to me the hardships that she had faced in her positions and I just want to echo it is a tuff time of year and this is a really tuff year and to be kind be considerate we are all human beings we are trying to get by.

Mayor Dewey: thank you for sharing that, okay.

Councilmember Shourd: Merry Christmas.

Mayor Dewey: Merry Christmas to all of you as well I think we can for go board reports.

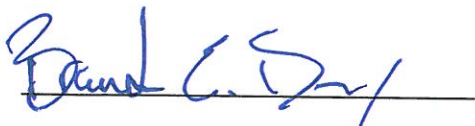
Councilmember Vick: to our Jewish Neighbors, Happy Hanukah.

14. Board Reports


None.

15. Adjournment

APPROVED:


Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk