

**Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes  
for THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2021, 7:00 PM**

**CONDENSED MINUTES**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order, Councilmembers Allen, Devlin and Wandler were all present. Councilmember Ludington has an excused absence tonight.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Bob Michalson, 222 Turner Street, gave public comment on the new SRO officer position that has been posted. Liked seeing the school officer position, just hopes to see the contract come in front of the council.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. 8/18/21 Budget Workshop Minutes

b. 8/25/21 Budget Workshop Minutes

Mayor Dewey: introduced the approval of minutes.

Councilmember Devlin: I will make a motion

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd

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

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: passes.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #16992- #17022

Mayor Dewey: introduced bi-weekly claims.

Councilmember Allen: question about the NOVA software, why are those split out.

Mayor Dewey: it is divided between the police department and the city attorney.

Councilmember Devlin: make a motion to approve #16992- #17022.

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

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Devlin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Allen to approve the claims.

Councilmember Devlin: a question about the Verizon bill, how long do you have on the building department phone.

Mayor Dewey: a few months left on the contract; we are looking at a restructure of the Verizon bill. One of the heaviest charges on the bill is for the airport. We

Councilmember Allen: Visa for \$12.99. Truvana.

Mayor Dewey: that company is used for social media platforms.

Councilmember Devlin: is that a subscription?

Mayor Dewey: monthly.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Stacie Barker: 104 Winslet Ave. gave public comment on the Verizon bill, once those are gone then the Spectrum will go away? Then will we be just Spectrum?

Mayor Dewey: Spectrum is our land lines. Any further public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

#### 6. Administrative Reports

##### a. Airport

Provided in the packet to the council.

##### b. Community Development

Provided in the packet to the council.

##### c. Finance

Provided in the packet to the council. Wendi Planty gave comment about the audit taking place last week.

##### d. Fire Department

Chief Motley gave his report to the council, and it was also provided in the packet to the council. Coming up we have our 9/11 ceremony at Veterans Park on Saturday.

##### e. Parks Department

Bobby Sonsteng gave his report to the council, and it was also provided in the packet to the council.

f. Police Department

Provided in the packet to the council. Chief Sosa is out this evening he is in Houston at the Latino Officer Conference accepting an award. We are looking at two positions at the police department.

g. Public Works

Provided in the packet to the council. Steve Kruse had a prior engagement this evening, Mayor Dewey highlighted a chart that Mr. Kruse provided to the council in his report. October 1<sup>st</sup> the dump sight will open at Lewis and Clark Park for yard waste.

7. Guests

None.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Public Hearings

None.

10. Unfinished Business

None.

11. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 491, Adopting a Master Fee Schedule for FY2022

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item a. part of the budget process the council discussed revenue sources. The administration reviewed the master fee schedule and have proposed some changes and increases. Statutes require that we don't over charge, and we took that into consideration. Things I want to note since it was published. Business type fees, we had mentioned \$25.00 for non-profits that should read no charge. Public safety we had proposed alarm system permits and false alarm fees and they are now being removed from the fee schedule entirely.

Councilmember Devlin: I don't see a garbage fee?

Mayor Dewey: we incorporated that it into the permit fee.

Councilmember Devlin: special events?

Mayor Dewey: special event permit fee included the use of garbage no matter how much they use.

Councilmember Delvin: that is any special event it is not specific.

Mayor Dewey: we separated special events and park use.

Councilmember Devlin: for special event permits I understand like the garbage fee for like Western Heritage Days or Creamery. When we have Farmers Market, they do clean up after themselves. I have been watching and the garbage cans are not getting filled. If we can make an acceptance when we are talking about a special event permit.

Mayor Dewey: I hear you; my concern is every nonprofit that files for a special event permit does something for the community we are not charging these fees to make a profit we are just making sure that the costs are covered. There was a lengthy discussion about garbage when the administration discussed this.

Councilmember Devlin: maybe we can break this down further. Charge \$150.00 to Farmers Market.

Mayor Dewey: you have to remember; Farmers Market lasts all summer. And we only charge one event fee for the whole summer. We would generally charge a separate fee if an organization was holding multiple events.

Councilmember Allen: so, the Farmers Market would pay one time fee of \$150.00 plus \$25.00 for road closure?

Mayor Dewey: that is correct.

Councilmember Allen: so, they would pay \$175.00 for the summer?

Mayor Dewey: correct. I don't want you to feel that your comments are not warranted.

Councilmember Devlin: I just think if it is a onetime deal, I think that Farmers Market is just different. Gave an example of the playhouse doing an event.

Mayor Dewey: our concern at the administration level is the "Mrs. Smith" the taxpayer was not subsidizing an enterprise or something else. We understand the nonprofit and for-profit realm. If the taxpayer wants to come to us and fund special events, then that would be fine but that is not what we are hearing

Councilmember Allen: is each booth paying \$150.00?

Mayor Dewey: no, the Farmers Market as an organization is paying the \$150.00. What I understand is each booth is paying a fee to Farmers Market.

Councilmember Allen: May I ask a question of the public in the audience. Stacie, you collect from each booth.

Stacie Barker: we collect \$15.00 to be there every Saturday. It covers our insurance, garbage fee that we had, power. On average it is about \$1000.00 not including our advertising of \$1000.00. it is not a money maker.

Councilmember Allen: so, each booth is paying about \$15.00. I guess when I am looking at the event permit I cant see that most of those booths even sell \$15.00 a Saturday.

Mayor Dewey: we are not considering on how the Farmers Market is charging and making their money. all events have an impact on the town, and that is why we have the charges for events. (Please don't scoff in the back, referring to the audience) we are talking about Farmers Market, Western Heritage Days and Creamery Picnic they all have an impact, but they also have a load on our town. We are charging more for an alcohol permit, but those events carry more of a liability. One thing that the town did do was only charge one time for the Farmers Market.

Councilmember Devlin: if we can't make a change to that then it would be fair to say that we should not charge them a permit fee or a power panel fee.

Mayor Dewey: how about this, we are very concerned about the Farmers Market, I am not saying that you can't make changes. If we are needing to address Farmers Market, then let's address it as its own piece.

Councilmember Devlin: that is what I am trying to do.

Mayor Dewey: so, I would just say that if that is what you are interested in doing and you are okay with the fee structure then adopt the fee structure and put together an agenda item to discuss what Farmers Market is charged and set that into policy.

Councilmember Delvin: I am not okay with doing that if we are not going to address it.

Councilmember Devlin: I will make a motion to approve the fee changes.

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

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

Councilmember Wandler: are we going to modify this statement to discuss that later?

Mayor Dewey: I guess that you have a couple of options you could use tonight's time to set your own fee for Farmers Market. You could deny the fee schedule as it stands today and discuss the Farmers Market.

Councilmember Allen: gave an idea of creating a community event grant.

Mayor Dewey: I think that it is a great idea, but I don't know how we would fund that grant.

Councilmember Wandler: (unclear audio)

Mayor Dewey: they come in and pay for it one time at the beginning of the year.

Councilmember Wandler: is there any way to grandfather them in?

Mayor Dewey: I would not recommend that we grandfather in every event in town because every event has a different impact on the organization.

Councilmember Devlin: I would to change the fee.

Councilmember Allen: I agree.

Mayor Dewey: you can leave your motion and amend the motion.

Councilmember Delvin: I would amend that we charge a flat \$100.00 for the Farmers Market Fee/Event.

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

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Devlin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Allen to amend the Farmers Market fee to \$100.00. Council comment? Public comment? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: that is approved what is next.

Councilmember Devlin: I will make a motion to approve the master fee schedule for.

Mayor Dewey: you already did that; you amended the fee schedule and the motion on the floor is to approve the fee schedule with the amendment. Motion on the floor now is to approve the Master Fee schedule as it as been amended, is there any further council discussion? Public comment?

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Stacie Barker: 104 Winslet Ave. thank you for making that amendment. Thank you for going with the flat fee. Gave a run down of possible expenses. Thank you.

Leanna Rodabaugh: 204 Ravalli Street, gave public comment about Mayor Dewey said that if you don't do this you will have higher taxes. Gave comment on the computer purchases.

Vickie Motley: 318 9<sup>th</sup> Street. You talked about street closures. Gave comment on the fee changes and the increases being high.

Mayor Dewey: correct.

Trevor Motley: 318 9<sup>th</sup> Street. I would also like to echo what the previous speaker said. Gave comment on the fee changes.

Bob Michalson: 222 Turner Street, I truly believe that these fees are out of control. Gave comment on how the town could make sensible cuts.

Gretchen Speis: 317 Main Street, gave public comment on the fees and that this is lower than other communities.

Councilmember Devlin: we have been seeing this increase over the years is that correct?

Mayor Dewey: yes, we have seen an increase in 2020 with that budget. I want to be clear that the computer comment that was made. The computers were paid for with CARES funding it did not come out of the towns pocket. I have been involved in most of the events in this town, I understand that these increases have on those organizations. These decisions were not made

lightly. "Mrs. Smith" is not paying taxes to pay for fire trucks and police cars to sit at the end of streets during events. (Audience chatter, please stop and be respectful I understand that you don't like the fee increase) I don't like to increase these fees, but it is just how it is. We are caught in between a job that has to be done and the community.

Councilmember Delvin: I have a comment on that as well, I am not thinking of one event that I am involved in I don't see where one of these fees is going to stop that event from happening. The events are very successful. At the end of the day, we have to pay for services, if you don't want to pay for the service than go some where else in the valley. I don't like it I don't like charging more money.

Mayor Dewey: there were some areas that we did acknowledge where we are charging a different amount for a town citizen versus an out-of-town citizen. It is harder to do through the whole fee structure, but we did do that through the parks.

Councilmember Wandler: I was recently involved in an activity that cost us over \$400.00 for the city park. We are nonprofit. I think

Mayor Dewey: to clarify on the charges, the town of Stevensville did not charge you \$400.00?

Councilmember Wandler: no, we had to have more insurance.

Mayor Dewey: that is the thing our insurance company requires it. We can't get out of that.

Councilmember Wandler: I think that there are times when it does cost more, with law enforcement.

Mayor Dewey: we did break that down further in this fee schedule, next time it would be a park use not a special event. The council is prepared to vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: no.

Councilmember Devlin: yes.

Councilmember Wandler: no

Mayor Dewey: the motion fails, at this point the fee schedule is not adopted. What changes are you wanting changed? What is the next action that the council expects?

Councilmember Allen: I only have an issue with special events. I know that the costs are going up. It is the special event fees, charging our school to close a road or charging for a bon fire. Can we put in that schools are not charged?

Mayor Dewey: you can do whatever you want you are the governing body.

Councilmember Allen: that would be my only ask that for special events schools are not charged.

Councilmember Devlin: schools have been charged in the past, is that correct? Are you saying don't charge them at all or don't increase it?

Councilmember Allen: don't increase it.

Mayor Dewey: we I guess the council has voted, we are going to rehash this and bring it back.

Councilmember Devlin: right. So Sydney when you are saying that there is more than just road closures there are other fees.

Councilmember Allen: when is say no I am specifically responding to my work that I do and the concerns that they have with our school events. That would be my idea and I know that we are getting into something.

Mayor Dewey: what other feed back does the council have, (audience rumbling) I am hearing rumbling in the audience, and it is rude. The reason that we are doing this is that it is critical to continue providing services to the community I want a response, and this is government happening in front of you. We are going to make sure that your input is in the fee schedule and that the community is taken care of. Is there anything further from council?

Councilmember Wandler: I would maintain with what I said before. There are times that police are needed more, I don't know how to break that down.

Councilmember Allen: Ms. Wandler just used the term non-profit and I think that might be the key, what if.

Mayor Dewey: most of the events are facilitated by a nonprofit. Very few do we see for profit. It sounds like it is the emphases on event fees. We will be working those special event fees. The administration will work through that and bring it back to a meeting.

b. Discussion/Decision: Preliminary Plat Approval Extension for Phase II of the Twin Creeks Subdivision

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item b. Mr. Ewart is here to speak from PCI.

Councilmember Allen: I make a motion to approve the extension.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd

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

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

c. Discussion/Decision: Participation in the Montana DPHHS Low Income Home Water Assistance Program

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item c. this program was brought to our attention by DPHHS. It is in conjunction with the LIEAP program through the state. LIEAP does not provide water assistance, and this will help with that. The council has options.



Councilmember Devlin: this is through September 2023; this is a state program?

Mayor Dewey: correct there is no cost to the town to do this. If a utility user qualifies through the state, the state sends us those funds and we apply that to their account.

Councilmember Devlin: you are saying that we can do this in conjunction with what we are already have, it is not that we are giving them a reduced rate.

Mayor Dewey: correct there is no net affect on the town of Stevensville.

Councilmember Devlin: I will make a motion to participate in DPHHS program in conjunction with what we have.

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

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Devlin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Wandler. Council discussion? Public comment?

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Michalson: 222 Turner Street, so what I am hearing is a motion on the floor. We have the program on the agenda tonight and what we already have. I think that we should suspend the one that we have coming out of our water bill currently.

Stacie Barker: 104 Winslet Ave. I do agree with doing away with one of them.

Mayor Dewey: any further public comment? Council discussion?

Councilmember Devlin: I struggle with this; I think that it is going to benefit many. We are kind of all in this together, the goal is to help people get back on their feet. This is not a huge population of our town I think that this is going to benefit a lot of people currently and in the future.

Mayor Dewey: with that we will go ahead and call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: no

Mayor Dewey: motion passes 2-1.

d. Discussion/Decision: Special Event Permit for Scarecrow Festival, October 1-3, 2021

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item d. Gretchen is here if you have any questions.

Councilmember Allen: I will make a motion.

Councilmember Wandler: I will 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Allen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Wandler. Council discussion?  
Public comment?

Gretchen Spies: I can't remember if I put our nonprofit organization for our insurance.

Mayor Dewey: you listed Scarecrow Festival and are you still using P5.

Gretchen Spies: yes.

Mayor Dewey: if that is what you are using your application is complete.

Victoria Howell: made comment to the insurance being used.

Mayor Dewey: it shows, Brian Potton Insurance. With that we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Devlin: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes.

## 12. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey: gave his executive report. Mentioned new audio equipment that has been purchased. Gave council a run down of the next couple of weeks of meetings in September.

## 13. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Devlin: gave town council comment on the news article that was published about the town. We rely on our news sources here in the valley. When I read something from a news source and it is filled with untruths, I just ask that you do your research, ask questions. If you have questions about something that you hear as us.

Councilmember Allen: would those fees be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting in September?


Mayor Dewey: I am not sure if it will be on that meeting.

## 14. Board Reports

None

## 15. Adjournment


APPROVE:



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Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk