

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023, 6:00 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gibson: speaking of flags, the Montana flag is up, and the US flag is on back order.

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

Bill Anderson, 8th Street, Stevensville. Mr. Anderson gave public comment on the update of street signs, thank you. I think that there should be a 4-way stop at 2nd and Main. Those traveling 2nd Street or leaving Cenex would agree that it is a hazard. Don't know if it is a State of Town concern.

Mayor Gibson: you are exactly right, back in August we talked with people at Montana Department of Transportation, Mr. Michalson is going to contact them again and see where we are at with traffic study.

Bill Anderson: okay so it is a state issue. It took me 15 minutes to get out at 2nd Street and Main.

Mayor Gibson: I watched yesterday the two ladies from the Genesis House almost get hit.

Bob Anderson: so, you are in the process of contacting the state department.

Mayor Gibson: I have twice, and we are going to do it again.

Councilmember Michalson: the ordinance that we passed on "J" turns. I sent that to Montana Department, and to lower the speed limit by Burnt Fork Market and we approved that. We added an amendment to this, and he told me that it was on the agenda.

Mayor Gibson: thank you, I would encourage your neighbors anyone to contact, come in tomorrow morning, and we will give you the contact information.

Lesley Tadvick: 509 Mission Street, I do have a good comment, those cemeteries look gorgeous, Steve your city guys have done a great job. I am really sad at how our town is beginning to look, I don't know what our ordinances have to say, they say that the garbage should be cleaned up and the yards should be mowed. Please come down our street, cardboard boxes and tall grasses. I ask that we clean up our town yards.

Mayor Gibson: here is where we are, there is a town ordinance, we want to take care of our own first. We will be sending letters to a number of people with the town ordinance. I just wanted to make sure that we took care of our own weeds before we told them.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting Minutes 04/27/2023

Mayor Gibson: introduced Town Council Meeting Minutes 04/27/2023

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve town council meeting minutes for 04/27/2023.

Councilmember Lowell: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: there is a 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

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims for April #18351, #18352, #18361-#18363, #18367, #18369

Mayor Gibson: introduced bi-weekly claims for April #18351, #18352, #18361-#18363, #18367, #18369 . Jenelle, can you explain.

Jenelle Berthoud, Town Clerk: we have been tackling multiple roles, myself and Melanie. Melanie has been doing the claims, you will see in the packet that some were posted into the month of April and then you will see some for May. So, there are two separate claims, but when you sign tonight you will sign one set of claims.

Mayor Gibson: you are well aware that we don't have a finance officer, and Robert is only here ten hours a week, so everyone is helping out. Melanie, Jenelle and Robert, thank you.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve claims for April #18351, #18352, #18361-#18363, #18367, #18369.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Public comment? Further discussion? Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

b. Claims for May #18353,#18355-#18360, #18364, #18366, #18368

Mayor Gibson: next set of claims.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve claims for May #18353,#18355-#18360, #18364, #18366, #18368.

Councilmember Barker :2nd.

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

Councilmember Michalson: I do have one on the HDR, page 17 for \$2500.00

Mayor Gibson: what that is, the engineer had to review everything, Twin Creeks pays us back for the service.

Councilmember Michalson: I was reviewing our subdivision regulations, here we are we are paying of it.

Mayor Gibson: we pay up front and then the owner pays us back.

Jenelle Berthoud: HDR invoices us and then I send an invoice out to the developer.

Mayor Gibson: any other questions? Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

6. Public Hearings

a. Budget Amendment for FY 2022-2023

Mayor Gibson: introduced the public hearing, budget amendment for Jean Thomas funds. Update, we have some funds donated to help cover some of those costs, I spoke to Sean with the Civic Club, and they are going to step up and pay the difference.

Councilmember Barker: is that leaving anything in that fund?

Mayor Gibson: what I was told today, \$16,000?

Councilmember Barker: \$13,000-\$16,000. At the last meeting I was told.

Mayor Gibson: after this \$10,000 there should be around \$15,000 in the Jean Thomas fund.

Councilmember Barker: correct, that should be that.

7. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 518, a Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year Budget 22/23

Mayor Gibson:

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion

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, in the executive report we will have another discussion about the pool.

b. Discussion/Decision: 2-Year Extension Request for Final Plat Filing Deadline for Twin Creeks Subdivision Phase 2

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item b. Remind you this was originally approved some time ago and then approved by the council again, and now there is another owner. Jenelle, please correct me if I am wrong, this would be the third request.

Jenelle Berthoud: Councilmember Barker you have that in front of you. in the notes section of that agenda item, it is listed there.

Mayor Gibson: we can go to public comment, we don't need a presentation on the number of houses.

Ron Ewart: with PCI: Mark Stermites (unclear on spelling of his last name) is with us tonight and is the attorney that is representing the new owner. it has been purchased by a new owner and is preferring to take his time and come in with phases two and three all at once. He has looked at different angles to this and if for some reason the council does not approve this tonight he will still move ahead. He would start the process and whatever is not completed by January 25, 2024, would then have to go through the legal process. I have been talking with the current Twin Creeks HOA, we are working together well. These would be medium priced homes. If you give us the extension, then we can get to work on all of this.

Mayor Gibson: when we discussed this before, we don't have to and the owner does not have to, what puts us in a place is the original intent when this was approved you were going to start

digging dirt in March. I understand new owners. We had a discussion; Twin Creeks is a little different than other subdivisions. There is a \$300.00 per lot for law enforcement, which is what you agree with. And then there is utility hook ups, if this goes through what is the intent? Is it to pay as you go, because before the previous owner said that they would pay it all up front, I am more interested for the law enforcement. What is the intent on that if that goes through?

Ron Ewart: I would have to talk with Ken and Max Wolff, they are the owners of this, and they live in Colorado. I can ask them if they want to pay it all upfront.

Mayor Gibson: the only reason that I ask this is, it is not going to be my place to approve or disapprove, but especially with lots it makes it really hard to budget in the future. The last extension you were going to start in March and complete in December of 2023. We have to plan ahead, and you talked about revenue. I know that we can't say that you have to and, in some ways, it is illogical for the water and sewer hook ups. Because when this keeps getting delayed it is revenue for the town, we are in the process of starting the next budget. And it includes law enforcement and I know that it is only \$300 times the number of lots.

Ron Ewart: right around \$10,000.

Mayor Gibson: and that is a lot for Stevensville. So let us know, please.

Ron Ewart: we can postpone the meeting to next week and I am sure that he will say yes because he wants to get this going.

Mayor Gibson: the law enforcement not the utility hook ups. Council? Do you want to make a motion

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve 2-Year Extension Request for Final Plat Filing Deadline for Twin Creeks Subdivision Phase 2 .

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Barker: no

Councilmember Brown: abstain.

Mayor Gibson: can I ask you why.

Councilmember Brown: because I work, because what I do for a living.

Mayor Gibson: how does it with the title company, I am not saying that you can't abstain I just need.

Councilmember Brown: I feel that it is a conflict of interest for me to vote on a project that may or may not be in by office.

Mayor Gibson: alright.

Councilmember Lowell: no, because you should talk to Mr. Wolff before these decisions are made.

Councilmember Michalson: no.

Mayor Gibson: we have 3 no's and one abstain. I would say as you suggested, and we could bring this up at the next meeting and you can bring this up to the new owner and talk about the law enforcement money and that might help. Jenelle, we will put it on the next agenda, June 8th.

Jenelle Berthoud: I would need that information by May 31st at noon.

c. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayors Appointment of Jessie F. Voss as a Volunteer Firefighter

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item c. Consent to the Mayors Appointment of Jessie F. Voss as a Volunteer Firefighter

Councilmember Michalson: ,make a motion to approve the Consent to the Mayors Appointment of Jessie F. Voss as a Volunteer Firefighter

Councilmember Lowell: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Michalson: regarding both of these, can we get a number from Jeff on these, we are going to need that for the budget in regards to uniforms.

Councilmember Barker: something else that we have mentioned in the past is these people that we are putting on the fire department, bring them to the council so that we can put a face to it.

Mayor Gibson: I agree 100%.

Councilmember Barker: we say yes, and it is great that they are bringing these people in but again I think that they need to be recognized through the public.

Mayor Gibson: I agree, and I will get with Chief Motley so in the future that will happen, I thought that they would be here. We have a motion and a 2nd. Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

d. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayors Appointment of Erica Cochran as a Volunteer EMT

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item d. Consent to the Mayors Appointment of Erica Cochran as a Volunteer EMT. And as Councilmember Barker brought up, I will bring that up to Chief Motley.

Councilmember Michalson: I make a motion to approve to the consent to the Mayors Appointment of Erica Cochran as a Volunteer EMT.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd public comment, seeing none. Any 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

8. Board Reports

NONE

9. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Barker: I just have some people that have concerns on the debris that were picked up May 1st -7th I guess there was a lot of misconception on what type of debris was going to be picked up they have branches and shrubberies that need to be picked up and before they could drop it off at the park. Now they are left with these types of items curb side. I myself have five bags sitting curb side that were not picked up. I don't know if we were missed again seems like we are out of sight out of mind. I was asked to bring this to the attention of town employees.

Mayor Gibson: I wish Steve Kruse had not left, we have had calls and I actually drove around it was on the water bill it was posted here we have had calls and it was on the website. It said what could be picked up.

Councilmember Barker: the people that came to me are older and I don't think that they have internet service or not.

Mayor Gibson: I will get with Mr. Kruse. I went to one place where someone had called and complained, and it was piles and piles on a tarp. That is not possible. In fact, you did not. Did you have them out by that date. If you can, let us know the people and their addresses.

Councilmember Barker: one on 2nd Street is we are noticing that people are leaving their branches piled.

Mayor Gibson: if you can give me more specific information and if it is as in your situation. We made it very clear that you had to live in town.

Councilmember Barker: this is Mrs. Detwiler. I think that is her name, she had some shrubbery that was not picked up.

Councilmember Brown: the special town council meeting on June 1st, I am leaving town and I am hoping to be back in time, but I can't guarantee.

10. Executive Report

Mayor Gibson: it is short notice will the other three of you be able to be here, what it is about is discussing the pool fees.

Jenelle Berthoud: I went back ten years, not many changes pretty stagnate.

Mayor Gibson: pretty much unchanged, Councilmember Lowell has been asking questions about the pool, it is always at a loss. Different numbers every year. The pool fees have not been raised since 2013. Everything is going up, to operate the pool and paying the lifeguards. That is one of the things that will be on there and then a discussion/decision for the town to take over the operation of the splash pad. We have a letter from the contractors, ensuring that it meets standards, when this was all done before, it is going to be another operating cost. We will have a recommendation for the pool fees, and the civic club will be here to present about the splash pad.

Councilmember Lowell: are the water guys doing the maintenance on it now, are they already doing the maintenance on the splash pad?

Mayor Gibson: I don't think that there is a lot to do at this time. They have to turn it on and then do checks every day.

Councilmember Lowell: is it going to be another big thing.

Mayor Gibson: we have gone through MMIA.

Councilmember Lowell: another question is there still money owed on it?

Mayor Gibson: not by us.

Councilmember Lowell: I don't want to accept that liability if we still owe.

Mayor Gibson: not that I know of. Good question to ask. The pothole bill has passed. We don't know how much we get but I will be calling tomorrow. There is some confusion on when we get the money and how much and then we want to put out bids for some streets. Not used for equipment no match. The ARPA grant, I am setting up a meeting with HDR and the hope is that the bids can go out in July for leaks and water storage. The water rights, a lot of objections. Ross Miller and I meet every week. One out there at this time, is Trout Unlimited. If this is all resolved, we could be looking at water court done in September. The .gov looks to be completed by July. Capacity study, same meeting with HDR next week. We have two new people, and we will be meeting to discuss.

11. Adjournment

APPROVE:



Steve Gibson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk