

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026, 6:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Crews called the meeting to order, Councilmembers Bailey, Ross, Wandler and Smith were all present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

John Schneeberger: gave an overview to the council about snowpack in the western United States. (the map provided to the council is included with these minutes)

High School Students Cole and Jacob: gave an overview of their recent constitutional competition on the state level and that they are moving onto the national finals in D.C. (their flyer is included with these minutes)

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting Minutes 01/08/2026

Mayor Crews: introduced town council meeting minutes for 01/08/2026.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve town council minutes 01/08/2026.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. public comment, council discussion. hearing none Jenelle call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: yes.

Councilmember Ross: yes.

Councilmember Wandler: yes.

Councilmember Smith: yes.

Mayor Crews: okay.

b. Special Town Council Meeting Minutes 01/12/2026

Mayor Crews: introduced special town council meeting minutes for 01/12/2026

Councilmember Bailey: I will make a motion to approve Special Town Council Meeting Minutes 01/12/2026.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. public comment, council comment, hearing none, I will call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: carries 4-0

c. Town Council Meeting Minutes 01/22/2026

Mayor Crews: introduced town council meeting minutes for 01/22/2026

Councilmember Bailey: make a motion to approve Town Council Meeting Minutes 01/22/2026.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. public comment, council comment. Okay call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: okay

d. Special Town Council Meeting Minutes 02/09/2026

Mayor Crews: introduced special town council meeting minutes for 02/09/2026

Councilmember Ross: I move that we approve special town council meeting minutes for 02/09/2026.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. public comment, council comments? Hearing none, I will call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: carries 4-0

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #20172-#20210

Mayor Crews: introduced bi-weekly claims #20172-#20210.

Councilmember Smith: I move to approve #20172-#20210.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Public comment. Council comment?

Councilmember Smith: I would like to move that we take #20174 and look at that at the end, do you know what I am trying to get at. Delay it until the end.

Mayor Crews: do I understand that you want to pull claim #20174 out as a separate item on the agenda.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: there is a motion and a 2nd to move claim #20174 to be a separate to be approved by the council.

Mayor Crews: is there any comment on claims #20172-#20210 with the exception of #20174.

Councilmember Bailey: page 74 of the packet there were several line details on the packet.#20197 Stevensville Hardware. For \$14.54 looks like for work gloves and batteries and then there is another purchase for \$14.55 and then another line for \$51.00 and I did not see a detail as to what was purchased under those amounts.

Mayor Crews: Robert do you have an answer for those?

Robert Underwood: those were divided among the three funds that were used. Water, sewer and general fund.

Mayor Crews: if I remember these are incidentals that they needed out in the field.

Robert Underwood: when you see this, it is a breakdown of what goes into each fund, if you see the breakdown of the whole list it is bolts, sealants. If I calculated it back out we can see the total and the breakdown within the funds. It is the list of everything.

Councilmember Bailey: thank you.

Mayor Crews: any further questions on that claim, any further comments on the set of claims? Please call for the vote on that set of the claims.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: okay. 5-minute recess.

Mayor Crews: reconvene the council meeting. Pick up on claim #20174.

Councilmember Smith: the reason that I am looking at this and pulling it out, Cash and Go Cars \$658.00 it turns out to be a tune up, replacing sparkplugs and boot kit. That just seems to be a lot, I wonder if we can break it down, is there a receipt for a breakdown on this.

Robert Underwood: sparkplugs, \$29.00 each, \$232.00. Plastic boot kit for \$76.00. Labor for 2 ½ hours \$350.00. total of \$658.00

Councilmember Smith: how much were the sparkplugs?

Robert Underwood: \$29.00 apiece.

Councilmember Smith: obviously I find that a bit high, thank you for the explanation and I know that it has been paid, but I would like to ask Mr. Mayor if it is a possibility that we can do something in the future, like a motor pool type thing were we can put out to bid a mechanic and get three or four bids.

Mayor Crews: I have already started discussion with the department heads, Chief Motley, Chief Boe, Stephen Lassiter and our airport manager to discuss the details

of being able to do maintenance and how to reduce the cost of that maintenance. In the near future we will be having a few more get-togethers and maybe come up with a plan to create a motor pool agreement with one or more local mechanics. This claim is up for a motion.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve claim #20174.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: any public comment or further council comment. Call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: okay, thank you

6. Administrative Reports

a. Airport

Brian Germane: report provided in the packet. Have been troubleshooting our runway lighting and what we have found out about that is one of the systems had failed and through an old warranty it was covered and has been fixed, then we had to purchase a transformer, but the real disappointment is when we found out that our remote receiver for our lighting system seems to be struggling. What this system does, because we are not a manned airport, when you are flying in the pilot keys the mic 3, 5 or 7 times to turn on the lighting at the airport. It is a remote receiver that hears those keys of the mic and then turns on the lights. That is what has failed now and I am working with a vendor that thinks they may be able to service it. This component is 40 years old and has come to the end of its life. Right now, the airport does not have any lighting at night. CIP projects, the fuel farm is the active project right now, just waiting for the tank to show up. To be delivered in March. Late March early April to be up and running. Next week we will start advertising for our pavement project rehab. Last time we did not have anyone bid. I expect to see some bids this time and on March 12th we will be opening those bids. (Brian talked about the fuel sales) We had the annual board meeting with Montana Aeronautics, mowing has been a struggle for us, and we put in a grant request at the end of last

year for a mower. This was a long shot because they do not fund mowers for airports. We went at the end of January, and they agreed to fund us \$57,000 for a new mower. We will work through that process.

b. Building Department

report provided in the packet.

c. City Court (annual court report)

report provided in the packet. (Mayor Crews read the city court report into the record).

d. Finance

Robert Underwood: report provided in the packet. Cash report for January 2026, right now the cash is looking the best that it has looked in a long time. Reconciliation of the monthly bank statement that matches the cash report minus \$160.23 that is a charge over at the end of the month, just a clerical thing until next month. The next one is Revenue; in the general fund we are right at 61% where we should be.

Expenditures, first sheet is the general fund: admin and legislature 58%, fire and police 52%, public works 59%, parks, Total is 54% general fund. All of the other funds are at 33%. The one claim that Ms. Bailey wanted to know about was for batteries and gloves.

Mayor Crews: Public comment?

Jim Battisti: for some reason I always thought that the town of Stevensville was poor. This four million dollars, where is the council on saving versus spending.

Mayor Crews: I don't know if you are familiar with our budgeting process in about another month we are going to be analyzing everything that we have to do for the town, every expenditure and every dollar coming in and we will adjust our spending to meet our income. It is a process and I invite you to come and participate. We are looking pretty good on our funds, but we still have a lot of work to do before the end of our fiscal year. By the end of fiscal year most of that will be spent.

Jim Battisti: if there were funds left is there a special item that we would do this with.

Robert Underwood: it does sound like we have a lot of money, I have been here for seven years, and it has been at about four million. It is divided among the funds, example there is the lighting funds, water and sewer are our biggest funds, we do have money in the asset funds for water and sewer but that is one project when it comes to a grant match. Looks like a lot of money but it is divided up, example

would be the \$355,000 in the TIFT fund and can only be spent on that little area over by the railroad tracks. The only fund that you can even do anything with is the general fund and that is our tightest fund.

Mayor Crews: a matter of fact right now we are looking for a little extra money to cut some trees down before we have an issue.

e. Fire Department

Jeff Motley, Fire Chief: report provided in the packet. (Chief Motley read through his report to the council) in January we had our annual banquet and award ceremony and for the town and the district. Between the town and the district, we have 54 volunteers on the roster the town has 21 of those on the town roster and we only pay workman's comp for those 21. (Chief Motley went through last years numbers for fire calls) we gave out some fire service awards at the banquet. We gave out 2 five-year awards, 1 ten-year award, 1 twenty-year award and 1 thirty-year award. We had 2 brand new fire fighter 1's in the program and 2 EMT basics last year. We promoted 1 person to captain, and we promoted 2 from cadets into fire fighters and 2 EMT's. we just completed our ranks in the EMT class, and we had 3 of ours go through the class and pass. They will be credited and credentialed as our EMT's. This last year we gave out 6 lifesaving accommodations, and we also gave out 8 critical care accommodations. We have 8 different members of the department that preformed life saving events last year.

Mayor Crews: I want to tell the chief thank you for putting on such a wonderful banquet and thanks for raising such hero children that you have.

Jeff Motley: we are proud of them too. Councilmembers we do this every year, so when you get your invitation please come and that is paid by the association.

f. Police Department

John Boe, Chief of Police: report provided in the packet. Officer Baugh will be completing his third week at academy. By all appearances he appears to be thriving. Officer Franklin and I recertified on the intoxicator 9000 today. Everything seems to be on track and the maintance on our fleet is all good. I also attended the fire fighter banquet and thank chief Motley for that. (Chief Boe read through his report to the council)

Councilmember Ross: are the accidents happening in the same area.

John Boe: Like I said previously, where I am looking at is Eastside at Main going south. Today property damage was at 3rd and Main. Buck and Central last week.

Councilmember Ross: are they speeding.

John Boe: no, it is just not paying attention. We are getting a lot of traffic accidents and no snow.

Councilmember Bailey: updates on the tasers and new computers.

John Boe: we got all of our equipment in last week, next week we should be doing our certification to carry the tasers.

Councilmember Bailey: the computers are installed in the vehicles yet.

John Boe: we do not have those on order yet, we are waiting on the results of the Chilli Cook Off. The Civic Club and the American Legion have been a big help in getting the word out about the event. We are going to use a lot of that to pay for the items that we use day to day, so we do not spend that money out of the budget.

Jeff Motley: I think that we have way more traffic then we have ever had. Much busier.

g. Public Works

Report provided in the packet.

7. Correspondence

a. Formal Resignation from the Planning & Zoning Board, Mr. Gibson

Mayor Crews: this has been published in the newspaper and on the internet. read the letter into the record. (letter will be included in these minutes) Mr. Gibson thank you for your service and we appreciate everything that you did.

Mayor Crews: I request the town council to suspend town council rules and move items a and e before unfinished business.

Councilmember Smith: to suspend council rules and move item a and e before unfinished business.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd . discussion from the council, public comment. Jenelle would you please take the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: okay.

New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 540A, a Resolution Adopting a Fee Schedule & Charges for Special Events and Park Use by the Town of Stevensville

Mayor Crews: read the resolution into the record to include Exhibit A. (included in the agenda packet) What brought this all on at a previous council meeting we were studying some of the material on how these fees came about, and we realized that our special event ordinance had not been followed in 16 years. In the previous resolution no. 540, it read annual fee of \$100.00 not to include all of the other stuff. We changed that to make it more fare to everybody. Is there any public comment before we start.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sean Doyle: former president of the Stevensville Civic Club. Over the last few years, I have been involved in 18 special event permits. It says power is \$20.00 per day. Give an example of Scarecrow Festival, there are electrical outlets on E 3rd both sides, does that mean that the charge would be \$20.00 per day or does it go to number of plugs. What does this \$20.00 per day mean.

Mayor Crews: right now, we made it be consistent with the previous resolution. Set at \$20.00 per panel, we did not discuss individual trucks.

Sean Doyle: the old one said per panel this one says \$20.00 per day.

Mayor Crews: how many panels did you use previously?

Sean Doyle: depends on the definition of panel.

Mayor Crews: what I understood it was the power panel that you supplied.

Sean Doyle: spider boxes that scarecrow used, but at the end of 3rd we were using the towns power for music. We used the spider boxes so we could convert from 50amps to 20.

Mayor Crews: so, in that case you were charging \$20.00 per panel, so \$40.00 for hat event. Right now, we are set at \$20.00 per event. Should we change that to be per day per panel, that would be the question that I would have.

Sean Doyle: I will guarantee that the six food trucks that park on 3rd and you say \$20.00 per day they are using more than \$20.00 in power.

Mayor Crews: so, your recommendation would be \$20.00 per day per panel. That is the idea behind starting to use these and meter them out, that is an option that council can discuss.

Sean Doyle: when it comes to using those meters there are a grand total of 8 plugs and 4 of them are 50amp and 4 of them are 20amp. Can those plug into a 50amp. Something to take into consideration because we have a few more 50 amps. You will need to make sure that you have enough of them. Road closure with town staff. Creamery has volunteers but we do not use the town resources to block the streets, but we do use to move the barricades. Public works has always volunteered to move them for us. Would we still be held to the \$25.00 per block.

Mayor Crews: when we discussed this at the COW meeting, the parade would not have a road closure fee.

Councilmember Ross: I move that we discuss Resolution No. 540A, a Resolution Adopting a Fee Schedule & Charges for Special Events and Park Use by the Town of Stevensville.

Mayor Crews: are we going to discuss or make a decision?

Councilmember Ross: make a decision.

Mayor Crews: can you rephrase your motion

Councilmember Ross: I make a motion that we make a decision on Resolution No. 540A, a Resolution Adopting a Fee Schedule & Charges for Special Events and Park Use by the Town of Stevensville.

Mayor Crews: with a motion like that it is neutral, are looking to approve or disapprove the motion.

Councilmember Ross: approve.

Mayor Crews: would you please rephrase your motion again.

Councilmember Ross: I move that we approve Resolution No. 540A, a Resolution Adopting a Fee Schedule & Charges for Special Events and Park Use by the Town of Stevensville.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion?

Councilmember Wandler: does that include the modifications that we just discussed?

Mayor Crews: no, if you would like to move to change that you need to make a sub motion. Please, we are training while we are conducting business.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we would approve that we would do from \$20.00 per day to \$20.00 per day per panel.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd.

Councilmember Smith: I would like to know the projection to how soon we can get these online and some that can do 50 amps.

Mayor Crews: that is a good question, I cannot give you a projection because we have not done our testing.

Councilmember Bailey: may I ask a clarifying question, special event permit with alcohol fee, so if I want to have a special event with alcohol I pay \$125.00 and \$200.00.

Mayor Crews: correct.

Councilmember Bailey: do we want to strike special event permit and leave alcohol fee \$200.00.

Jenelle Berthoud: can't have an alcohol event without a special event.

Councilmember Bailey: so, I am just trying to clarify, if I want to have a special event with alcohol I will pay \$325.00.

Mayor Crews: that is correct.

Councilmember Bailey: so, the way that it is written to me is special event permit with alcohol I should just pay \$200.00 because I want a special event with alcohol. It is like a second option, so it is just a \$75.00 upcharge how it is currently written.

Mayor Crews: this is actually how it is written in the ordinance.

Councilmember Bailey: I think that was my question at the COW meeting.

Mayor Crews: that could be reworded to say, special event permit with additional alcohol use fee. Or something to that effect.

Councilmember Bailey: I do not see why we have to have special event permit in their at all, we can't have a bonfire without a special event so we can't have alcohol.

Mayor Crews: I see what you are saying, it should say alcohol fee \$200.00 per special event permit.

Councilmember Bailey: that would make sense to me.

Mayor Crews: before we go past this, we will need a vote on the amendment \$20.00 per day per panel.

Councilmember Ross: do we want to discuss changing that to outlet instead of panel, it sounds like we are using more outlets than just the two panels.

Mayor Crews: I would say lets keep it simple for right now, and we will know more when we use these things (referring to kilometers).

Councilmember Smith: that changes everything.

Mayor Crews: we need to vote on the \$20.00 per day per panel. Public comment on that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John: Editor for the Bitterroot Star: I want to clarify, you are saying \$20.00 per day per panel, per event, so in each event. You have the meters here at the same time, are you charging for use?

Mayor Crews: no, what will happen is it would be \$20.00 per day per panel. These would come in and after we do our analysis and even see if we can meter the power so that the individual only pays for what they use, we put the provision in here so that we would have it when we actually get these ready to go.

John: and what was the wording on that revision.

Mayor Crews: meter use fee is kilowatt use times the fee.

John: when does that take over versus the \$20.00 per day.

Mayor Crews: as soon as we can get these in place or the individual may just decide to do the \$20.00 per day.

John: bigger power users would use that.

Mayor Crews: like Sean would say, the cooler trucks.

Brian Germane: I feel like we should define what a panel is because I don't think a panel, electrically speaking, a panel is not what we are talking about here, right. A panel is a piece of electrical distribution that is typically metered. I feel like without defining that this wording is just going to keep getting debated.

Mayor Crews: Sean could you explain your panels.

Sean Doyle: our definition of a panel is what we call a spider box, an a-frame that goes on the sidewalk and one side of it has multiple outlets on it and we can take that and plug it into a 50amp plug and that allows us to split that into multiple 20amp plugs that can be used by smaller pieces of equipment, panel from a electricians stand point is again when you look at the back of Exit realty and see all of those plugs that would be a panel, there is going to be a circuit breaker and so on. The spikes in the bushes would be another panel. That is why I was asking for a definition of a panel because the boards that we provide, but it is usually the configuration of the plugs at the source.

Mayor Crews: the panels that we are talking about are the spider panels.

Sean Doyle: correct.

Mayor Crews: so, maybe this should be modified to say spider panel.

Sean Doyle: spider boxes is just what we have them nicknamed.

Councilmember Smith: if someone can answer from an electrical point of view what are the boxes called if they are not panels.

Brian Germane: a panel is where the breakers are and then generally a metered piece of electrical distribution. There is some conversation presiding this and some confusion on what we are calling this maybe part of this is that we should define what a panel is and then we are talking about these spikes and if someone goes to plug into one of the spikes is that also a panel at the same rate.

Mayor Crews: we cannot have these side conversations. You need to address the panel.

Jenelle Berthoud: I can give an example of when a spider box would not be used, is when somebody wants to rent 3rd street and plug one extension cord into the pole. No spider box needed. No what are you calling that and then comes into town hall and asks for that.

Jim Crews: so, this can get really complicated really quickly if you are talking about a single outlet or a spider box or a portable generator panel. It was never an issue under the old resolution when we called it a panel, everyone pretty much understood what it was. Tonight, I think that we should just leave it that way.

Councilmember Ross: I disagree with that; I feel like regardless if you are using a spider box or not it is using one outlet. So, if you label it as an outlet not matter what you are plugging into it is still one outlet, this would limit any confusion.

Mayor Crews: so, you would be looking at \$20.00 per day per outlet?

Councilmember Ross: just per outlet, and if they plug in one spider box and that gives them 10 outlets they are only paying one outlet fee of \$20.00.

Mayor Crews: to approve \$20.00 per day per panel. So, that motion would need to be modified to say \$20.00 per day per outlet.

Councilmember Smith: I would take an amendment to that.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: this is a little abnormal, so there is an amendment to the sub motion to change it to \$20.00 per day per outlet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Basitti: if we are going to be consistent I guess the name of that thing is a power distribution box. A panel that you have in your house is something different and a spider box is a common name use for this power distribution box. So, if we could just call it what it is, a power distribution box and then similar to what Councilmember Bailey said, we are talking about tapping into the power it is going to be \$20.00 but if you need the power distribution box it should be more, just like the alcohol fee. You can have electricity plus the electricity box.

Mayor Crews: if I may, we do not own the power boxes they are supplied by the Civic Club so we cannot charge rent on their equipment.

Jim Basitti: if they break down someone is going to have to pay for it.

Mayor Crews: what we are trying to do is make this as simple as possible by changing this fee to one outlet. If you plug into 3rd Street, and the spider box you are only going to get charged for one outlet. \$20.00 per day per outlet. Further council discussion, Jenelle take the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: okay.

Mayor Crews: So, the original motion was to say \$20.00 per day per panel so you have changed that so we should take a vote on that to shut that down. Jenelle take the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: no

Councilmember Ross: no

Councilmember Wandler: no

Councilmember Smith: no

Mayor Crews: good, the final fee is \$20.00 per day per outlet.

Mayor Crews: then the next thing is the special event permit alcohol fee to be changed to alcohol fee \$200.00 per special event.

Councilmember Bailey: I make a motion to strike special event permit with alcohol and add alcohol fee per special event permit \$200.00.

Mayor Crews: strike, special event permit with alcohol to read alcohol fee \$200.00 per special event.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. public comment, council discussion. Jenelle call for the vote on that sub motion.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: now the motion on the floor is to approve resolution no 540a. any further comment on that.

Councilmember Bailey: third paragraph, I do not know why we need the word periodically. Do we need to have periodically in there.

Councilmember Bailey: make a motion to take strike the word periodically in paragraph three.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Public comment, further council discussion? Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: excellent.

Mayor Crews: main motion on the floor is to approve resolution no. 540a. any further council comment.

Councilmember Bailey: exhibit a, it says personal. Should be personnel

Mayor Crews: a typo. If you want to correct that I will need a motion.

Councilmember Bailey: I will make a motion to fix the typo on exhibit a from personal to personnel.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Public comment, council comment. Call for the vote Jenelle.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion carries 4-0

Mayor Crews: back to the main motion to approve resolution 540A. further comment? Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion carries 4-0

New Business

e. Discussion/Decision: Approval and Adoption of Application for Special Event Permit

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item e. this application follows the town code.

Sean Doyle: a couple of things that I would like council to understand on page 2 of the permit application, highway closure, yes or no. As we have done in previous parade permits, we have to at least have the towns provisional approval before anyone can apply for the MDOT permit. On the MDOT permit page 3 for highway closures, all over permits have to be obtained before applying for road closure. We have to have the towns approval so that we can submit it to MDOT and then when we get it we give it to the town clerk and it is done. I think we need to change that; has it been filed or something like that.

Mayor Crews: can something like that be brought to council as an independent item to close the highway without a special event process.

Jenelle Berthoud: then why would you close the highway if you did not have a special event permit.

Mayor Crews: that is what I am saying is that he can not meet the requirement of this without the other, and he can not do the other without this. Why not allow that if you want to close the road you come before council just as an agenda item to close the road and use the results for that vote.

Jenelle Berthoud: because he needs a copy of the special event permit showing that it was signed off to turn into MDOT that gives proof that the town council gave him August 3, 2026, for Creamery Picnic Parade, for an example.

Sean Doyle: as part of MDOT's permit application we do have to provide the town permits, our traffic control plan, we have to provide insurance, unfortunately the same things that the town requires to get the state permit. I have dealt with three different supervisors in Missoula and they are all adamant that you have to have it. Because as soon as you select no on the application check box the permit gets rejected.

Mayor Crews: how are we handling it right now with the old form. The old form says yes or no.

Jenelle Berthoud: an example of that would be; Sean would come and meet with me on February 1st; we would sit down and talk about what is coming up for their year. We would put forth to the town council that special event form that we are currently using and on there the Civic Club will put or Sean would put, MDT's road closure permit for Main Street will be included on "blank". I note this and I know that I am going to take the special event permit to the mayor to approve it to go to the council and during that meeting they will ask if Sean has had any luck yet and Sean will say as soon as you approve this tonight and I will send it in tomorrow.

Mayor Crews: as you the clerk how would you recommend we change this.

Jenelle Berthoud: I think that there needs to be a little more options to that question, clerk or mayor initials.

Mayor Crews: if we say "highway closure yes or no if yes please attach road closure"

Jenelle Berthoud: we would just make a side note that it was in process.

Councilmember Smith: what if we were to just put on there as they are filling it out, town conditional yes or no. then it is has already been taken before us.

Mayor Crews: for a road closure it only needs your signature.

Jenelle Berthoud: correct. We discussed that you are right. But I can't give road closure for the highway, and the highway department can't give the civic club approval without the special event permit.

Councilmember Ross: could you state will obtain highway approval and conditional with approval within ten days.

Mayor Crews: we could change it to say if yes please attach department of transportation road closure permit to the approval page of the permit.

Sean Doyle: the old form actually says highway or street closure; this one is just saying highway on the new one. one of the things that we could do with the highway closure on the form is the town could request a copy of the traffic control plan and parade routes in advance to get that conditional approval to then file for department of transportation, and then what another councilmember said put in a statement that says conditional permit accepted but could be declined if not provided 21 days before the event. What has happened in the past is that we have worked directly with Chief Boe and the parade routes and he will speak at the meeting and say that he has seen it and that he approves it.

Mayor Crews: council if I can make a recommendation, lets table this for a bit until the next council meeting until we can work out the bugs.

Councilmember Ross: and that should still allow us to approve the previous permits on the old form.

Mayor Crews: that is correct.

Councilmember Ross:” I move that we table the approval and the adoption of the special event permit. Until next council meeting, 02/26/26.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd, public comment, discussion from the council. Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: thank you.

Mayor Crews: motion

8. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Approval of Special Event Permit for Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market

Mayor Crews: introduced unfinished business Approval of Special Event Permit for Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market.

Jess Bundren: president of SHVFM. Stacie Barker is also here. We are at W 3rd street, going on for 14th year. I want to mention that the mayor did sign off on this permit prior to resolution no 540 being brought up and the new permits being brought up. I don't want to say too much right now because I am speechless.

Mayor Crews: I approved this permit tentatively before it came to town council because town council has to approve it. I did approve it from my standpoint and after we looked at this I realized that was not the right thing to do. The approval was not mine it is the council. The thing that has really changed is the fees.

Jess Bundren: yes, the fees that is my concern, it was approved before Resolution 540 came back onto the table and the resolution was also brought back to the table prior to our permit.

Mayor Crews: what we discussed at our COW meeting if council or the mayor discovers an error it is our obligation to correct the error.

Jess Bundren: this error has been in effect for the last 16 years and has been overlooked just like the power panels.

Mayor Crews: I understand that that is why we are trying to stop it, it was in fact been in effect since 2008 the fact that it has not been addressed since then is not a good thing.

Jess Bundren: so, you are admitting that you also overlooked this when you in this seat.

Mayor Crews: when I was here in 2016 and 2017 apparently I did as well, but we have several councilmembers that did as well.

Jess Bundren: we are also adding a \$15.00 fee.

Mayor Crews: yes we are, that fee is to pay for the clerks work that she has to do to process this every two weeks

Jess Bundren: I understand that because I have to do the work too. Does that fee go towards maybe changing that ordinance in the future.

Mayor Crews: that fee is to cover the work of the employee doing the work to process the permit.

Jess Bundren: I guess what was brought up in the last meeting the permit has to be put in every two weeks and it gets approved tonight for our dates listed on that paper is the paperwork that we are putting in every two weeks just for paperwork.

Mayor Crews: you have to bring it back to council every two weeks until we can get the ordinance changed.

Jess Bundren: even though the permit that we are putting in for is for May 2nd-October 4th.

Mayor Crews: yes.

Jess Bundren: so, there is a chance lets say on August 3rd.

Mayor Crews: the people of this town elected me to enforce the laws, and I am not going to break them. If the ordinance needs to be changed you are more than welcome to put in an agenda item to have the ordinance changed and then we can start pursuing that, we have a punch list of things that we need to get fixed. This is not the only thing that needs to get fixed.

Jess Bundren: my concern is the farmers market has been here consistently with advertising in the same spot and if we get denied for two weeks out of our 23-week season, I am on hold with our vendors, advertising that we have.

Mayor Crews: why do you think that you will be denied?

Jess Bundren: it is first come first serve, what if someone comes in.

Mayor Crews: Councilmember Smith please stand by. The way that you do that is to put in all of your agenda items at one time.

Jess Bundren: put all 12 of our requests in, so I do not have to do it every twelve weeks. I just predate it every two weeks.

Jim Crews: exactly, fill it out, put your dates in when you want them to go to the council and get them to the clerk. we have an issue that we have to deal with because we do not hold council meetings every two weeks. We might have to hold a special meeting to approve your two-week time, we will look at the ordinance and changing it takes time.

Jess Bundren: I understand that, we are a 23-week season.

Mayor Crews: we are not here to hurt anybody what we are trying to do is apply to the law.

Councilmember Ross: as you stated in the first meeting that the permit applications that you submitted do hold the dates. I believe that you would hold first priority on all of the dates that you applied for.

Mayor Crews: does that make sense?

Jess Bendrun: yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Basitti: I also wear my emotions on my sleeve; I was just speculating to the young woman that just spoke. I am upset council, so the purpose of the town council is to make sure that the laws are enforced from your point of view and not knowing what is being discussed is leading us all down a road of disgust. If I get this right you want to make sure that the laws are right and correct, but in the process of trying to figure it out, everyone gets left not knowing and everyone is left with the ever changing wording, the power box, I still do not know what you guys are using, it would be so easy to have an issue that the council has a problem with, just say that we are going to adopt the old rules instead of what is going on. The power box, the closing of roads, who knows about all of this. It is Jenelle she knows exactly how to do all of this. There are going to be a lot of people coming in to ask her, it would be great to do it. as an educator we are all sitting here and wondering what you are talking about, I wish there was a screen to see what you are talking about.

Mayor Crews: with all do respect, we held a COW meeting to discuss this in an open meeting. In a council meeting these agenda items are prepared and we are supposed to discuss that item. Right now, we are discussing the farmers market special event permit, I understand your concern with the power boxes, but we have moved on from that.

Jim Basitti: the review of the law and the rules were left after the last town council meeting; they did not know what to do. It went from we know what is going on to we don't know what is going on even what a definition of an outlet is or a power panel. It is getting all jumbled up, you guys might know what you are talking about but to communicate it to us is your role.

Mayor Crews: like I said, the item on the agenda right now is to approve this permit. None of the other stuff is under discussion right now, none of the other stuff, it is

strictly approve a special event permit for 23 weeks, but it has to be renewed every two weeks by the town code.

Jim Basitti: but why.

Mayor Crews: because that is what the law says.

Jim Basitti: the new law.

Mayor Crews: the old law, the one that has been in effect for 16 years.

Jim Basitti: so, you are just clarifying the law, I am sorry I am speaking without really knowing the data and I am trying to defend others in the audience, whom I am not supposed to look at, to see where they are coming from and I hope that they do. The purpose of the town council is to make all of this to run smooth, it is not to find problems and cause new ones. That is what I see is happening here, can you see that? I am done.

Stacie Barker: 104 Winslett, I have been helping manage the farmers market for over 15 years. It really disheartens me that it has come to this, we are here for the public every Saturday. We have at least 100 vendors over the season. With the fees that have been proposed to us we went from a cost of \$225.00 annually to now we are looking \$890.00 annually. Those permits that we are talking about every two weeks is that \$15.00 each permit that we have to put in additional, plus the power. I understand that it was probably overlooked. I sat on the council; you sat on the council there was a time when the council came and said yeas we want a community event every weekend. Hamilton has three streets they pay \$500.00 for those three streets; it does not go in front of council it is approved through the city without the council consent. Why do we have to bring it back? We support a lot of things throughout the community. It saddens me that we will have to up our fees and not be able to support some of these events. Father's Day, Mother's Day; several of these events. I see it as a money-making thing for the town now, think about your town and the community. What has brought the community together. Same thing with road closures and all of the different things that you guys have proposed along with Creamery Picnic and now we have all of these fees. It saddens me to think that our town is tearing these types of things out. It started last year when there was a petition to bring us off of 3rd Street, yes there was it sat right there at Valley Drug. How many times did you come by and say the loud noise (referring to the mayor). It really saddens me that you guys are trying to take this away from us.

Mayor Crews: any further public comment? Jenelle do we have a motion to approve.

Jenelle Berthoud: no, you asked Jess to come up first.

Mayor Crews: is there a motion.

Councilmember Ross: I move that we approve the special event permit for SHVFM.

Councilmember Bailey: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion. Hearing none call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion carries 4-0

b. Discussion/Decision: Approval of Special Event Permit for Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market Father's Day Car Show

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item b. Approval of Special Event Permit for Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market Father's Day Car Show. public comment.

Councilmember Ross: I move that we approve of the Special Event Permit for Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market Father's Day Car Show.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. council comment, public comment. Jenelle, please call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: okay, thank you

9. New Business

b. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 581 a Resolution to Pay Recurring Claims Out of Cycle to Prevent Late Fees & Penalties

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item b. Resolution No. 581 a Resolution to Pay Recurring Claims Out of Cycle to Prevent Late Fees & Penalties. (read the resolution into the record also provided in the packet).

Councilmember Smith: I move that we adopt Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 581 a Resolution to Pay Recurring Claims Out of Cycle to Prevent Late Fees & Penalties.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. public comment. Council discussion?

Councilmember Wandler: hasn't this always been done.

Mayor Crews: we normally do things like approve out of cycle claims when town hall is closed around Thanksgiving or Christmas. What happens is we have a due date that falls before a council meeting, and we want to make sure that we do not accrue late fees and want to make sure we are saving money in not doing that. that is why this resolution is being put forward. Any further council discussion? Jenelle, please call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: okay.

c. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 582 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Adopting Park Hours for Stevensville River Park

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item c. Resolution No. 582 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Adopting Park Hours for Stevensville River Park. (read the resolution into the record, also in the packet).

John Boe: we are getting a lot of vehicular traffic in that area, our response during the late evening hours is more than during the day. Like Stevensville Parks, we like to close them to keep out suspicious activities.

Councilmember Wandler: that is the park down by the river.

John Boe: yes.

Councilmember Smith: is there a gate on the road.

John Boe: yes.

Councilmember Bailey: I thought that camping was going to be allowed down there.

John Boe: that is a different part of it.

Mayor Crews: the immediate part is the fishing access part, that is Fish Wildlife and Parks and we are beyond that. We have a double iron gate that we can close and lock, we need to stop this before someone gets hurt at night. Any public comment. Council discussion?

Councilmember Bailey: the rest of our Stevensville parks are closed from 11:00 pm-6:00 am per the ordinance correct. Because we have to have an ordinance for this park is because we are changing those hours from our standard hours, is that correct.

Mayor Crews: that is correct, the public works people go down in the morning to open it, and the police will close it.

Councilmember Wandler: Lewis & Clark Park is the only one that is lockable?

Mayor Crews: right now, it is not, we have to get a gate down there.

Councilmember Wandler: those are the only two that will be locked.

Mayor Crews: correct. Father Ravalli Park is not lockable, 6th Street Park is not lockable, Veterans Park is not lockable.

Councilmember Wandler: do we have any problems in those parks?

John Boe: up until closing the park at sundown, we were having significant issues, people camping overnight, people trashing the place. But what it does is it gives me and my guys to approach individuals who are in violation of the ordinance and run them off and it gives us an opportunity to get after people that are violating a specific ordinance and what they are doing, which typically keeps them out. Over the course of the past 6 months to a year since we brought this forward and

changed the closure time at the parks our response to Lewis & Clark has been cut in half. It just makes it easier and for the people that live in that area notice a significant difference in the vehicular traffic in and out of the park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stacie Barker: I was just wanted to say are you going to put a gate in the park.

John Boe: we are looking at doing that.

Stacie Barker: and what is the cost going to be.

Mayor Crews: we do not know that yet. Any further public comment?

Councilmember Smith: do we have any provisions for winter and summer hours.

Mayor Crews: this park will be sundown to sunup.

John Boe: we are basically, when the sun goes down why are you at the park.

Mayor Crews: Jenelle do we have a motion on the floor?

Jenelle Berthoud: no.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve Resolution no. 582 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Adopting Park Hours for Stevensville River Park.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Council comment or discussion. Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: okay.

d. Discussion/Decision: Re-Appointment of a Town Council President

Mayor Crews: introduce new business item d. Re-Appointment of a Town Council President.

Councilmember Smith: it will be my honor and pleasure to nominate Councilmember Bailey as town council president

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. public comment? Council do we need to discuss this; okay Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: carries 4-0, I will be gone the last full week of June.

Councilmember Bailey: just send me an email and I will put that in my calendar.

Councilmember Smith: remember if you are not available you can appoint someone also.

f. Discussion/Decision: Approval of Master Short Form Agreement for Professional Services between HDR and the Town of Stevensville

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item f, Approval of Master Short Form Agreement for Professional Services between HDR and the Town of Stevensville. we had some questions with our town attorney on this contract and that has been corrected, there was a question on who was going to do the locates, and that will be whoever is doing the digging. Other than that, the attorneys approval is the sign the contract. Public comment? Council comment or discussion?

Councilmember Wandler: I make a motion to approve Master Short Form Agreement for Professional Services between HDR and the Town of Stevensville

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. any further council comment. I will call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: carries 4-0

10. Board Reports

Councilmember Smith: we can congratulate Tamara again for taking the chair again. We also had some discussion on setting the time for the P&Z and that was changed to 6:00pm. A little better for the community to come to the meetings. we also had a very nice presentation regarding an 18-unit proposal on an apartment complex right across the street from the school. Very good program on what we saw, and we look forward to seeing more of it. outside of that I think that will sum it up unless you have anything Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Crews: we discussed term limits for the board members we also discussed the definition of the urban area; the urban area will be one mile south of town west of the Bitterroot River and east of the Supply Ditch, which is indicated on our planning and zoning map, that will be reviewed by the town attorney. She did attend the meeting last night to see what it is about. Ms. Ross did a pretty good job running the meeting.

11. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Smith: there is a quite a list of corrections that we are going to making in the future here, this is one of the reasons that you hear the old adage, the wheels of government move slow. This is primarily because we want to iron out all of these things, not for just today but for future citizens, councils and mayors so that it is all done in policy. It has been a little short on that so we will be working to correct it. that is so everything can run smoothly and fairly for everybody.

12. Executive Report

Mayor Crews: I do not have a lot to report, the last six weeks have been fairly hectic, a dramatic learning curve. I will be attending the conference in Livingston on the 4th, 5th and 6th so I will be out of town, you folks have a conference coming up and you have two members that should be going to it in May, you might want to look at your schedule, we should send two people at least.

Councilmember Wandler: where is it.

Jenelle Berthoud: located in Billings this year.

Mayor Crews: they are very educational, highly recommend that people go. We did hire a new town attorney Christine Lindley, she is getting her feet wet we expect her

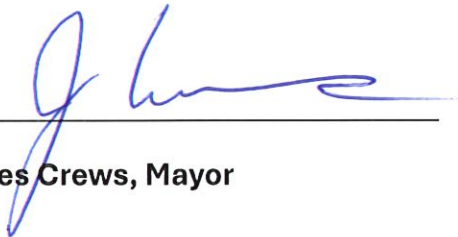
to help us out a lot. She is very fast at turning things out, this contract tonight she had done in hours. I will be meeting with department heads soon to talk about a few things, the motor pool idea, we at least have to bat around some ideas. The budget process is coming up soon I would like council consent to hold a COW meeting on the 18th so that Robert can come in and brief you folks on the budget and the process that we have to go through.

13. Adjournment

Councilmember Smith: move to adjourn.

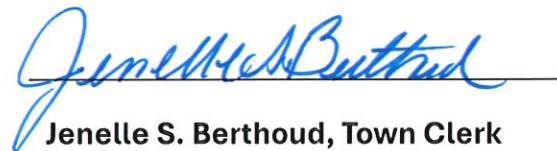
Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

APPROVE:



James Crews, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk

Observed regional trends in snowpack

Regional trends in April 1 SWE demonstrate that average annual snowpack has declined in large portions of the American West over the period of reliable measurement (1930s to present; Figure 3-7) (Mote 2003; Hamlet et al. 2005; Mote 2006; Casola et al. 2009; Mote and Sharp 2016). Some regions, such as low-elevation sites in the northern Rocky Mountains (including Montana) and the Cascades, have experienced more drastic reductions than other sites, such as high-elevation locations in the Sierras and central Rocky Mountains.

Trends in April Snowpack in the Western US, 1955–2016

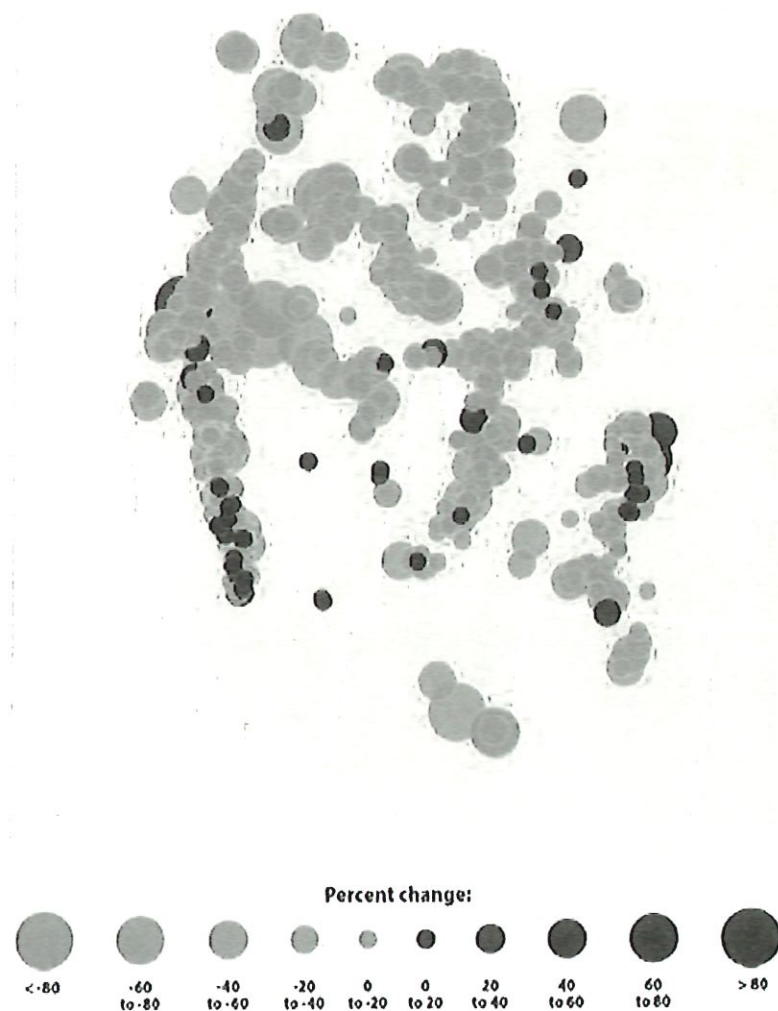


Figure 3-7. Trends in April snowpack in the western US, 1955-2016. Red bubbles indicate areas with declining snowpack; blue bubbles indicate areas with increasing snowpack. The diameter of the bubbles is proportional to the percentage change between 1955 and 2016. Figure from Mote and Sharp (2016).



DONATE TO SUPPORT STEVENSVILLE STUDENTS REPRESENTING MONTANA IN THE "WE THE PEOPLE" NATIONAL FINALS IN D.C.

Dear Friend of Montana Education,

We're reaching out with exciting news and an important opportunity to support an exceptional group of Stevensville High School students.

Our senior team — Anton, Emma, Cole, and Jacob — has qualified to represent the state of Montana at the We the People National Finals this April in Washington, D.C. This is a historic achievement: in nine years of competing, no Stevensville team has ever advanced to Nationals. They will now stand alongside the top teams from across the United States and its territories.

We the People is a rigorous constitutional competition built around mock congressional hearings. Students prepare 18 four-minute essay-style responses across six units, then defend their positions in real time before panels of attorneys, judges, and legal scholars. It is one of the most demanding and respected civics programs in the country.

Out of more than 30 million students who have participated in this program over the years, our team is possibly one of the smallest ever to reach the national stage. Their story has already been featured in the Bitterroot Star and Montana Right Now, highlighting the importance of strong civics education for all Montana students.

To make this trip possible, we are working to raise \$22,545 to cover contest registration, travel, and lodging for our four students and two coaches.

Your generous support will directly help these students represent Montana with pride, compete at the highest level, and experience an opportunity that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Thank you for partnering with our students and investing in the future of civic leadership in Montana.

How to make a tax deductible donation

Online Donations

Visit: www.stevivtp.carrd.co

Donate by Check

Please make checks payable to:

Stevensville High School

300 Park Ave

Stevensville, MT 59870

Please write "We The People" on the memo line.

EIN 81-6000829

Questions?

Contact Wes Wells

Email: wells@stevensville.k12.mt.us

Phone: 406-777-5481



Dwayne Gibson
Stevensville, MT

02/03/2026

Town of Stevensville
Town Council
206 Buck Street
Stevensville, MT 59870

Dear Members of the Town Council and Planning and Zoning Board,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from the Planning and Zoning Board for the Town of Stevensville, Montana, effective immediately.

I accepted this appointment with a sincere desire to serve the community and to contribute to thoughtful planning, collaboration, and responsible growth. I value public service and believe effective governance requires clarity, accountability, respectful dialogue, and a shared vision.

As a leadership development consultant, I have worked with many organizations and municipalities, and in my professional experience, I have rarely seen a town's leadership in such disarray. The Town Council's current environment lacks clear direction, and presents ongoing challenges that I believe would constrain the work of the Planning and Zoning Board and make meaningful progress difficult to achieve.

Given these factors, and the time and commitment required to serve effectively, continuing in this role is not a productive use of my time nor in the long-term interest of the town. Public service is most effective when leadership provides direction and fosters an environment conducive to constructive work.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served and remain supportive of the Town of Stevensville and its future.

Respectfully,

Dwayne Gibson