

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes for

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021, 7:00 PM

CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Jim Crews: 316 9th Street, gave public comment about the story in the Bitterroot Star and what Councilmember Ludington stated in his article. Unbalanced budget, council if you passed an unbalanced budget, you broke the law. Mr. Crews recited state law. Why did you do that council and how are you going to fix it? Mr. Crews provided his public comment in written form to the clerk.

Dollie Griffin: 792 Willoughby Lane, gave public comment about the sale of the town's property. I live next to the gravel pit that the town owns. Gave public comment about the property that she owns next to the gravel pit. I have replaced the fence and have cared for the adjoining property every year. Gave comment on the gravel that was being used and hauled when I moved to my property. I would like to have first right of refusal. Ms. Griffin provided her public comment in written form to the clerk.

Jim Crews: 316 9th Street, gave public comment on the sale of the gravel pit property owned by the town. I understand that there is a file about the Willoughby property. I understand that it may have to go back to the original owner of the property.

Leanna Rodabaugh: 204 Ravalli Street, gave public comment about a town employee. I am not sure what I saw but I think that I saw a town employee picking up scarecrows. If that is what happened, it occurred to me that we have to have volunteers to haul away our yard debris and we have town employees paid to clean up the scarecrows.

Bobby Sonsteng: gave comment to what Ms. Rodabaugh stated in her public comment about parks staff cleaning up from the Scarecrow Festival. The bike department is part of the parks department.

Jim Crews: 316 9th Street, I would like to give an at a girl to the clerk, I see a lot of minutes on the agenda, and I think that is astounding.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. March 25, 2021, Meeting Minutes
- b. September 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes
- c. September 16, 2021, Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes

d. September 23, 2021, Meeting Minutes

e. September 30, 2021, Special Town Meeting Minutes

Mayor Dewey: introduced approval of minutes.

Councilmember Ludington: I will make a motion to approve.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Allen: thank you for getting those minutes done, it gets us up to date.

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

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #17041-#17083

Mayor Dewey: introduced the bi-weekly claims. #17041-#17083

Councilmember Allen: make a motion.

Councilmember Ludington: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Allen: #17062 and #17063 for transport? I assume that they are using personal vehicles or what?

Mayor Dewey: it is more or less a stipend that we pay for those people that transport and we charge for the transport to offset the reimbursement. Flat rate. Any further questions from council? Public comment?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Crews: 316 9th Street. #17081 amazon live stream 3384.00, and same claim number Uline fire department training tables. We have a budget short fall and now we have to have a yard sale to make up the difference. So why are we spending so much money on these items. Maybe someone can explain that.

Mayor Dewey: to clarify for the council as you recall from your budget process you allocated certain expenditures to be used for the ARPA those two expenditures are qualifying

expenditures for that money, further public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: okay.

6. Administrative Reports

a. Airport

Nothing provided.

b. Community Development

Report was provided in the packet to the council.

c. Finance

Planned to be here but has fallen ill.

d. Fire Department

Mayor Dewey: introduced the fire departments data on the Mysidewalk website.

Chief Motley: gave his report to the council and the administrative report was included in the packet to the council. Also, Chief Motley had his stats in Mysidewalk updated and presented to the council. 9/11 ceremony was big. Homecoming parade involvement this month. New cadet to our roster just had his 14th birthday and he is ready to go. Real quickly, the question about the tables in our training/meeting room, yes it was part of the budget, however I did ask for a lesser dollar value on the tables and they were upgraded for me so that is why they are where they are at. We are trying to be very fiscally responsible with our dollars at the fire department we appreciate ~~everyone~~ that we get.

Every one
dollar

e. Parks Department

Bobby Sonsteng: gave his report to the council and the administrative report was included in the packet. Gave a reminder about the fall clean up drop off area at Lewis & Clark Park. Thank you, Colette, for helping out with the clean up of the bike path for the Scarecrow Festival.

f. Police Department

Chief Sosa: gave his report to the council and the administrative report was included in the packet. I want to thank you for moving forward at letting an officer in the schools. We have had

applications turned in for the police officer position and have narrowed it down to four and will start interviews next week.

g. Public Works

Report was provided in the packet for the council.

7. Guests

NONE

8. Correspondence

NONE

9. Public Hearings

NONE

10. Unfinished Business

NONE

11. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Contract with Thompson Reuters CLEAR, for the Police Department Background Investigation Access

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item a. Chief Sosa would you like to speak to the item?

Chief Sosa: introduced CLEAR to the council and what it is used for. The pros to having this program versus other background companies.

Councilmember Devlin: It does background checks for potential applicants when you say that it assists with your investigations, I don't understand what that means.

Chief Sosa: it can be used for both criminal and non-criminal uses. It provides a lot more than just a criminal history background. When you have a CJIN terminal it only gives you criminal background, CLEAR will give you more beyond that. (Personal information etc.)

Mayor Dewey: right now, the officers would have to go through 911 to receive the information needed.

Chief Sosa: in addition, 911 gives it to you over the phone not in a hard copy.

Councilmember Wandler: you had stated that it was cost prohibitive.

Mayor Dewey: CJIN houses all of the criminal information. There are security requirements around who has access and that you have to have a secure room.

Councilmember Devlin: it says up to 4 users, will that require more to add other officers?

Chief Sosa: the information that I was provided was based on our agencies size, up to 20.

Councilmember Devlin: make a motion.

Councilmember Allen:2nd.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leanna Rodabaugh: I do not have an issue with this at all, what is the cost of this? If you are going to approve a contract you need to let the public know how much.

Mayor Dewey: for clarification the cost of this is \$2,400 per year and is a subscription. Public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: the motion passes.

b. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No.497, A Resolution Declaring Certain Town Property as Surplus and Authorizing its Disposal

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item b. Both of the vehicle are front wheel drive and not all wheel drive.

Councilmember Ludington: I will make a motion.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Mr. Ludington and 2nd by Ms. Wandler, council discussion? Public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

c. Discussion/Decision: Award of Construction Contract to J&J Excavating for the Park Ave Sewer Main Extension Project

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item c. Council held a bid opening 2 week ago and we received 3 bids. Installed no later than April 30, 2022.

Councilmember Ludington: I will make a motion.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Thomas: chair for the community center project. Thank you for approving this sewer project. Your timeline of next spring is probably just fine.

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

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: no.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes 3 to1.

d. Discussion/Decision: Second Addendum to Attorney Contract with City Attorney Scott Owens

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item d.

Councilmember Allen: I will make a motion.

Councilmember Ludington: 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Allen and 2nd by Mr. Ludington, council discussion?
Public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

e. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Greg Overstreet as City Attorney and Approving a Contract for Services

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item e. Mr. Overstreet was not able to attend tonight due to another scheduled appointment.

Councilmember Ludington: I had the chance to meet with Mr. Overstreet he lives here, and he is experienced. I found him to be quite interesting and an asset to the town.

Mayor Dewey: in our discussion we talked about some specifics and what is expected of the town attorney.

Councilmember Devlin: will make a motion.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Devlin and 2nd by Ms. Wandler. Council discussion? Public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

f. Discussion/Decision: Re-scheduling November's Council Meeting Date due to Holidays

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item f. 9th and 23rd of November is what we are proposing.

Councilmember Delvin: I am not able to make it. No alternatives.

Councilmember Allen: I can make it.

Councilmember Ludington: I can make it work.

Councilmember Wandler: I can make it if the director of the play releases me. Yes, I can.

Councilmember Ludington: make a motion.

Councilmember Devlin 2nd.

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

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

g. Discussion/Decision: NewFields Task Order 01, Water Rights Hydrology

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item g.

Councilmember Ludington: I will make a motion.

Councilmember Allen: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Ludington: who will we be working with at HDR?

Mayor Dewey: with HDR, Craig is leading his team on this project. He and his team have done this before. Any further discussion from council on the project? Public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

h. Discussion/Decision: Stevensville Airport Land Lease

Mayor Dewey: **this item has been withdrawn.** We are going to work with the staff on this.

12. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey: gave his executive report. Touched on Mysidewalk data and when it will be launched and some of the fixes. Budget comments that Mr. Ludington made in the newspaper was taken out of context. I am tired of people getting to the podium and are so misinformed, you passed a balanced budget. You will see the budget amendments come forth as Wendi gets everything prepared for the AFR.

13. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Delvin: you have opportunities to come to these budget workshops, planning and zoning meetings and you don't come. Get involved. There are meetings that you can come to and be involved. If you can't be involved, be educated on what you want to say.

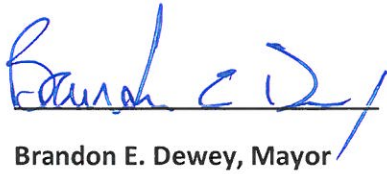
14. Board Reports

Mayor Dewey: one more thing that October 29th is the 5th Friday and will have staff training. Please let me know if you will be attending.

NONE

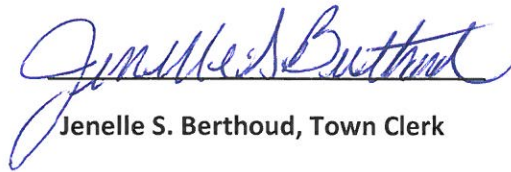
15. Adjournment

APPROVE:



Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk

Balanced Budget

From what Pau Ludington stated in the news paper, it appears that the town council passed an unbalanced budget.

I quote from the Bitterroot Star October 12, 2021

“Ludington said the council “went out on a big limb this year” by giving the town staff a significant raise. “We’re trying to stabilize our staff,” he said, because people can easily move on to better-paying jobs in the current market. “The reality is that everyone is calling it ‘the great resignation.’ People are finding different jobs. If we aren’t able to keep the people we need then we won’t be able to provide the services we have. All the town departments struggle with that, even the fire department. The people we have right now want to stay here but to be able to stay here they need to get paid something more in keeping with what they’re worth.”

The council has faced some criticism recently for raising user fees and authorizing the mayor to put a former gravel pit up for sale, to cover the budget shortfall created by the pay raises.

“That’s what unbalanced the budget,” said Ludington. “But if we underspend in other areas, raise fees, sell or annex property, we can balance it. We just can’t keep the status quo.” He said trying to float a bond is not on anybody’s radar right now. “I don’t think that’s something the town needs to try to do.”

State Law specifies the following:

7-6-4030. Final budget -- resolution -- appropriations. (1) The governing body may amend the preliminary budget after the public hearing and after considering any public comment.

(2) The amended budget constitutes the final budget. **The final budget must be balanced so that appropriations do not exceed the projected beginning balance plus the estimated revenue of each fund for the fiscal year.**

(3) The governing body shall adopt the final budget by resolution. The resolution must:

- (a) authorize appropriations to defray the expenses or liabilities for the fiscal year; and
- (b) establish legal spending limits at the level of detail in the resolution.

(4) The effective date of the resolution is July 1 of the fiscal year, even if the resolution is adopted after that date.

My name is Dollie Griffin, I live on Willoughby Lane next to the property that was named in Resolution 495 at Stevensville Town Council meeting on Sept. 23rd.

I am a true BitterRooter! I was born at Three Mile & attended Lone Rock School. I have lived north of the above property for over 39 years & I have faithfully been a good neighbor!

I have fenced the property on the south side next to Willoughby Lane. I have repaired & replaced the fence over the years as there have been several accidents between Willoughby & Home Acre that have torn out sections of your fence. Wildlife have also torn down the fence numerous times over the 39 years & I have repaired the fence on your property each time.

The property was functioning as a gravel pit when I located next to it. Later it was left with exposed soil. I personally walked the entire area & seeded it fully to avoid noxious weeds taking over the property. Every spring I have my property sprayed for weeds & I include your property & I pay for that service.

I was surprised with Stevensville Council that I had to read in the paper about their new interest in the property. A good neighbor would have contacted the person that has literally cared for their property for 39 years.

I wonder about the decision to sell the property.....it is a \$23 investment & it would be impossible to replace the gravel that is in it for that \$ amount. Gravel was being removed from the site when I moved there & it was usable & workable & accessible. One can't always be certain that current commercial gravel will be available when needed.

Sound financial management is important for the future.

I believe that I should have the first right of refusal if you move forward with Resolution 495.