

Stevensville Special Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024, 6:00 PM

206 Buck Street, Town Hall

CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

NONE

4. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Rescheduling of the C.O.W. Meeting

Mayor Michalson: introduced unfinished business item a. Rescheduling of the C.O.W. Meeting. As you all know we should have been doing this tonight, but this takes a higher relevance.

(Councilmember discussion about schedules and conflicting meetings)

Councilmember Smith: make a motion to schedule the COW meeting for the 30th at 6:00 pm

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Any further discussion? Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

5. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Appointment of Ward 2 Vacant Seat as per, Town Council Rules Part XIV Section 3

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item a. Two good candidates. The candidates will be asked the same questions

Councilmember Barker: make a motion to approve appointment of Ward 2 vacant seat as per town council rules part XIV section 3.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion? Public comment?

APPLICANT NUMBER ONE, JOHN ANDERSON

Councilmember Barker: Question number one. What do you believe is the role of the town council in our community.

John Anderson: the town council is to give direction to the employees and make sure that the budget is on the up and up. I think that has been sadly abused in the past, but it is coming back.

Councilmember Brown: Question number two. If appointed to the council what would be the first thing that you would do after being sworn in.

John Anderson: more about the procedures for one. Not that familiar with the protocol. Have attended a lot of meeting over the past and would pick it up quickly.

Councilmember Barker: Question number three. What is your opinion on the importance of public engagement in the decision-making process.

John Anderson: very important and think that it has been lacking in the past. Haven't participated a lot in the past, but it has stuck with me, and I like it.

Councilmember Brown: Question number four. Are you familiar with the Montana Municipal Official Handbook and if not, are you willing to attend training seminars.

John Anderson: sure. I am not familiar so I would be willing to do whatever it takes.

Councilmember Barker: Question number five. We get a lot of criticism how would you handle criticism for constituents and the media.

John Anderson: In previous jobs I took my share of criticism from employees and customers so I think that I can handle what comes down the pike. It is never easy; you kind have to roll with the punches and that is how I deal with it. As a group you support each other. To me teamwork is part of it, and it helps when you have to go up to someone.

Councilmember Brown: Question number six. Tell me one word that sums you up professionally or personally. And what do you stand for.

John Anderson: first of all, I am retired. I always stood for doing the right thing and be honest and reliable. To be fair to others as I want to be treated fairly, like I said, it has to be a team effort. I have always tried to live by them and not live beyond my means and that is pretty much the story of my life.

Councilmember Barker: question number seven. What unique skills, experiences or qualifications could you bring to the town council position.

John Anderson: I worked as a service manger. They gave me a shot and I was there five years later.

Councilmember Brown: question number eight. Tell me one professional or personal accomplishment that you are proud of and what steps did you take to make this happen and what did you learn.

John Anderson: probably was the time that I spent as a service manager and when I was hired, I was looking for a mechanics job and they said we need a service manager. We visited for about two hours, decided that we would work together, and he held up to his end of the bargain and I felt like I had. It was not easy for the first year, but we got through it and from then on it was a very positive and rewarding job meeting with customers. I stuck it out and it worked out. That was probably my shining moment in my career and the other was always having a job. I never did have to go to the unemployment office, and I fancied that and kept my head above water.

Councilmember Smith: Question number nine. On the application that you submitted for consideration the final question reads, Please refer to chapter 2 article 3 of the Stevensville Municipal Code for duties and responsibilities of a town council member, a councilmembers duty include attending regular meetings, public hearings, sitting on boards assisting the development of the town budget, implementing the budget, adopt resolutions and ordinances, policies for the town and assisting in resolving issues relevant to the town. Do you have the time to dedicate to these duties as required? Personally, I have noticed serving on this council is life altering even for a retiree such as ourselves and I have only served for 18 days and have already seen that. Mr. Anderson would you please elaborate on your yes answer and tell the council on any steps, if any you have taken for such a life changing time consuming and even time constraining service.

John Anderson: well as you spoke, I have been retired for 15 years sometimes life gets a little boring I have hobbies that keep me going, overtime I have noticed what is necessary. I like to think of myself as running a pretty tight ship. I have had some things in my life that were very challenging. I lost my first wife, made adjustments and here I am today, married almost 25 more years. I think if I need to put dedication into it, I can make adjustments pretty easily that would carry me on to what the challenge would be here, time wise and otherwise.

APPLICANT NUMBER TWO, ISAIAH NELSON

Councilmember Barker: Question number one. What do you believe is the role of the town council in our community.

Isaiah Nelson: from a little bit of the studying that I have done, I think that it is to listen and pay attention to the community and what is going on in the community. Brings those forward and help pick the best options for the community and keep it as awesome as I think that it is.

Councilmember Brown: Question number two. If appointed to the council what would be the first thing that you would do after being sworn in.

Isaiah Nelson: take a deep breath. I can't say that I know I haven't really had much experience and I wont lie there. I hopefully be quite and listen and learn on what is the smartest thing to do.

Councilmember Barker: question number three. What is your opinion on the importance of public engagement in the decision-making process.

Isaiah Nelson: I think that it is essential, and I think that it is one of the reasons that this country has gotten out of hand, sadly to say, is that people are not actually listened to. I think that it is essential to a community and to the country to hear what everyone has to say. Pick the best path for the community and the country as a whole.

Councilmember Brown: Question number four. Are you familiar with the Montana Municipal Official Handbook and if not, are you willing to attend training seminars.

Isaiah Nelson: I am going to attend training. I am not too good with legal jargon and am willing to learn.

Councilmember Barker: Question number five. We get a lot of criticism how you handle criticism for constituents and the media.

Isaiah Nelson: handle it? I would try to address it in a calm manner, I have learned slowly but surely to be calm and pay attention something that my parents tried to instill in me. Criticism is one thing; I would go forward and try to make that right and to be better in the future.

Councilmember Brown: Question number six. Tell me one word that sums you up professionally or personally. And what do you stand for.

Isaiah Nelson: I like to stand for truth. Dedication.

Councilmember Barker: question number seven. What unique skills, experiences or qualifications could you bring to the town council position.

Isaiah Nelson: like I said I don't have much experience in this field, I have always worked in public service, and it is where I have always ended up. I would say that I bring that level to it, and I have much to learn. Public service would be the biggest thing that I bring to it.

Councilmember Brown: question number eight. Tell me one professional or personal accomplishment that you are proud of and what steps did you take to make this happen and what did you learn.

Isaiah Nelson: I would have to say the biggest one would be fighting to overcome cerebral palsy. I was born with it, and I have been told since I was a kid that I will be in a wheelchair for years. I was taken to doctors and every couple of years you are going to be in a wheelchair. I had a lot of help from my parents and guidance, and I took that and ran with it, and I trained myself to focus on it on a daily basis and to keep it prevalent in my mind I am standing before you today not in a wheelchair. Still training.

Councilmember Smith: Question number nine. On the application that you submitted for consideration the final question reads, Please refer to chapter 2 article 3 of the Stevensville Municipal Code for duties and responsibilities of a town council member, a councilmembers duty include attending regular meetings, public hearings, sitting on boards assisting the development of the town budget, implementing the budget, adopt resolutions and ordinances, policies for the town and assisting in resolving issues relevant to the town. Do you have the time to dedicate to these duties as required? Personally, I have noticed serving on this council is life altering even for a retiree such as ourselves and I have only served for 18 days and have already seen that. Would

you please elaborate on your yes answer and tell the council on any steps, if any, you have taken for such a life-changing, time-consuming and even time-consuming service.

Isaiah Nelson: Before I filled out the application, I thought about that. If it came about that I was asked to join the council, I work nights and I have always been used to that and it is normal for me. I have days and I believe that my time to could be fulling dedicated to it I have nothing holding me back from attending and I have nothing holding me back from emergency meetings.

Mayor Michalson: called for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Lussenheide: I am here as a character witness for Isaiah Nelson. (Gave testimony for Isaiah Nelson as the next councilmember.)

Davis Mazode: 935 Gash Creek, have gotten to know Isaiah Nelson over recent months. Very honest, good character. (Gave testimony for Isaiah Nelson as the next councilmember.)

Kathy Smith: over the past year have gotten to know Isaiah. Very interested in being a part of this community. (Gave testimony for Isaiah Nelson as the next councilmember.)

Robert Peter: 176 Indian Prairie Loop, Isaiah wants to establish roots here in Stevensville. he is one of the most polite young men that I have met. (Gave testimony for Isaiah Nelson as the next councilmember.)

Vicky Motley: 318 9th Street. I have known John Anderson for many years. I have sat with him at many council meetings. He is very helpful, dedicated and I think that he would be a very good addition to our council. (Gave testimony for John Anderson as the next councilmember.)

Jeff Motley: 318 9th Street. I have also witnessed John at many council meetings. I do not know John very well, but I do know that he listens and processes. I think he would be a great addition to the council. (Gave testimony for John Anderson as the next councilmember.)

Mayor Michalson: any other public comment.

Councilmember Barker: I want to thank each of the candidates for applying. It takes a lot, and it does take a lot of time.

Councilmember Brown: thank both of you for coming out. The seat will be up again in 1 year and eleven months. There will be an election, Stacie's term, my term and the term that we elect tonight will be up. There are opportunities so keep that in mind however this turns out.

Councilmember Smith: thank you both, this is not going to be easy, and I have known Isaiah for quite awhile and I was listening to John's answers.

Councilmember Smith: I would move that we nominate and elect Isaiah Nelson to Ward 2.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion?

Councilmember Brown: this is an extremely difficult decision. I think that both people would serve in the position well. Going to be difficult.

Councilmember Barker: the questions were answered very well. Going to be a difficult decision don't think that if you are not that person that we do not chose that there isn't a chance for you because there is always a chance.

Mayor Michalson: anything from the public. Jenelle, would you take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: no

Councilmember Brown: aye.

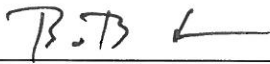
Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: motion passes 2-1. Isaiah Nelson you are our new Ward 2 councilmember. I can swear you in tomorrow morning at 9:00 am.

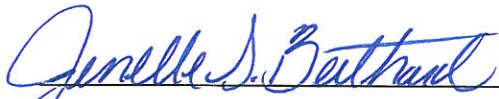
6. Adjournment

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Bob Michalson, Mayor



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk