

**Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes
for THURSDAY, JULY 08, 2021**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order, Councilmembers Allen, Devlin and Ludington were all present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Stephanie Mapelli: 203 St Mary's Drive gave a presentation about her mother and how she was killed by a driver while in a cross walk. The importance of speed bumps to slow down drivers on College Street.

Cheryl Olson: I live on 10th street, and I want to support what Ms. Mapelli said. I watch the signs being moved; I think it is time to slow down the traffic. I just want to thank Paul, Jaime and welcome Sydney, the mayor and Jenelle for all the work that you do.

Leslie Tadwick: 509 Mission Street, want to say thank you to Ray Smith, Jeff and Vicki Motley for the wonderful 4th of July.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Meeting Minutes 04/01/2021

b. Meeting Minutes 04/06/2021

Mayor Dewey: introduced the minutes for approval.

Councilmember Ludington: I will make a motion to approve.

Councilmember Devlin: 2nd

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

Councilmember Ludington: they were long, and I really appreciate Jenelle taking the time.

Mayor Dewey: any further council comment? Public Comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Mayor Dewey: okay.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims # 16800-#16891

Mayor Dewey: introduced Claims # 16800-#16891.

Councilmember Ludington: make a motion to approve.

Councilmember Devlin: 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Mr. Ludington and 2nd by Ms. Devlin. Council questions?

Councilmember Ludington: I have a question about claim #16871 and Steve Kruse. For fire ball sewer.

Steve Kruse: gave comment about the fire ball sewer cleaner.

Mayor Dewey: further council discussion? Public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Mayor Dewey: while we are on claims I would like to inquire councils' direction on a specific claim that has gained a lot of discussion in the community and that is claim #16437. In the amount of \$12020.20 I think we all know what that claim is for. There has been inquires that the council is going to consider that claim or what that process looks like I would like some input from the council on how you would like to proceed. Do you want that claim to come in front of the council or acknowledge that claim didn't come before council in December or if you would like to consider it this evening?

Councilmember Devlin: I think for me there are other claims that have not come forward from that period as well, I would like to see those come before us I think that claim should be separates and should probably be discussed at the time that we receive the information back on the investigation.

Councilmember Ludington: I agree with Jaime. I think that once we get a report on the investigation it will be considered, and I think we also need to see those claims.

Councilmember Allen: I also agree

Mayor Dewey: with that on the record that will clarify.

6. Administrative Reports

a. Airport

In the agenda packet for council to review.

Councilmember Devlin: I know that I brought this up a couple of months ago, we have not had representation at the airport, and we have not seen the director or as he given his own reports.

Mayor Dewey: he is part time employee; he has conflicts in his evening aside from rearranging schedules we ask that they give there reports in writing.

b. Community Development

In the agenda packet for council to review.

c. Finance

Mayor Dewey: presented the finance report to the council, this is new to the council, the report is in the council packet for their review. Mayor Dewey gave a explanation of the report in front of the council.

d. Fire Department

Chief Motley: gave his report to the council, in the agenda packet for council to review. There was an accident last night.

Councilmember Ludington: that was going to be my question, what is your response time going to look like?

Councilmember Allen: I am glad that nobody was hurt.

e. Parks Department

Bobby Sonsteng: gave his report for the parks department. In the agenda packet for council to review. I had 6 pool parties scheduled and after this was printed there are 12 more parties scheduled.

f. Police Department

Chief Sosa: gave his report to the council, provided in the agenda packet to the council. The only other item that I have to add is that I was involved in a felony arrest and the citizens helped out in our town.

Councilmember Allen: I am glad that you are being transparent about those vacation checks.

g. Public Works

Steve Kruse: gave his report to the council, provided in the agenda packet to the council. June was a busy month for us, water usage is up, the mayor found the leak in our reservoir.

Mayor Dewey: can you speak to Stevensville position on keeping up.

Steve Kruse: we have a lot of water in the early morning hours our reservoir is keeping up.

Councilmember Devlin: I want to thank you and Bobby for your help with Western Heritage Days.

7. Guests

None.

8. Correspondence

a. Email from Stephanie Mapelli RE: pedestrian and traffic safety on College Street.

9. Public Hearings

None

10. Unfinished Business

None

11. New Business

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

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (a) your council president resigned, and you are now a council of three.

Councilmember Devlin: I would feel that would be appropriate to have a fill in council president until we have a full council.

Councilmember Ludington: I don't have a problem with that.

Councilmember Allen: I think that an interim president might be a good idea.

Councilmember Devlin: has nominated Paul Ludington.

Councilmember Allen: 2nd the nomination.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Devlin and 2nd by Ms. Allen as Paul Ludington as the interim president. Council discussion? Public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: abstained.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes two ayes, and one abstained.

b. Discussion/Decision: Special Event and Alcohol Use for Stevensville Class of 2011 Reunion

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (b)

Councilmember Devlin: make a motion to approve.

Councilmember Allen: 2nd

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

Councilmember Ludington: we all remember our ten-year class reunion I have no problem with the class reunion.

Mayor Dewey: any other council discussion? Public comments? Alright we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

c. Discussion/Decision: Morrison-Maierle Task Order No. 4, New Automatic Vertical Pivot Gate at the Stevensville Airport

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (c)

Tyler Reed: I am with Morrison-Maierle, and I am here to present task order no. 4. Tyler discussed the problem with deer entering the airport and causing problems.

Councilmember Ludington: what is the timeline for this?

Tyler Reed: so, I would like to get construction going in August. Would like to get everything set up before the gate gets here.

Councilmember Ludington: I will make a motion.

Councilmember Devlin: is it on a timer?

Tyler Reed: I will close automatically on its own. It knows when you are there. When you are leaving it just opens up.

Councilmember Allen: 2nd

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

Councilmember Ludington: Mr. Thomas had a comment for the airport report.

Craig Thomas: gave a report to the council for Tim Smead.

Mayor Dewey: thanks Craig. Is there any public comment?

Jim Tadvick: 509 Mission Street, I agree that a gate is needed just make sure that it is a quality gate.

Mayor Dewey: any further public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Mayor Dewey: that motion passes.

d. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's appointment of Wendi Planty as Director of Finance (Finance Officer) and Human Resources

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (d). Ms. Planty is coming to us from Alaska. Mayor Dewey gave a background on Ms. Planty and discussed her start time.

Councilmember Ludington: I will move to consent to the mayor's appointment.

Councilmember Devlin: I will 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Mr. Ludington and 2nd by Ms. Devlin. Council discussion? Public comment?

Vicki Motley: 318 9th Street what does it mean as an exempt position?

Councilmember Ludington: that means that it is salaried.

Councilmember Devlin: (unclear audio)

Mayor Dewey: we have worked over the past few months to move our department heads to salaried. any further public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Mayor Dewey: the motion passes.

e. Discussion/Decision: American Rescue Plan Act Water & Sewer Infrastructure Grant Application

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item (e). this is a carry over from your decision from the last meeting to carry on with the grant application. In your council communication is some background on the project. The application is on an online application and is not in your packet it is not printable. All together we are looking at a \$2.5 million and some change we are contributing funds as well. Gave a breakdown of the contributing funds. There is about \$100,000.00 wiggle room from the town that has been set aside for a project.

Councilmember Devlin: does this tie into the gentleman that we spoke with last fall about the bond refinancing?

Mayor Dewey: regarding bond financing? Not really, the bond financing I am waiting to hear back from him, and he is waiting on some information from us. The bond refinancing will result in a savings to the town. If we saw a significant savings in the bond restructure, we could see additional funds for the project depending on where we were at in the project.

Councilmember Delvin: or lower our water rates?

Mayor Dewey: you will never be able to lower your water rates. We had that conversation a couple of years ago with the council. Your bond conditions are not able to lower your water rates, but you can work on not raising them. There are requirements within the system, and when you reduce rates bond holders get very concerned that you may not be able to repay your debt if you reduce your rates. Last time that we talked to USDA and said that we wanted to lower our rates they said are you nuts.

Councilmember Allen: could you clarify the ARPA money? How much do we get total?

Mayor Dewey: we had CARES funding that was the first round. And then we have ARPA. CARES reimbursed us for expenses related to COVID. For 9 months it paid public safety wages. Actually, we haven't touched the ARPA money. You get half now and you get the second amount in a year from now. There is also a second bucket that is being set aside for the town of Stevensville and we have to apply for that. The third bucket is a competitive grant through the state of Montana, and you have to apply for it. Those are the three buckets of ARPA money, and we haven't touched any of it at this time.

Councilmember Ludington: I will move to approve the application.

Councilmember Allen: I will 2nd.

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

Councilmember Devlin: go through this again, ARPA money, \$264,000 we already have a million in our water fund in essence we don't have to come up with any money we can fund this project with out raising any rates, without raising anybody's taxes we don't have to jeopardize anything.

Councilmember Ludington: that does include replacing some water and sewer lines.

Councilmember Devlin: these million dollars is what was raised to put away. When we looked into our growth and needing to add to our water supply.

Mayor Dewey: I think the intent of the proposed project the critical need of the engineer reports critical need is storage and that is because there is not enough storage. In addition, the tank is very old and needs to be either rehabbed or replaced. Capacity needs to be increased regardless. Our well system however based on projections that they utilized (unclear audio) in some places not. We have enough capacity for the water being pumped out of the ground it is a concern on where we store that water. We would put less wear and tear on the well if we wouldn't lose 75% of the water that we are pumping into the ground. The council could reassess financially and say this project is done what does the next thing look like for the Town of Stevensville's water system what is it going to take to fund that does that mean that you adjust your infrastructure fees that builders are paying.

Councilmember Devlin: we already approved Burnt Fork Estates we already take care of that. Where is it going to go?

Mayor Dewey: they already pay a portion in their infrastructure fee.

Councilmember Delvin: that is not included in this so is that money going into, so we are not going to.

Mayor Dewey: Creekside phases 1 and 2, Creekside phase 1 has already paid for this project and so when Burnt Fork Estates is built out all those infrastructure fees are paid those infrastructure fees will pay for the project. Any further questions from council? Are you okay with consensus designation half of the treasury fund towards the project? (Council stated "fine with that") not sure if you wanted to adjust it up or down.

Councilmember Devlin: so, we can say we want to put this amount for, we go through the process can we lower it at a later time?

Mayor Dewey: sure, you can obligate that funding through the grant match and then adjust the budget down accordingly. Whatever works you may also have an opportunity financially that we may have a windfall turn those funds into the project and increase those funds (unclear audio) once this grant application is submitted and hope that it is approved we can do the nuts and bolts with HDR regarding exactly what does the project look like from a design point is there a second water tower and we rehab the first is there just a brand new water tank and what does this all look like those intricate pieces of the grant we will address this. Right now, we are just trying to make sure the piggy bank is accurate. Any further council discussion?

Councilmember Allen: I am reading this allocation we chose to do this match one to one to be more competitive, correct?

Mayor Dewey: public comment?

Vicki Motley: I think that it is a great project, and it is needed. And we don't have the funding to do it.

Mayor Dewey: any further public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Mayor Dewey: that motion passes unanimously, the deadline for that is July 15th over to HDR.

12. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey: gave his report to the council. Tying in with the conversation that we just had we talked about our bonds and our debt services there. USDA comes and does a review of the water and sewer system any system that has debt, every six years is what they told us, so we had not had a review since our bonds had been awarded it had been about six years. They came and said that they wanted to come and look at some stuff, one of the questions they asked us what you are going to do with the ARPA funding and what type of project, they said how much do you need to borrow, when Jenelle and I said none, they were very pleased. They had a great review of the town of Stevensville in terms of what has happened over the past administrations to regain credibility with the USDA if you recall before the big projects, they weren't going to give us a dime and Mayor Minmack did a lot to repair that relationship. They are very happy with where we sit, they toured our facilities they were very impressed with how well everything

is maintained. The leak that Mr. Kruse referred to was the leak that we found when we opened the lid and there was a leak in the whole. Their only critique was the ADA review of the public space. We have some challenges of ADA access to town hall it is not a secret to anyone; they noted the changes that we had made. They would like to see us do a little more but understand our circumstance. In other news the administration has been working on long grass issues, working with the police department and public works. The success that we have seen with some enforcement measures. There was just one resident that we had to mow due to the deceased homeowner. The other ones mowed before we had to take measures, there are some other trouble properties that I am sure the community is familiar with we are going to address those separately in some staff meetings and work with those as well and get those picked up. We feel a little bit better about the fire safety and preparedness in the community. Lastly, we are providing data sets to mysidewalk and went back as far as 2017 and provided data sets to them with matrix, and then we will start to see some movement on our website. I would anticipate September 1st would be a good solid date to launch. Any questions from the council on the executive report?

13. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Ludington: one of the things that I thought of when we were talking about the ARPA funding was I was at my nephews wedding, they were all excited about Montana I had a conversation with a gentleman that lived 200 miles south of Chicago and has a 2000 square foot house with a detached garage (unclear audio) he pays \$12,000 per year in property taxes he pays \$185 per month on water and sewer and is limited to the size of grass that he can water. We think that things are expensive here but in the grand scheme of things (unclear audio) we have a little perspective, and we are lucky. (Unclear audio) when I was originally on council, we were aggressive around water mains. (Unclear audio) I always tell people that say that is high, I have been paying to upkeep this system since I bought my house you need to buy into that system so you will have to pay a portion for that system. This is not an enterprise fund that funds itself, you have to be able to sustain that service and it is not an easy job, it takes a lot to be able to keep the infrastructure happy. So, I think we are doing a great job.

Councilmember Devlin: I had in mind a completely different council comment tonight. Looing over the budget and what happened 20/21 I am really proud of that we increased a lot in our budget workshop last year did a lot that made a lot of people nervous. It took on a different structure and we also did something that you Brandon brought to the table we did something (unclear audio) without getting actual numbers from the county it was pretty scary we did that, and it was absolutely phenomenal so thank you for that. I think there were a few people that a role in that good job. I am proud to be part of what you did. We need volunteers for Creamery Picnic.

Mayor Dewey: thank you very much. Any further council comments

Councilmember Allen: I am eager to get involved and work on the budget. I super eager to work on the budget.

Mayor Dewey: if you recall we adopted a budget around the 13th of July last year it was incredible. When we estimated our revenues I think we were in seven tenths of a mill with tax

revenues, we don't have to do that this year because we are already behind, when I say behind we are past our dead line in passing our budget. The fact that we came out ahead and that we didn't have to use reserves out of the general fund, CARES helped out with that, and we can credit to that, and we did very well in managing that, we have budget amendments that have to happen. Thanks for your support and feedback.

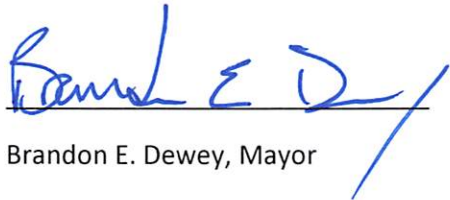
14. Board Reports

Councilmember Ludington: the planning and zoning met last week spent a little bit of time reacquainting because we hadn't met in person for over a year. (Unclear audio) very relevant to where we are right now. We are paying particular attention to the economy the mayor has set an ambitious schedule (unclear audio) try to keep up with it.

Mayor Dewey: that is the second time that the planning and zoning board has said that the mayor has set up an ambitious schedule, I want to say that I just suggested it, you guys are sticking to it good job. Any other board reports? Following your next council appointment, it probably will not be on your 22nd agenda but the agenda following in August we will put board appointments on that agenda. Sydney is already on the park board. the airport board is still without a representative. If there is a council member that would be able to attend the next airport meeting that would be great.

15. Adjournment

APPROVE:



Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk