

**Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes for THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023,
6:00 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall**

CONDENSED MINTUES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Gibson called the meeting to order, Councilmembers Barker, Brown, and Michalson were all present. Lowell has an excused absence tonight.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

NONE.

4. Approval of Minutes

Jenelle Berthoud: very busy in the past week, you will have those minutes with the next set of minutes at the next meeting.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #18561-#18583 (18584-18592) additional.

Mayor Gibson: introduced approval of bi-weekly claims.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve #18561-#18583 (18584-18592) additional.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd

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

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 3-0

6. Administrative Reports

a. Airport

b. Building Department

c. Finance

d. Fire Department

Chief Motley: you have in your packet the August report. Chief Motley introduced new members to the fire department. Pretty basic.

Councilmember Barker: how many members on the fire department?

Chief Motley: about 18. Full roster would be 28.

f. Public Works

Councilmember Brown: thank you for cleaning up Father Ravalli Park.

Steve Kruse: it is not done yet but thank you.

e. Police Department

Chief Sosa: you do not have your normal report tonight due to technical difficulties. Tonight, I am going to address the council, mayor, and the citizens. It has been an honor and a privilege. Chief Sosa gave a run down of all of the items that he and his officers have been able to work on over the past two years. Built relationships with the Sheriffs Department, worked on traffic concerns, threat assessments at the school, shop with a cop and the chili cook off. We have been creative with our funding. The police department has saved tens of thousands of dollars with in-kind donations and volunteers. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Mayor Gibson: with the permission of the council, I would like to say a few things about Mac Sosa. Mac turned this culture around, enhanced our relationships with other law enforcement agencies. Went door to door when he got here, not many complaints about Mac. I have been reopenable for over 250 employees in my time in Montana, I can honestly say that Mac is in the top two.

7. Public Hearings

a. Resolution No. 522 a Resolution Providing for the Amendments of the Budget for FY 22/23

Mayor Gibson: introduced public hearing, Amendments of the Budget for FY 22/23.

Public Comment: None

8. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 522, a Resolution Providing for the Amendments of the Budget for FY 22/23

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item a.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve Resolution No. 522, a Resolution Providing for the Amendments of the Budget for FY 22/23

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. It is a small increase for audit purposes, electricity has gone up and we underestimated. Any discussion? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 3-0

b. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 523 a Resolution to Authorize the Cancellation of the Town Council General Election for 2023

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item b. spoke with the clerk and we will save about \$800 to not hold the election.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve Resolution No. 523 a Resolution to Authorize the Cancellation of the Town Council General Election for 2023.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 3-0

c. Introduction: Airport Manager William Rowe

Mayor Gibson: introduced new airport manager Will, asking him to introduce what he is doing already and his plans.

Will Rowe, Airport Manager: spoke about what he has accomplished since September 1st. I have been on the board and could see that I could serve the airport better as the airport manager. Sat the first few days just going over everything. Jenelle helped quite a bit. Between the two years of missed lease payments is over \$25,000.00. there is a lot of paperwork issues, previous airport manager, things that had gone on before, we are cleaning all of this up. Lights have been fixed, moving has been an issue, but the Stevensville Airport Association has been helping out. AWOS system has not been working for years, this is one of the things that I have tackled. That is just a few things that I have done in the past 14 days. I would like to see all of the lease payments caught up by the end of October.

Mayor Gibson: thank you, I have been amazed, this is going to be a real breath of fresh air for the airport.

d. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayors Appointment of Joshua W. Brock as a Volunteer Firefighter

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item d.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve the Mayors Appointment of Joshua W. Brock as a Volunteer Firefighter.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd

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

Chief Motley: he is actually next-door doing truck checks. Josh comes to us from Hawaii, he is a certified fuel truck driver, certified in CPR and first aid.

Mayor Gibson: Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 3-0

e. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Todd Schafer as Interim Police Chief

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item e.

Councilmember Barker: make a motion to the consent of the mayor's appointment of Todd Schafer as Interim Police Chief

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sean Doyle, President Stevensville Civic Club: just wanted to verbalize an endorsement from the Civic Club and the Scarecrow Festival. With all of the four events held in Stevensville, we have worked along side Todd, Mac leaves some pretty big shoes to fill I think that Todd is going to fill those very well. He is professional and courteous. I have watched him at the school, my kids love him.

Todd Schafer: it has been an honor and a pleasure. I also want to say that he was not the only one for the last two years, I only missed out a few months, and every decision that he has made has been a joint venture. Don't expect any changes everything he has chosen I have agreed with so the police department will function as you have seen.

Mayor Gibson: thank you Todd, any further discussion?

Councilmember Michalson: I would like to say Todd and I have met many times on my walks and have had good discussion. looking forward to working with you, because I will be here awhile.

Mayor Gibson: Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson:

Mayor Gibson: Passes 3-0

f. Discussion/Decision: To Allow Hookups to Water and Sewer Services from the Town of Stevensville for Two Additional Dwelling Units

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item f.

Jenelle Berthoud: I do have Kelly Arnold on email from public health.

Mayor Gibson: you have everything in your packet, is there any public comment, I do not see Mr. Reeves here. He knew about the meeting

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to allow Hookups to Water and Sewer Services from the Town of Stevensville for Two Additional Dwelling Units for Mr. Reeves.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd.

Councilmember Michalson: reviewing the minutes I too have been through this as you too Mr. Mayor. It stated in 2019 he came before the council, Mr. Reeves purchased the property and wanted to be annexed. He was not annexed but was allowed to hook up to water and sewer. I was under the understanding then that it was just for one not for three. And now it has morphed into three, I have issues with the ground water and the grey water, I was out there today and walked around the pond, there is machinery out there, things have not been taken care of out there. He had assured the town that he was going to take care of it, if he was here, I would say that Mr. Reeves did not take care of it for the town.

Councilmember Brown: has the town been out there to see what is going on.

Steve Kruse: no.

Mayor Gibson: no. it is not the towns, it is the county. He mentioned that he wanted to build two cabins, those cabins were built over two years. The complaint came from a resident to the county and the county contacted.

Councilmember Brown: I was just wondering if anyone was out there to inspect the water line.

Mayor Gibson: no, the county has inspected it heavily after they received the complaint. The county has had a hearing. Whether it is Mr. Reeves or anyone else, while I have been here there have been numerous "I want to hook up, but I do not want to be annexed". This sets a precedence.

Councilmember Michalson: I agree with Mr. Mayor this sets a precedence; the town of Stevensville does not have to grant this. I think that I will open up a can of worms, I do not want to be a part of it.

Councilmember Barker: I have to agree with Mr. Michalson. We have had several people come, and we have not even finished building what is behind Twin Creeks, and we are still dealing with that. If we were to go in and supply him a line, we are then a part of a mess that he has gotten himself into.

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

Councilmember Barker: no.

Councilmember Brown: no.

Councilmember Michalson: no.

Mayor Gibson: fails 3-0

g. Discussion/Decision-The Town of Stevensville's regular Town Council meetings to be moved from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item g.

Councilmember Barker: make a motion to move The Town of Stevensville's regular Town Council meetings to be moved from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Councilmember Michalson: 2nd.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vicky Motley: I would agree to moving it back to 7:00 pm.

Mayor Gibson: I have a few things to say, and it is your decision, we have gone through this twice and I have had two complaints about the time change. Councilmember Michalson went to a county commissioner meeting with me at 10:00 am and there were about 10-15 people there. No time is ideal but also as we sit here right now there are citizens in our town that work in grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, there is never a perfect time. Most important it is about budget, staff and efficiency. We have a situation right now where we have two people, we have to leave the office open until 5:00 a couple of times we have had to close at 4:00. It is up to you, and I am not going to be here for much longer, so it is not for me, it is in consideration of the staff, overtime, today these two people were here before 8:00 and then until 5:00, until 6:00 and then until this is over. These people do not live in town, to make them clock out, go home and then come back and clock back in. When these meetings were at 7:00 it was mostly the same people that came at 7:00 came at 6:00. This is your decision, but I just don't think that it is an efficient use of staff time or budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Tadvick: 509 Mission Street, I guess I would ask what the girls want, coming into winter, the roads getting bad, do these girls want to come home and then come back on the roads, has anyone asked them what they want to do.

Mayor Gibson: are you comfortable council with Jenelle making comments.

Jenelle Berthoud: if it is okay with the council. Meeting times yes, they are only twice a month, but when we have a long week or there are only two of us here, getting off at 5:00 and clocking out because of budget restraints and staff issues combined and then having to be back here at 5:30 for a 6:00 meeting or if it is a 7:00 meeting we have to be back here at least by 6:15 to open town hall. Winter, I thank you for thinking of us in that sense, I don't think that any of us like to drive on any of these roads in the wintertime, especially when it gets dark earlier. For me I greatly appreciate when you, the council passed the resolution for meetings to be at 6:00 pm. It gives us the opportunity to get a few things wrapped up and get ready for the meeting, having town hall open by 5:15 and then ready by 5:30 to let people in. I like 6:00 but of course it is up to you.

Gina Crowe: thank you Mrs. Tadvick for bringing that up I really appreciate it. I really love working here, it is very challenging and rewarding. Know that I do not live in town but know that I have a lot of responsibility outside of work. One thing I would like to see is 5:30, I know that when you get home you have to make dinner and then have to come back, I would like to keep it at 6:00 if we can, it is easier on both Jenelle and I when we are trying to get things done and represent the town as we should.

Mayor Gibson: I did go through the league of towns book and about 75% meet before 7:00.

Councilmember Brown: I would like to make a comment if you move the meetings to 5:30, I know that we are a bedroom community a lot of us travel from Hamilton or Missoula. I get back at 5:23 to my house, almost every night.

Mayor Gibson: I would agree with that, they would like to leave this at 6:00.

Councilmember Barker: the reason that I brought this forward is that there are people that have asked to have this changed. It is for all of us to come to a conclusion. I understand that you work long hours, it is for us to all come together for what is the best.

Councilmember Michalson: what if we met in the middle and made it 6:30. It would give the public more time to get here and yes it would take a half hour of your time but then we would be meeting in the middle.

Mayor Gibson: it is up to you.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to amend it to 6:30.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd to change it to 6:30. Any further discussion on that to vote on the amendment to move it to 6:30. Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 3-0.

Councilmember barker: we still have a motion on the first one.

Mayor Gibson: to vote on the amendment.

Councilmember Michalson: we voted on that.

Jenelle Berthoud: you had a motion and a 2nd on the original time change. Councilmember Michalson made a motion to amend that, so we need to go back and vote on the original. Voting on your first approval and 2nd to go from 6:00- 7:00pm.

Councilmember Barker: no.

Councilmember Brown: no.

Councilmember Michalson: no.

Mayor Gibson: motion fails.

9. Board Reports

Councilmember Brown: Airport Board report, you introduced the new airport manager Will Rowe, thank you for stepping up. Lights and windsock are being taken care of. Stevensville Airport Association has a lounge up and running. On the claims about the radio, it has been returned and is being used.

Councilmember Barker: Park Board meets next Tuesday.

10. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Michalson: Mr. Kruse, if we could have the fall leaf pick up back that would be nice.

Steve Kruse: that is the intent

11. Executive Report

Mayor Gibson: this is one of the bad days, there are a lot of rumors about when I am leaving. I am going to stay through the budget, I don't feel that it is fair to leave you or the staff. We have met with the department heads to look at the budgets. Our goal is possibly to have a preliminary budget meeting. My intent is the end of October or my birthday in November.

12. Adjournment

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Steve Gibson, Mayor



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk