

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes for THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023, 6:00 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, Lowell and Michalson were all present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Craig Thomas: I would like to thank the mayor and Jenelle for attending the FAA meeting. Thank you very much.

4. Approval of Minutes

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #18331-#18350

Mayor Gibson: introduced bi-weekly claims #18331-#18350.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve bi-weekly claims #18331-#18350.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Public comment?

Councilmember Michalson: hopefully this is the last payment for the audit, the sixty-grand?

Mayor Gibson: yes, it is.

Councilmember Michalson: and that is coming out of the general fund?

Robert Underwood: yes, the general fund.

Mayor Gibson: anything further? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

6. Administrative Reports

Mayor Gibson: introduced the administrative reports. Fire department is here if you have any questions.

Councilmember Barker: let him speak.

- a. Airport
- b. Building Department
- c. Finance
- d. Fire Department

Chief Jeff Motley: stats are in your packet. Chief Motley gave a brief overview of the stats. We have three new applications that we are processing right now. Getting ready for budget.

- e. Police Department

Mayor Gibson: I was going to do this in the executive report, but you think that we could be moved back over here in July.

Chief Mac Sosa: yes. You have your stats in the packet. Gave a brief overview of the stats. Coordinating with Jeff and looking to start building soon. We are scheduled to have a new officer sworn in on Tuesday. She has satisfied everything, and she will go in front of the police commission and then sworn in on Tuesday.

Councilmember Michalson: what time?

Mayor Gibson: 11:00 am.

Councilmember Lowell: is she all certified? Or do we have to send her to get certified?

Chief Mac Sosa: just graduated from college and is starting right away and then we will be sending her to academy.

Councilmember Barker: how many officers does that put us at?

Chief Mac Sosa: four.

- f. Public Works

7. New Business

- a. Informational: Hiring a Temporary Administrative Assistant for the Front Office

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item a. it will be temporary, no benefits, going to advertise it at \$15.00 per hour, it would be from 1-5 each day. We just need help. People doing claims and HR. We are right now saving not paying Pam's position. Just wanted you to know that we will be posting that tomorrow.

Councilmember Michalson: did we budget for that administrative assistant?

Mayor Gibson: it was there when I got here, but if it is not, we have enough with Pam's savings. She did not have that much pay in her pay out.

b. Discussion/Decision: Special Event Permit for 2023 Stevensville Creamery Picnic

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item b.

Sean Doyle: Stevensville Civic Club President, submitting the request for Creamery Picnic, 110th. Same as what we have had, Sean Doyle read through the agenda for the Creamery Picnic.

Councilmember Lowell: make a motion to accept their proposal.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Public Comment? Further discussion? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: Passes 4-0, thank you Sean. You will be coming soon with your proposal on the splash pad?

Sean Doyle: yes sir. Sand blasting is scheduled for this Saturday. Mr. Schrock would like a final walk through to make sure that everything is good.

c. Discussion/Decision: Emergency Funds Needed for Pool Repairs

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item c. Just discovered this. Concrete problems, if we want to open the pool, we have to do it. I think that he said, ten-grand. Jean Thomas was already used, he has money in the water fund, and he also has savings from an employee, he has money in his budget.

Councilmember Barker: make a motion to approve, Emergency Funds Needed for Pool Repairs

Councilmember Michalson: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Further discussion?

Councilmember Barker: the money that we pulled out of the Jean Thomas fund was for the pump repairs and we actually had part of a grant from the Rapp Family Foundation to pay for part of that. We were able to put a little back into the fund itself. I know that we talked to Steve Lassiter at the last Park Board Meeting, And we talked about it having some issues with the crumbling and stuff like that. And that he was going to get bids on that, but it was not discussed that it was going to come out of the Jean Thomas.

Mayor Gibson: it is something that the council is going to have to look at in the future, the pool was built in 1956. A lot of people, including hotels, because of the new regulations are closing their pool, I know that Stevensville would like to have a pool. I would like to have a pool. But there is going to come a time when the town has to decide if they want a pool, every year there

is money going into it, \$17,000, and it will fix it. Then there is this and that. It was built in 1956. We have made it by with the inspectors, but we have handicap issues. The town is going to have to look at this down the road, you can't keep coming forward and asking for \$10,000 here and there.

Councilmember Lowell: I do agree with that, I do feel that this pool is very important. Keeping the kids out of the river, there are so many kids that use the pool. I think that it is time for the community to come forward with a plan, maybe some grants.

Councilmember Michalson: I have been in contact with a younger lady in my hometown in Chinook and they have started a rural park district and they brought it in front of the voters for a two and a half million pool improvement, it took them like two and a half years but it can be done, I think that as a community we have to look at it.

Councilmember Brown: has the park board discussed any plans for the future?

Councilmember Barker: I know that has been in discussion, but we have put a lot into repairs. We have learned about more grants, do we have a grant writer in house that we can use, I know that Vickey Motley has done some grants so maybe she would be a great asset to work on that. It has been a talk. We do need to make that decision. we are focusing on getting the splashpad up and running and that is for our younger children but what about middle age.

Mayor Gibson: I think that if you really want to go for it, I saw Belgrade fold and I don't know how the city of Hamilton did it. But if the town wants to service a larger population and bring in a revenue you might want to look at an aquatic center. If it ever comes to that point, and if you are going to do it, do it right.

Councilmember Barker: I think we could service that.

Mayor Gibson: Jenelle I can't remember did we take a vote? Public comment?

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

8. Board Reports

Councilmember Brown: the airport meeting was last night, Diane from FAA was here, it did wonders that you met. I understand that they are getting the grant ready to apply for the airport car through the state. There is going to be two new leases coming to the council. They are going to try and do some cohost events with the Museum of Mountain Flying. They are going to try and do a newsletter to let everyone know what is going on at the airport.

Mayor Gibson: she was helpful, our last discussion about the gravel pit, according to the FAA we do have to do fare market value so it will have to go out for bid.

9. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Michalson: fellow Councilmember Barker and I attended a workshop last week it was very informational a lot to take in in two days, one of the things was stress management and self-care. It seems like there is a lot of stress and a lot of things going on in our local government. We worked on roles and responsibilities, talked about law books, grant applications, and self-government. We are going to have to go back and fix the personnel policy where it says 6 months' probation, to be changed to a year.

Mayor Gibson: that is easy to fix, Jenelle just remind me.

Councilmember Michalson: the other one is, I don't understand, but they did not recommend a yearly evaluation of employees. I asked her why. And she would not give me an answer.

Councilmember Barker: pretty much something that they are doing across the board.

Mayor Gibson: pretty much a practice, it is a disadvantage to an employee if there is nothing there.

Councilmember Barker: if you are going to then make sure that you are staying on that schedule and not going out. Next year it will be at Fairmont Hot Springs, spacing is limited so we might want to think about this for next year. They are talking about extending it out another day.

10. Executive Report

Mayor Gibson: I am on the board for Montana League of Towns and Cities, we have been on the phone a lot about the legislative bills. There is what they are calling the pothole bill, it did go through for towns that are less than ten thousand. If it is signed it would be available July 1st, we would like to get the bids out now so that we can do the work this fall. Another one I think is HB 365, that I was looking for wastewater and sewer, I think that it was vetoed. The building department bill funds should help us with not being part of an audit. Speaking of audits, there was a bill to limit the scope, but it was taken away, there was a bill that was going to increase our contributions to PERS, but it was tabled. Water rights, we have had a lot of correspondence, he was pretty comfortable that we could be there by August. One more objector left, so pretty good.

Councilmember Barker: just a quick question on the water rights, the survey that was sent out for the led in the pipe's thing, a lot of people have asked about that.

Mayor Gibson: that came from the state level, they do it with all towns.

Jenelle Berthoud: all towns did that, more on the homeowner's side of things.

Councilmember Barker: they came back to the town?

Mayor Gibson: yes.

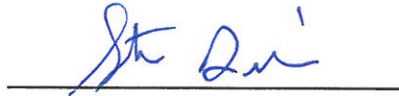
Councilmember Barker: obviously, it hit Facebook, the school has led in their water.

Councilmember Michalson: I would like to add to that at the conference, didn't the guy that got up and talked about the grant money, didn't he say there was grant money available for this from your house to the street.

Councilmember Barker: very interesting things out there.

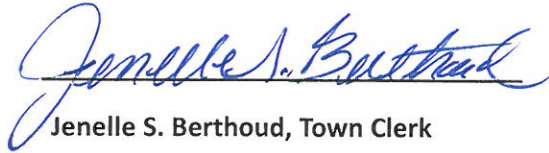
11. Adjournment

APPROVE:



Steve Gibson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk