

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments (Public comment from citizens on items that are not on the agenda)

Mr. John Munk, public comment. I have been in front of the council twice in my fifty years this is actually my second time in front of the council, I will ask, and I know that you can't answer, but I will leave them with you to think about. What is the plan for water leaks in this town? The sewer lines there are two to three areas that we need to do something with our sewer lines, we have a new subdivision coming in and they are going to be adding to that sewer line? Last month the sewer backed up into my home. Water pressure fluctuates. Last item is an odd thing, snow removal. Great article in the newspaper. I have not seen a snowplow in my neighborhood all year, the article is really good but without action it doesn't work. What is the long-range plan?

4. Approval of Minutes

a. October 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes

b. January 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Devlin: made a motion to approve minutes.

Councilmember Shourd: 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: it was moved by Ms. Devlin and 2nd by Mr. Shourd. Comments from the council? Public comment? Hearing none, we will do a roll call vote Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: okay, thank you.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #16570-#16580

Councilmember Devlin: I will make a motion to approve claims #16570-#16580.

Councilmember Ludington: 2nd that

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Devlin and 2nd by Mr. Ludington. Questions from council? Public Comment?

Councilmember Vick: I have a question I had a citizen ask me about claim #16579 I just want to make sure that it has to do with the annual conference league of cities. Question is did this have to do with your appointment to the board?

Mayor Dewey: yes, to both. I attended the annual conference everything with an elaborate legislation year it is important to attend. There were also some education opportunities for mayors as well. That is an all-virtual event so no travel. Any further council comments or public comments? Hearing none, Ms. Berthoud would you please call for the vote.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: thank you.

6. Administrative Reports

None.

7. Guests

a. Chief of Police Candidates

Mayor Dewey introduced the 4 chief of police candidates to the council. All candidates gave a short introduction to the council and the audience.

Mike Diehl

Steve Dodson

John Ellington

Mac Sosa

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Public Hearings

None.

10. Unfinished Business

None.

11. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Location and Future Maintenance of the Stevensville Civic Club's Splash Deck Project

Ms. Joan Prather presented to the council from the civic club, Splash Deck, located in Lewis & Clark Park. Joan is currently the president for the Civic Club a lot of interest was shown from a lot of people and the Splash Deck came up. We think that it will be an added feature to Lewis & Clark Park. Asking the council to give us permission to locate this in the Lewis & Clark Park. We have committed some funds and have already raised funds set aside that we can use for this. The fundraising part will be in the hands of the Stevensville Civic Club and then go through donations and so on. We, in order for us to proceed we need a blessing, and we need to know that it will be okay to proceed on this part.

Mayor Dewey: Joan can you speak to how much funding is needed and how much does the civic club already have raised?

Joan Prather: I will have Victoria speak to the amount of money that we have already raised. The type of funding that we would need basically we are patterned after the Bear Mountain Park and so we have gotten a figure from people that handle it and do these kinds of things, we are going to raise things and donate the equipment part of it would be like \$33,000 and then construction and installation so volunteers and donations and that is \$87,400 it comes to \$120,809.00 there abouts what we would be looking at would be to work with the cities part what we would do is look to you with some possible help from your city maintenance people something like that like we have done in the past when we did the street project, that was the main street, but when we did that it we worked with the city so the value of that was put in which was money we did not have to pay that was awesome. So, participation like that is what we would be looking at and then the funding part we would be responsible for that. This is the drawing of it and we have a location picked out and it is about 1,000-1,200 square feet. We discussed a 1,000-1,200 square feet and that should be adequate, and we also have the area with some shaded area for the table area. And then chairs that would add approximately 200-300 more square feet to the concrete patio and the ADA ramp area which is that area that goes up that will be raised up a little so that kids can go up there and see what is going on and enjoy themselves. The rough area of the park is about 60 feet by 60 feet square boarding the sidewalk that leads into Bear Mountain. So, when you enter that sidewalk off the parking lot that goes into Bea Mountain, to your left is the open area and that is where we would plot to the put that splash deck area. Did I answer anything that you wanted?

Mayor Dewey: you did answer. (unclear audio)

Victoria Howell: to date we have about \$17,000 committed I want to say that is barely touching the surface but the reason that we didn't feel that it was appropriate to start seriously asking for money or funds from people without the approval of the council so, we got some commitments and we actually have the cash in the bank, but we put a stop to it before we go any further. It is

a very popular thing people are wanting to donate people really like the idea of it, it is hot in the summer here, one of the neat things about the splash deck is that it is totally free you don't have to pay to go into the pool and it is very safe for all ages. So, that is where we are at with the funding, we are really looking forward to getting started on the fundraising.

Mayor Dewey: I will turn it to the council for any questions.

Councilmember Vick: I do have a question if you said this is the appropriate time. Joan I could barely hear you when you were talking about the funding sources or what not are you looking for anything monetary from the town for this project.

Joan Prather: as I was explaining and you might not have been able to hear me, is this better for you? With the town participation from the town, number one to give us permission so we can go ahead and start the funding towards this. We have like I said when we did the street scape project the town helped with like some of the removal of the cement and so on, on sidewalks and what not. Which the benefit comes back because those sidewalks were all evened out, it was just all working together and then that was categorized into a financial value. So it provided like a match when we are talking about funds, financially any help that we can get from the city with equipment of what ever you want to donate is entirely up to you of course but participation with us like that would be great and maintenance afterwards in the park we talked to the park board and we have their blessing on it and they think it is very good. So, that then when we are done with it we would give it to the city. Right?

Victoria Howell: Right. We are not asking for any cash. No cash from the town.

Mayor Dewey: unless we offer.

Councilmember Vick: that answered my questions thank you.

Joan Prather: is there anything else? I have some other pictures on the project materials that I think you all received get a chance to look through that and see what that is about. This is a fresh water, what you have seen here, a gal that I have been working with she did not have ready at the time that I had to get it into the town, one that is recycled water, and they say that it is initially it is more expense to put in but then we were looking at it because of the cost of water. And I think we will work together with the park board if there is any decision there on the fresh water it turns on and turns off by itself, kids get wet it spouts and run around for a while and then it shuts off and it is all controlled and it will shut down by certain time and wont be running through the night that type of, it has controlled, cost difference is on the what I looked at appears to be \$24, 041 greater than the fresh water one. I talked to the guys at Florence that have there park there, much smaller, but does get used pretty fair and he said that they just let it drain and it doesn't seem to be much of a problem. But or any problem it is something that we can look forward, but we can't proceed without you letting us put it there. The ideal location.

Councilmember Shourd: that was the question that I had is I was looking through the packet and I didn't see the freshwater circulation system. (unclear audio) it is recycled.

Joan Prather: there is as I mentioned we have gotten them both for the recycled and for the freshwater.

Councilmember Devlin: this idea turned out to be, this is just not something that the civic club came up with, the town had input and there were enough votes that said they wanted to see this in the community.

Joan Prather: right, we did a couple back a while over a year ago we did some posting things were we what would you vote for out of this and there was a splash pad and a couple other things and this came up as one of the main things that they would really like to see happen and economically it is a good thing to for the town it will draw people and of course they will stop and get their ice cream, there are some papers at the end I believe that talks about the economic value and so on. So, because I know I will go clear into Missoula and take my grandson just so he can run and play. I think that it would be a nice addition with our beautiful park and what we already have there with our Bear Mountain.

Mayor Dewey: the project from the administration's perspective was discussed with the park board and our parks director this project would really compliment our pool where our swimming pool doesn't really accommodate people that are under 2 feet in height, and we don't have a zero-entrance swimming pool the shallowest point does have some challenges for some kids that aren't ready to get into the water but want to enjoy water recreation services in the summertime. This is quite a compliment to those children and of course for older children as well that is a piece that is missing in our current aquatics facility there is no zero entry, (unclear audio) largely that is why the parks department and the administration got behind the project and to participate

Councilmember Ludington: what it looks like here you already have an RFP and some quotes.

Joan Prather: what we did was there were RFP's sent out and there is a copy there and that was back in September no one responded, am I correct?

Mayor Dewey: that is correct, there were RFP's locally

Joan Prather: we did not get anything from that and I had been visiting with this Jennifer Heplin and she is with Rain Deck so to look at or to visit with someone who has already done a project like this that she understood, she said that we are very happy to work with communities kind of like this Bear Mountain deal did and you do what you can and then we jump in and they work with you and so on. And I sent her that RFP and didn't know what happened with this COVID thing and didn't hear back from her and didn't get a hold of her so after the fact I asked her for some figures to work with and she did send us this paperwork and certainly part of the benefit would be plumbing supplies would be bought locally anything that we need that we can get locally of course we will then cement and so on. It will benefit economically the valley the initial part of it and so on. So that is how we ended in contract with her.

Vitoria Howell: very specialized.

Councilmember Ludington: it does look very specialized.

Joan Prather: and we have put there was a drawing there with the different things there would be the mushroom thing and different things and it fills up very nicely with the different areas,

one part is for the little kids and they don't like to have an entire bucket of water dumped on them, so these areas are kind of age oriented as well and so those were things that we.

Councilmember Ludington: I would like to make a motion to allow and encourage the city to proceed with this project in Lewis & Clark Park

Councilmember Shourd: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Shourd: want to thank you, this is great.

Councilmember Vick: I just want to make sure that the motion was to allow approval of the project. Correct?

Mayor Dewey: correct. You are giving your blessing this evening.

Councilmember Vick: okay thank you.

Mayor Dewey: any further council comment?

Councilmember Ludington: yeah, I was just concerned about the water, I understand the costs but trying to be able to do recycled.

Joan Prather: and that is why we looked into that. I do have the information on that if you want after this, we can certainly send that to you the same design but there is a difference there on the recirculation.

Mayor Dewey: I envision just like Bear Mountain and the when the Skate Park went in, taking ownership of those assets (unclear audio) the administration will have to figure out what kind of water use and the kind of features use (unclear audio) we are keeping an eye on that as the water increases. It would be great if all of the water we are losing we could collect and send it to the splash pad. Any public comment on the motion. Hearing none we will go ahead and call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: alright very good, motion passes.

Councilmember Vick: I would like to make a motion to group the next three items together into be one item.

Mayor Dewey: that is okay. So, Councilmember Vick has enquired that we make a motion to combined items b, c, and d of new business into one motion. You want to make a motion Dempsey?

Councilmember Vick: yes. So, moved.

Councilmember Shourd: 2nd

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Mr. Vick and 2nd by Mr. Shourd to combined items b, c and d under new business. Any council discussion on combining the items? We will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

b. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Eric Paulsen as Volunteer Firefighter

c. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Trevor Frandsen as Volunteer Firefighter

d. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Christina Corsa as Volunteer Firefighter

Mayor Dewey: you have in front of you items b, c, and d for consent for Eric Paulsen, Trevor Frandsen and Christina Corsa as volunteer firefighters for the Stevensville Fire Department. Chief Motley works through the hiring process with each of the candidates before you this evening on the fire department side of things it is recommendation that those candidates be considered.

Councilmember Vick: I will make the motion of the mayor's appointment for the three volunteer firefighters.

Councilmember Shourd: 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: It has been moved by Mr. Vick and 2nd by Mr. Shourd. Council discussion? Public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Shourd: aye.

Councilmember Vick: aye.

Mayor Dewey: that motion passes.

12. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey: I have already reported on the police department hiring process so I will be working towards digesting the abundance of information that has been given to me over the past 48 hours and

work towards bringing an appointment to the police commission ultimately to the town council you can expect that in the month of March I hope sooner rather than later. Again, I would like to thank the candidates for taking time out of their lives and schedules to venture as they were able to the Stevensville and the Bitterroot Valley and Steve's cooperation to work with us virtually that has been an experience in itself. We are looking forward to the future. Otherwise, I can tell you based on some public comment rather than waiting until the next council meeting to address some items. I can tell you the new public works director Mr. Kruse has hit the ground running and is running fast. He has been very tenacious on addressing leakage he has already been on top with HDR and confirmed that they did a leak detection over the summer a number of leak detections around the city he has found a couple of trouble spots and he is already in the process of nailing down a list of meters that have not been reading we are asking people, we have had a number of meters that have stopped reading or have gone bad, and we haven't been into the homes due to COVID and the germs, he is working with homeowners to address those meters that will help us narrow down any water loss that are meters are missing and then we will work towards that. You will hear more from him I am sure. On a note of the water system, this has come up to me a couple of times about our water wells running 24/7 and the power bill. There was one month were there was an electrical malfunction with our equipment at the well field that combined with the water use due to the structure fire in town that structure fire happened during irrigation times and so our wells ran very strong to refill the reservoir, those things cause us to pump more water. An increase of power that is how it works it runs 24/7 that is how you get water at 2:00 am. The fact that our wells run 24/7, is they are built to do that. Steve is also addressing some issues with snow removal and our snow plan and how that is implemented this snowstorm was our entire public works staff their first snow fall for the public works employees. There were some deficiencies that were addressed in the system and they were covered quiet well, I didn't want to leave some of that unaddressed (unclear audio) that more or less concluded my executive report unless there is anything else from the council, I will pass it along to council comments.

13. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Ludington: when do you think you will hire the police chief?

Mayor Dewey: I think I am going to sleep on it. I don't know I got two days' worth of notes from 12 individuals that all had exposure to the candidates in their own way, I would like to have time to go through those notes and have time to evaluate on presentations and on conversations that I have had with the staff, I have a lot to go through in terms of what other people submitted and their recommendations and their thoughts to narrow this down. I will be honest with you I am not sure that might frighten some of the candidates and it might not I am not sure if I can narrow it down from four to one single candidate, we might have to add a step to the process. That might be addressed through the police commission meeting or some other forums, but I am speaking candidly and I am incredibly proud of this organization and the talent that we recruited for this position before we reconcile the applications for the position we were kind of keeping tabs on what was coming in, Robert and I were a little nervous we thought this was going to be a long recruitment in terms of timing of the applicant pool and we were presently surprised when we approached the dead line we were getting applications with really solid people and we are extremely fortunate to engage with these four and learn more about them and very possibly bring one of them to our community I would like to bring them all home but that is not possible. It isn't going to happen this is a once in a long time process it is not something that we go through very often I will be careful to call it a burden, it wasn't a burden it is a tremendous responsibility

on my shoulders and I want to thank the people that offered their advice and the feed back on the process. Any other questions? You will know when I know. Any other questions?

Councilmember Shourd: I just wanted to say that I got to sit in on the interviews the other day it was an extraordinary experience (unclear audio) I am confident which ever one is picked we are very fortunate good luck mayor.

Councilmember Ludington: I was on the council when Chief Marble was hired and the process that we went through wasn't even close to what you have done, I applaud you for trying to make this as transparent as possible awesome way to go about it (unclear audio) the only other comment that I will make at this point is more community oriented, for those that travel around town there is a big hunk of building missing from the Methodist Church if you have questions or want to know about that please see me outside of this and I would be more than happy to discuss it, it is a pretty exciting for the church. Thank you.

Councilmember Vick: I just wanted to say that I look forward to hopefully be able to be at the public hearing in person with you guys next week. As the council knows and the mayor knows I am currently under quarantine possible COVID exposure I get tested tomorrow morning but since it is the federal government that is testing me, I should find out with in the next year so, but as far as anything else I am okay and I have no needs just let everyone out in the community I am good right now, thank you very much.

Mayor Dewey: thank you Mr. Vick. One last thing back on the police department I have a tremendous amount of gratitude to Jenelle in this process and take this moment to let her shine she didn't even solicit me for it. She has gone above and beyond as soon as possible and so has Robert, but Jenelle has done so much this week in pulling together all of the logistics and it has really rested on her and mines shoulders as the rest of our staff does a remarkable job holding down the fort while I am essentially gone for two days so, they deserve a round of applause and Jenelle and I appreciate her through this process. That is all.

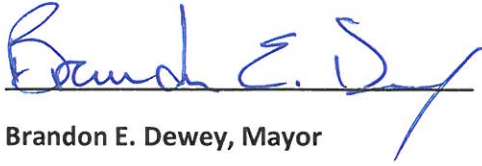
Councilmember Devlin: if I might add I guess there is a rumor going around the town that has made it to myself a few times today. We did not pay for these candidates; the town did not pay for these candidates to come here.

Mayor Dewey: we did not. We negotiated for lodging for them I will tell you however that it is not uncommon especially (unclear audio) we were fortunate enough to have connections with local establishments that were able to offer the candidates, but we did not spend any budgeted funds other than we spent \$8.99 at Costco for the cookies for the reception that is all. Any other last council comments, going once going twice.

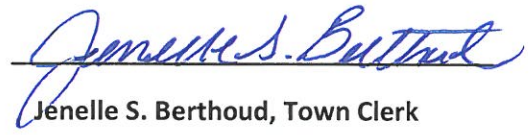
14. Board Reports

15. Adjournment

APPROVE:


Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk