

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes for

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022, 7:00 PM

208 Main Street, NVPL

CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Gibson called the meeting to order, Councilmembers Barker, Brown, Michalson, and Wolff were all present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

No Public Comment.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting Minutes, April 28, 2022

Mayor Gibson: introduced approval of minutes.

Councilmember Michalson: I will make a motion to approve.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd

Mayor Gibson: there is a motion and a 2nd. Council discussion? Councilmember Wolff?

Councilmember Wolff: page 5, asking about Construct MT, that second figure, is about equal to the first amount. fix amount. Which one for inspections and what was for plan review. Page 7, Councilmember Barker comments on Morris & Merely, misspelled correct spelling, Maierle. And then under public comment it is misspelled.

Mayor Gibson: public comment? Hearing none, Jenelle call for the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Councilmember Wolff: aye.

Mayor Gibson: motion passes 4-0

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #17678-#17706

Mayor Gibson: introduced bi-weekly claims.

Councilmember Barker: I make an approval of the claims, #17678-#17706.

Councilmember Michalson: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Any discussion? Councilmember Wolff?

Councilmember Wolff: Overstreet Law Group, is there any comment on the nature of these charges.

Mayor Gibson: I believe that there is prosecution in that also.

Pam Sosa, Finance Officer: yes, it is combined/together

Mayor Gibson: there have been a couple of requests from council, I have talked with Mr. Overstreet and some of the development stuff he has written off. I guarantee you that it will go down. You have to keep in mind former administration and council doubled the current attorney salary. Councilmember Michalson?

Councilmember Michalson: how far are we into the budget for the attorney. Are we getting pretty close to tapping out of his budget?

Mayor Gibson: I don't think that we are over because there was a time when Mr. Owens was not doing some things. Any other comments on the claims? Public comment on the claims? Seeing none, Jenelle take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Councilmember Wolff: aye.

Mayor Gibson: 4-0

6. Administrative Reports

Mayor Gibson: stated that the admin reports were in the packet. Spoke to the ARPA Grant and that we will bring it to the council for the match. Basically, it will be used for storage and leaks. We ranked pretty high. Just wanted to add that to the public works report.

a. Airport

b. Building Department

c. Finance

d. Fire Department

e. Police Department

f. Public Works

7. Guests

NONE

8. Correspondence

NONE

9. Public Hearings

NONE

10. Unfinished Business

NONE

11. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Confirmation of Police Chief, Macario Sosa, Jr

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item a. He was appointed a year ago and after his year probation we have to confirm him as the chief, Stevensville has been very fortunate having Chief Sosa as our Chief of Police.

Councilmember Brown: I move that we put police Chief Mac back on.

Councilmember Wolff: 2nd

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Any discussion? Any public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle call for the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Councilmember Wolff: aye.

Mayor Gibson: 4-0

b. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Lois Knapp to the Park Board

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item b. She reapplied for the Park Board.

Councilmember Barker: I move that we appoint ~~Lois~~ ^{Lois} Knapp.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion? Councilmember Barker?

Councilmember Barker: I think that ~~Lois~~ ^{Lois} will be good for the board. So many have left, and she knows how the Park Board stands.

Mayor Gibson: Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle call for the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Councilmember Wolff: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

c. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 503, a Resolution to Reduce the Mayor's Salary

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item c. It will help offset other staff salaries.

Councilmember Wolff: I make a motion to accept you lowering your salary.

Councilmember Michalson: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion? Councilmember Brown?

Councilmember Brown: is this something that you want to do Steve?

Mayor Gibson: this is something that I said that I would do, and I want to. Public comment?
Seeing none, Jenelle take the vote please.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Councilmember Wolff: aye.

Mayor Gibson: 4-0

d. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No 504, a Resolution to Change Regular Town Council Meeting Time

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item d. Stays the same days, goes from 7:00-6:00. I have received three comments. It is never going to be perfect; I just want to remind if people can't attend, they can send in their comments, and they will be read. This is your decision. if this passes, then we will have the discussion to change the town council rules.

Councilmember Wolff: I make a motion to change the town council meeting time from 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Councilmember Michalson: 2nd

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Any council discussion? Councilmember Wolff?

Councilmember Wolff: I thought about this, the last time we talked about this, and we talked about a midway time. And I think that we are getting more people watching the live stream. Another reason besides that is winter weather. It is dark and someone did fall coming to our meeting.

Mayor Gibson: I did go back through the book from Leagues of Cities, and Towns I would say approximately half of the meetings were before 7 o'clock.

Councilmember Michalson: I understand that this would be easier on the staff and I and Marilyn don't work, and I would like to hear what Stacie and Cindy have to say, they work.

Councilmember Barker: I do work at 5:00 but I have been later getting off, due to staff shortages. Changing the time for me will put a little harder time to get things done.

Mayor Gibson: I understand, and it is twice a month.

Councilmember Brown: to answer Councilmember Michalson's question. Right now, I ride the I-Ride van to save money on gas, it depends on the driver and how many people they have to pick up. So sometimes I don't get back until almost 6:00.

Councilmember Michalson: the boards meet at 5:30 pm. at least Planning and Zoning. Take that into consideration that is an hour and a half earlier.

Councilmember Wolff: I am on the Airport Board, and we meet at 5:30.

Mayor Gibson: any further comment? Public comment?

Jenelle Berthoud, Town Clerk: read correspondence from Ms. Devlin (included in the minutes of this meeting)

Mayor Gibson: with that Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: no

Councilmember Brown: no

Councilmember Michalson: aye

Councilmember Wolff: aye

Mayor Gibson: fails 2-2. I will not break the tie, therefore we do not have to do item e.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM E WAS NOT DISCUSSED DUE TO ITEM D NOT PASSING

e. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 387E, a Resolution Amending Town Council Rules for the Town of Stevensville

Mayor Gibson:

Councilmember

Councilmember

Mayor Gibson:

Councilmember Barker:

Councilmember Brown:

Councilmember Michalson:

Councilmember Wolff:

Mayor Gibson:

12. Executive Report

Mayor Gibson: we are going to move the meeting back to Town Hall as soon as possible. There have been comments about the staff Jenelle does set up and that takes about 1 hour. This way they can do it at work, there will be times that we will have to get another venue to accommodate larger meetings.

13. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Brown: I would just like to say a couple of things, I would like to compliment Councilmember Michalson for the great community service that he is providing and secondly the emails that we are receiving from the public. I get the feeling that the town would like us to step up our game plan with that being said. Can we look into inviting MSU Local Government and the MMIA for training?

Mayor Gibson: yes, we can. We do have myself and Pam going to Missoula July 18th. I have been told in the past that they came here and then they did not come back. Jenelle can check that out for us.

Councilmember Barker: In July I have also taken that time off in July to attend that. It is nice that they are bringing it closer. I am very excited to attend.

Councilmember Brown: I do plan to attend to go.

Councilmember Michalson: I also will go.

Councilmember Wolff: I am too new? I did not get that.

Councilmember Barker: we had Farmers Market that opened up, we had 24 vendors. Mac came and visited with us for a while, it is nice to have that. Thank you, Mac.

14. Board Reports

Councilmember Wolff: Airport board met on May 10th at Town Hall. Councilmember Wolff gave a brief overview of the meeting. There was discussion about meeting with the county commissioners, runway painting, FAA funding in the future, millings will come up in the future, the board has been working and Tim Smead going over Ordinances. Airport lease looked at for the Museum of Mountain Flying.

Councilmember Michalson: we had a Planning and Zoning Board Meeting last night, we elected Leanna Rodabaugh as our leader. We cracked the whip on chapter 7 on Subdivision Regulations. And when we are done with chapter 7 we will have a recommendation to the League of Cities and Towns and then to the council, we will have the next meeting June 6th.

Mayor Gibson: We will then have to have a public hearing and will notify for that. With the council's permission, a gentleman came in late I am not sure on what he wants to comment on, are you open to him commenting?

Councilmembers: sure.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Groninger: 518 East 3rd Street, the spring cleanup that was done was great. It went well, as Jenelle knows I lost my glasses down there and one of the public works guys found them, kudos to them. I am wondering if it possible to have that event again soon, for a week of two I have noticed that there is stuff in the streets.

Mayor Gibson: I know that I am not supposed to do this, answer questions, Jenelle and I discussed this, Public Works Director is out and that is who you really have to thank.

Pat Groninger: I ran into the guys a couple of times; everyone is great. I want to commend you council; I have been to a few meetings and as well as you Mayor and all of you great job and it is nice to have Stevensville back. Two more things, Miss Jenelle. In my opinion we would not be standing here or sitting here this comfortable if this lady didn't do what she did in the transition. It needs to be commended and if not employee of the year. You did well and everyone supports you at least I do and nobody else matters. and to the chief, congratulations.

Mayor Gibson: and as to Jenelle, I don't think that the town could have survived especially when we had no staff. (Clapping)

Jenelle Berthoud, Town Clerk: Thank you.

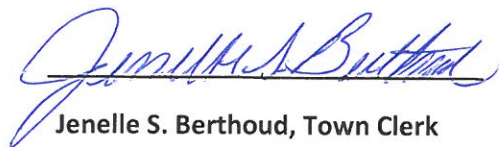
15. Adjournment

APPROVE:



Steve Gibson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk

Jenelle Berthoud

From: Sue Devlin <ladytam22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Steve Gibson
Cc: Jenelle Berthoud; Stacie Barker; Bob Michalson; Marilyn Wolff; Cindy Brown
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Change of council meeting hour

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PLEASE READ AT THE CORRESPONDENCE PART OF THURSDAY, MAY 12th MEETING

Mayor Gibson:

When you floated this idea of changing meetings to 6:00 p.m several months ago, NO ONE from the public who attended the meeting were in favor of it and voiced their objections. Mrs. Wolff considered changing to 6:30 p.m.

So many people work out of town and won't have time to get home, fix dinner, take care of things at home and either attend or listen into these meetings.

It appears that this is going to make it even more difficult for the townspeople to keep track of what is going on in the town's business. Several council members work and voiced their objections to the change in time when you brought it up in, I believe, February.

What is your reasoning behind changing the time that has worked for many years - allowing time for citizens to be able to participate in, and have knowledge of, the decisions being made? I don't think this is transparency.

Thank you
Sue Devlin