

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes
for THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Allen, 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)

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. December 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Mayor Dewey: introduced the approval of minutes for December 9th, 2021.

Councilmember Allen: make a motion to approve.

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 Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: motion passes unanimously.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #17181-#17221

Mayor Dewey: introduced the claims #17181-#17229. Additional claims are #17222-#17229. Additional claims on the sheet to ensure that bills are paid before the end of the year. Because it was previously mentioned, not sure what the questions is but I will brief on the picnic table purchase, purchased with Jean Thomas Beautification money this was a request by the Park Board and was included in the Parks Department Work Plan for the fiscal year 22. I believe Mr. Sonsteng briefed the council on, during budget discussions to what part of that funding would go towards so that is the explanation behind that purchase.

Councilmember Ludington: make a motion to approve the claims as presented.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Michalson: 222 Turner Street, claim #17217, my favorite one, the HDR engineering report, this is the highest I have seen all year. \$10,410.00 can I get any elaboration on what that is specifically for?

Mayor Dewey: that charge is, I would have to pull the invoice to be more specific, but I think it is to wrap up the preliminary water system engineering report. The council requested changes to that preliminary report at a previous meeting and HDR is accommodating those changes it is not as simple as going in and editing a word doc there is engineering that goes behind it so there is a cost in doing so, engineering preliminary report costs are going to be high when we signed on to the preliminary engineering report, we had a contracted price for that report and this is a portion of that price. Any further public comment on the claims? Hearing none we will call for the vote, Ms. Berthoud.

Councilmember Allen: aye.

Councilmember Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: that motion passes.

6. Administrative Reports

NONE

7. Guests

NONE

8. Correspondence

NONE

9. Public Hearings

a. Town of Stevensville Subdivision Regulations

Mayor Dewey: it has been brought to our attention that the notice that we provided in the newspaper was inadequate for holding a public hearing and taking action on those subdivision regulations, because of that inadequate notice we are going to for go a public hearing and decision this evening and leave it up to the next administration to move forward on getting that rescheduled and properly noticed and taking action. We don't necessarily need to hold a public hearing this evening unless council is inclined to do so. You are not the council making the decision on those subdivision regulations so I would hate to waste your time. Hearing no objections, we will move on with the agenda.

10. Unfinished Business

NONE

11. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 499, A Resolution Adopting Subdivision Regulations for the Town of Stevensville

Mayor Dewey: new business item a is irrelevant.

b. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Keith Nyholm as Firefighter Cadet

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item b.

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 Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: the motion passes.

c. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Eric Wilson as Firefighter Cadet

Mayor Dewey: introduced new business item c.

Councilmember Allen: I will make a motion to approve.

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 Ludington: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Dewey: that motion passes.

12. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey gave his report, I am pleased to report to the council that we have closed on the Willoughby Property for a closing price of \$260,000.00 that signing happened yesterday and has been recorded and we no longer own that property. The amount of \$243,000.00 went into the bank today and that has been recorded in the financial system as well as in the banking system and is all accounted for. The reason, obviously, for the purchase price difference and the actual amount that went into the bank has to do with the commissions that you pay realtors and filing fees. We did well on that property and now that is behind us. I think anything else that I have to address will be in my closing remarks.

13. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Ludington: I would just like to thank the administrative staff, the fire chief, and Chief Sosa and Mr. Overstreet for their commitment to the town. And for Ms. Berthoud as well for those people who are moving forward with the next administration, I appreciate your commitment to the town of Stevensville and wish you the best of luck as we move forward. I am looking forward to what will be happening after the new year.

Councilmember Wandler: to the incoming mayor, Mr. Gibson. It is my wish that we can return to the town that I grew up in that the war zone that has been going on the last twenty years. No one applies for a position with the city with the intention (unclear audio). To the new city council members Stacie, I believe that you have a plan for your position and representing a majority of the citizens in your ward, in my short time on the council. (Unclear audio) I have listened to their thoughts; it has been interesting to hear many half-truths and slandish comments that need to be research before comments are made. It is not your responsibility to answer phone calls on your home phone at two o'clock in the morning the town will set up a personal account in your name, where citizens can ask you questions and leave opinions for you to share, I wish you well Stacie. To Mayor Dewey, thank you for the opportunity to work with you and I feel that you have made some outstanding progress in moving ahead (Unclear audio) like any prior mayor barring none you have made mistakes, but you have addressed a lot of serious problems that were not addressed by prior administrators including water leaks, development standards, parks improvements just to name a few. I hope you and your family know that Stevensville is a better place to live because of your tenure. Outgoing council members, Jaime, Paul, Sydney it has been a pleasure to work with each of you, each of you has a unique impact on our town you should be proud of your contribution to the community the town is losing three out standing citizens it has been a pleasure. To the citizens of Stevensville, stay involved with your city council members be respectful to the citizens opinions listen and be positive. (Unclear audio) we have all felt more of that then our time needs. Our energy should focus on positivity's. We don't know what is said about assumptions I say assumptions become gospel when repeated we want Stevensville to be respected and progressing in the news lets all work together to make Stevensville a better place to live.

14. Board Reports

Councilmember Ludington: I will make a comment on behalf of the airport board. There is an organization in the state of Montana called Red Sleighs Over Montana which is a group of pilots,

airplane and helicopter pilots that fly into airports in December to give away gifts for needing children. They did that at Stevensville airport on Tuesday, we took the entire 2nd grade class up there they had two airplanes come in and gave them all gifts. Tim and Craig were ecstatic, they were very excited. It was a big deal they had just come from Hamilton where they were greeted by two firefighters, so they were pleased to see the children there they had a great time. The Stevensville airport showed themselves very well this week I am very proud of them they did a nice job.

Mayor Dewey: knowing that this was going to be a short meeting, I am going to stretch it out a minute so I do have some final remarks that I would like to make. The advantage of going out the door is that you can for the most part say whatever you want on your out with very little consequence. I think many could imagine what I would like to say because there are young ears in the room, I am more interested in modeling positive behavior than getting things off my chest I will refrain from saying what I really want to say. Admittedly I did not accomplish a single thing on my own over the last four years as the mayor. Everything that was accomplished was accomplished together and accomplished more together than any single person could accomplish on their own. Together we rapidly moved the town of Stevensville through an era of efficiency all of those fancy computer programs that a few complained we spent too much on is more than likely what will save the new administration as they face staffing challenges. We are a smarter town today with then we were just four years ago with an update of the website, live streaming access to meetings, improved water bill paying methods online, physically we have invested nearly \$3 million into better public works, fire department, police department with those investments include infrastructure projects that made physical improvements to Stevensville. With those investments we are still financially healthy the town is not bankrupt, today the general fund balance is over \$385,000.00 and total cash in the bank equals over \$4.0 million dollars, that is one million dollars higher than in 2018 when I took office. The bottom line throughout this administration we have been responsible with your dollars, and we have strengthened the town financial status we have done so, so much to improve the services we offer to our community as well. Of our size we do so much more than communities with our population with a budget. We have built programs that have helped people and improve the livability experience and experience of our town like the parks and recreation department and community engagement efforts. As an organization the town of Stevensville has been more engaged and connected with the community than ever before. So much of this could not be possible without the groundwork in progress that was made in the tenure of Gene Minmack he along with the former council members and staff of that error set the stage for our successes today. At the last meeting I recognized the council and thanked you, those sentiments remain unchanged my staff deserves some time in the spotlight too. Today we say goodbye to some of the most dedicated public servants to have worked for Stevensville, Wendi Planty, Laura Miller, Nancy Olsen, and Bobby Sonsteng. In addition, Audree Tribbensee is added to this. These people individually and collectively should be revered for their work and contribution in a short period of time for this town. Their accomplishments are what has made my time in office worthwhile. My family have also been so supportive of me, my wife especially who gave me little sympathy 3 months after moving into this job. When considering resignation, she said "didn't anybody tell you this was going to hard" many wondered why the literal shit show my family and I were drug through the past four years hadn't I resigned? The answer is Tasha held the hammer that broke the glass. Her resolve to my success was greater than I thought it could be. She is truly a hero in this community. There is one last person that I have to thank tonight. He has been with

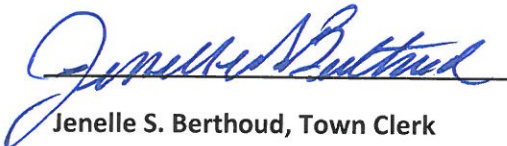
me in this job since day one. Just this week he shared his aspirations and primary public service, Carter despite the toxicity has kept a smile on this face. Smile and be better tomorrow, because of you Carter I along with the organization were strong advocates for youth and families. Conversations that impacted families and the programs to support. That hallmark of my administration and other administrations can take credit for and Carter has a share in that success. He is the aspiration along with my daughter. He came here on his own and I couldn't be prouder as a dad. The late twenties something became the mayor of his hometown with a toddler in tow and a young family. That in itself is something that we should be proud of, the fact that we achieved progress in the environment that we did. I wish the best of luck to the new administration and the council you have been given an amazing gift to be handed the organization in the good state that it is in, I wasn't so fortunate. I hope you navigate the challenges that you do inherit with success. You won't see me at council meetings you will see me engaged when it is appropriate. You will hear from me when an issue affects me as a citizen and as a parent. Finally thank you to my supporters and attackers you have held me to a high standard. At times our organization is stronger, and I am better for it. I am looking forward to some down time and the opportunity to reconnect with civilian life. Carter it is your turn, you get to knock the gavel. Thank everyone.

15. Adjournment

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk

