

Stevensville Special Town Council Meeting Minutes for

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022

5:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

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

3. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Town Council Vacancy in Ward 1 (Review of Applications)

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item a. The following questions were brought together by the councilmembers. We will take the applicants alphabetically and then when they are done, they can stay in the room while the next applicant is interviewed.

1. What skill set can you bring to the council?
2. What makes you stand out from the other candidate(s) running for council?
3. Some people in our community say that we have traffic problems. What do you think? How would you mitigate those concerns or change the situation?
4. What do you see as the biggest issue that the town is facing?
5. What projects would you like to see accomplished while you are on council?
6. If you could change one thing in our zoning code, what would it be and why?
7. As a member of council what is your role in local government?
8. What is your vision of Stevensville in the next 2-4 years as far as growth goes?
9. How do you plan to involve residents in our decision-making process in our town?

*Councilmembers made notes on the applicants answers to the questions.

Applicant Scott Butler was interviewed first by the council.

Mr. Butler answered the nine questions that the town council asked.

Applicant Nancy Lowell was interviewed second by the council.

Ms. Lowell answered the nine questions that the town council asked.

Applicant Wallace Smith was interviewed thirdly by the council.

Mr. Smith answered the nine questions that the town council asked.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Adams, 610 E 2nd Street: I would strongly recommend that the council "hire" if you will, Nancy Lowell. I have known Nancy for the last 60 years. She is a pillar of this community and not only that she will represent the ward that she is in to the best of her ability. Because she has so much experience she will know when things are about to run off the rails.

John Munk, 401 Central Street: I would also promote Nancy. I enjoy both of the candidates and what they had to say. I am sure that you are going to take that into consideration. I have known Nancy since I had her as a student in school, so it has been a few years.

Jim Crews, 316 9th Street: I can't endorse any of the candidates because my wife is on the council, but I encourage you to do as a councilmember is to weigh the benefits of the person you might be thinking of selecting, we need somebody in this town that can not be intimidated because councilmembers have a tendency to be intimidated. You have to be able to stand up and do what is right you also have to be a student of the law every ordinance that we have in this town councilmembers have to read every single one of them. Councilmembers have to look at the town and see that things are getting done. Councilmember has no direct interface with the employee without going through the mayor. The mayor is their supervisor, the councilmembers can talk to the employees, but they can not tell them what to do. If they are asked to help, they can help. These people right here, he is their boss you have no authority over the employees. To be able to communicate with the staff is important and the staff to communicate with the council. One thing to understand is that listening is not your turn to speak you have to pay attention to what is being said and think about it a little bit.

Jenelle Berthoud, Town Clerk: Read letters of recommendation from citizens. (These letters will be included in the minutes of this meeting).

Councilmember Michalson: I will start, all three candidates the simple fact that you all three came forward to serve the Town of Stevensville says a whole lot. In my six plus years in serving on the council it has been a ride, including myself I have left a time or two for reasons that we all know now. Mr. Butler hit the nail on the head there is not a lot of trust, it slowly has to come back, and it has to come back through us. There are a lot of people that still don't trust local government here for whatever reason it is going to take years to gain that trust back, and the fact that you three came forward and want to serve the Town of Stevensville tells me that you have a good heart for it. I looked at the applications and I looked at my years of service, I have six years of service Ms. Brown has a year of service, Stacie has five years of service on the council Mr. Gibson has one year on the council and one year as the mayor under his belt so that is two and our staff has, Pam has one Jenelle has 4 or 5 years and if you add all those years together it comes to nineteen years and there is a lady that is a candidate here that served nineteen years in our local government and that to me means a lot, the history and everything so with that I would like to make a motion to nominate Nancy Lowell to represent Ward 1 for the Town of Stevensville for the next year.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: we have a motion and a 2nd. Do we need to go to public comment again?

Councilmember Michalson no.

Mayor Gibson: Is there further discussion from the council?

Councilmember Brown: all of the candidates I have to say were pretty much equal in my book. I want to say thank you very much for stepping forward and coming forward to put your name in the hat I know this job just not even completing a full year it has been very eye-opening experience. It does weigh on your conscience a lot making these decisions and if it is the right one or not. That is probably another one tonight, is picking a person it is a big decision to me I want to know that all of you for the most part were pretty much equal on my end.

Councilmember Barker: thank you all again for coming tonight and putting your name in the hat, it is a big job, it is not easy sitting up here like the others have said there was a time where I resigned as well, but know I am here to serve the community and everyone of you had put in there was listening to the public listening to what they had to say and that is huge having that open book, being there when somebody has something to say. You all had also different ideas on how you would like to see the town proceed which is awesome, I like that. I just wish you all the best of luck and we will make that decision.

Mayor Gibson: with that Jenelle we have a motion and a 2nd to nominate Nancy Lowell, would you please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

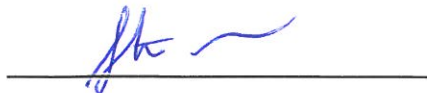
Mayor Gibson: 3-0, Nancy can you come tomorrow at 9:00 to be sworn in?

Nancy Lowell: sure.

Mayor Gibson: we have to put the documents together and with that we are adjourned.

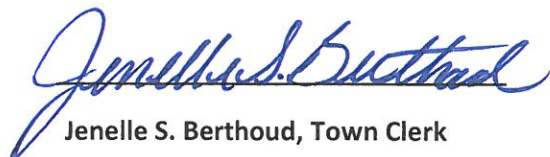
4. Adjournment

APPROVE:



Steve Gibson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk

Jenelle Berthoud
Stevensville Town Clerk
206 Buck Street
Stevensville, MT 58970

November 15, 2022

Re; Letter Of Recommendation Wally Smith

Dear Ms. Berthoud,

I write to commend Mr. Wally Smith to you to fill a vacancy on the Stevensville City Counsel.

Wally is a man that has earned my respect on many levels in my association with him. He is a man of morals and reason. A rare individual in today's world, who displays a keen ear to listening to others perspectives and viewpoints, allowing for their reasoning to be expressed.

Wally displays compassion for the individual with a heart for offering a hand up, to assist in the strengthening of the individual though his servant's heart.

In group or committee settings I have enjoyed Wally's ability to lighten tense discussions with his well-timed wit and humor, along with his ability to form pointed questions to move discussions along in a productive vein.

Again, I commend Mr. Wally Smith to you to fill the available seat. I firmly believe that Stevensville will be richer through having Wally serve to strengthen the town counsel.

Respectfully,

Doug Bohn
334 Blue Grouse Ln.
Stevensville, MT 59870

Jenelle Berthoud

From: 4067777399@vtext.com
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 3:10 PM
To: Jenelle Berthoud
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mayor Steve Gibson, Stevensville Town Council I...

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor Steve Gibson,
Stevensville Town Council

It is my honor to recommend and endorse Pastor Wallace Smith for the Townjenelle@townofstevensville.com Council seat.

I have known him for the past 3 years and he has been a good friend and fishing buddy.

I have come to knowjenelle@townofstevensville.com w his faithfulness to any endeavor he sets is mind to.

He is experienced in running churches and non-profit ministries.

jenelle@townofstevensville.com It is my opinion that he would make a good Councilperson with strong conservative values.

Sincerely
Robert Cantrell

Jenelle Berthoud

From: Bill Lussenheide <bill.lussenheide@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Jenelle Berthoud
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerning Council Appointment Replacement - Wallace Smith

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jenelle Berthoud ,
Stevensville Town Clerk

I am Bill Lussenheide, a descendant of pioneers who came to Montana before it was even a state , in 1883. I am a local business owner of over 45 years, and an interested citizen in the success of our communities in every way.

I would like to offer my recommendation of **Mr. Wallace Smith**, for Stevensville Town Council. I know Mr. Smith as a solid individual , who practices high moral values, with character, integrity and fidelity.

Additionally, Mr. Smith is well versed in community issues, and displays both wisdom, inquiry, and fairness to all in his decision making , with great maturity and careful consideration.

It is my firm and steadfast view that Mr. Smith will bring honor and benefit to the great town of Stevensville in his service on the Town Council.

Highest Regards,
Bill Lussenheide
(951) 265-6633

Jenelle Berthoud

From: Kim Forbes <forbesmontana@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Jenelle Berthoud
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Appointment for town council

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jenelle Berthoud,

I would like to recommend Wallace Smith to be appointed to the Stevensville Town Council to fill the remaining year of the vacancy in Ward 1.

I've known Wallace (Wally) for a few years now, since he and his wife, Cathy, moved here. Wally loves Montana and especially our little town of Stevensville. Wally is a man of integrity, wisdom, honesty, high moral values and upstanding character. If there is a problem with something, he will figure out a way to resolve it. I know that any decision he were to make concerning the town of Stevensville would be for the betterment of our town.

My husband and I are 30 year residents of Stevensville and love our little town.

Sincerely,
Kim Forbes

Jenelle Berthoud

From: Katina Peters <katina.peters@pjscpas.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Jenelle Berthoud
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wallace Smith - Letter of Recommendation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jenelle Berthoud,
Stevensville Town Clerk
& Concerned Parties;

I am Katina Peters and have lived in the Bitterroot Valley now full time for over 10 years and am honored to call it my home after many years of moving around as a child of military parents. I would like to submit my recommendation for Wallace (Wally) Smith in your consideration of a seat on the Stevensville Town Council. I have know Wally for going on 20 years and know him as a strong dedicated community member with high morals, integrity and commitment.

Since I have known Wally, he has always chosen positions of service and wherever he has served, has always made great strides and continued forward movement and improvement no matter the task/circumstance. He is what I consider a "builder", someone who no matter what he is involved with/in, he puts forth the effort to make it better than he found it.

Wally is wise, just and considers things carefully after putting in the time and effort to research and think things through. He will make a strong addition to the Town Council of Stevensville. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



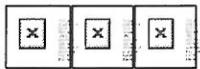
Katina M. Peters, CPA, CGMA

vCFO & Co-Founder

Phone & Fax: 844.475.7272 ext. 701

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pjscpas.com



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November 20, 2022

To Stevensville City Council Members;

This is our recommendation to consider Mr Wallace Smith for the open position in Ward 1, of Stevensville Town Council. We know Mr Smith to be a man of good moral character and is civically minded. We do believe he would be an asset to the Town of Stevensville from his past involvement and experiences in the community in which he lived.

Alan & Terri Lackey
517 S Sunset Bench Rd
Stevensville, Mt 59870
406-274-5792

Pastor Ken Scrivner
203 6th Street
Stevensville, MT 59870
November 21, 2022

Town of Stevensville
206 Buck Street
Stevensville, MT 59870

To Whom It May Concern:

I'd like to recommend Wally Smith for the Town Council position of Ward 1. In my experience, he is a man of honesty and integrity, and I believe he would help lead the town of Stevensville in a positive direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Ken Scrivner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Pastor Ken Scrivner

21 November 2022

To: Whom it may concern

Subject: Recommendation for the appointment of Wally Smith to the Stevensville Town Council.

My wife, Kim Dailey and I, Von Dailey, are lifelong residents of Montana and are fully vested in Ravalli County and especially in the Stevensville area. We've had the opportunity to get to know Wally Smith on a professional level through the Ravalli County Republican Central Committee (RCRCC) where He and Kim are both precinct captains. Since his election to the RCRCC, he has a proven conservative track record and has shown his loyalty to serve the people as the representative of his precinct.

Both Kim and I have had the opportunity to get to know Wally on a personal basis, and in doing so, we are confident he will be an asset to the Town of Stevensville as a member of the Stevensville Town Council.

Sincerely,

Von Dailey *Kim Dailey*
Von and Kim Dailey