

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026, 6:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Crews called the meeting to order, Councilmember 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)

Sue Devlin: the disparity in the prices of water bills the last four months in October I used 1948 gallons, then I used 630, 480 and then 580. I still get charged \$133.00 a month I am very conservative of our natural resources, and it is just very upsetting. I know that you have the board coming together trying to look into what is going on. This is just atrocious.

Jess Bundren: I submitted a couple of letters that will be read, but I wanted to touch base on what our concerns are and our confusion on the ordinances. The first one that I want to talk about is definitions under section 12-19 where it defines a non-profit organization. Under the secretary of state we filed as a Montana Non-profit organization, under the federal we are an entity under 501-a. Under our tax exempt we are under 1.6033. Under those we are structured under purpose or requirements for nonprofit. Our fee schedule we are 98% vendor ran, vendors come in and pay a booth fee, that booth fee is for the market and the community, that money goes towards our insurance and a porta potty. We provide the porta potty so that our vendors are not using local businesses restrooms. We do music, advertising. We do special events once a month that specifically let's talk about Father's Day. We did a 50/50 raffle to go towards town parks, these events bring in extra vendors, so we get extra income, we thought that it was a good idea to match that 50/50 pot to go towards Lewis & Clark Park, again our vendor fees go towards community benefit. No profits are going to individual parties; I do not get paid to do all of this research I do not get paid to run the market I am doing this for fun and our community. As for town resources we use one block and one power pole, we handle our own set up and clean up, we provide our own barricades. We provide our own transportation for those barricades and at the end of the market day we do a walk through to make sure that the street is clean. Also, at the beginning of the market season, we all get together and do a big street clean up. Meet at 3rd Street and clean up the street and

the flower beds at Kohl Parking Lot, leaving the bags for public works to pick up. The next one that I want to talk about is 12-116 definition that defines Farmers Market and under that it only requires that the market hours come to council for approval. I was told that was the reason that our permit came to town council was because that ordinance listed that it had to come to town council for location to be approved, it does not assign authority to the council from what I am reading here it does not assign the authority for a special event permit. In 2015 resolution 156 came into play where the council talked about streamlining the process for how smaller events would go through the town, goes through public works, fire and police. Our event was approved on February 12th by the council. Section 23-315 the issues that were brought up at the meeting, the term on going is not defined; the term on going does not apply to us in the past 14 years. We set up for one day for 23 weeks, off and on though the season, I do not consider that ongoing because it is reoccurring. Back to section 156, if the special event permit is approved by all departments and the event involves less than a 1000 participants it may be forwarded to the mayor for final approval. My understanding is we turned in our application on January 9th, the mayor signed off on the bottom, approved, signature dated it January 13th, I consider that approved. On other resolutions that came through we have 491 in 2021 for a master fee schedule and the discussion was that they would separate the farmers market from other special events still listed under special events but it was an all inclusive fee of \$100.00 for five years we have been paying that all inclusive fee of \$100.00 but in 2024 that is when Resolution 540 came into play for a fee schedule and park use researching it the same interpretation of that was to be all inclusive the way that it was written and the why it was tabled at that meeting is because it states \$100.00 per season but does not include all of these other fees. I think what was to be interpreted was to include all of the fees. Then resolution 540A came into play and those event fees are not on there anymore, now we fall under special event. February 12th is the meeting this was approved, the fee schedule exhibit A was tabled. So, you still have to discuss the fee schedule, I encourage you to please go on and discuss it. I understand that fees have to increase, but the amount that it has increase for us is three times the amount of what we pay, it puts a huge dent in our budget we have paid a few of our bills for this year and we do have a few coming. We have a cushion for that but if we end up with all of these extra fees it is going to eat into that. the other thing that I ask is that respect Ordinance 156 it is based on departments and their approval and section 12-116 under location and hours, council approval. Thank you.

Mayor Crews: you pretty much covered everything in the letters that you sent to me.

Jess Bundren: the letters do have more information in them, and I tried to keep it short. Read her second and third letter. (these letters are attached to these minutes).

Mayor Crews: any further public comment? We will move onto minutes.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Special Town Council Meeting Minutes 02/02/2026

Mayor Crews: introduced Special Town Council Meeting Minutes 02/02/2026.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we Town Council Meeting Minutes 02/02/2026.

Councilmember Bailey: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Wandler: there are some grammatical errors, they do not change the meeting but if you could use spell check.

Jenelle Berthoud: I do my best to catch them.

Mayor Crews: do you have a list of the grammatical errors?

Councilmember Wandler: no, I do not.

Mayor Crews: any further comments, Jenelle please call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: passes 4-0

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #20213-#20226

Mayor Crews: introduced bi-weekly claims #20213-#20226.

Councilmember Smith: I move to approve bi- weekly claims #20213-#20226.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Wandler: I have a question, when reading the payments for #20203 are we paying more in interest then we are in principal. Are we ever going to get this paid off?

Robert Underwood: these are long term loans, 30-year loans, some of these loans were, every time that you go to the USDA and get money for something, they take your old loans and repackage them into new loans, it just kind of keeps on going, some of these are 40-year loans, it is a lot of interest. Interest that you see on here at the end of the year we recalculate and put that into the AFR and is adjusted at the end of the year. It is going to take a long time to pay these off, most likely the upgrade to the sewer plant or the water facility will have to occur well before these are paid off, so these loans will be wrapped into the next loan.

Councilmember Wandler: has there ever been any grants for these improvements.

Robert Underwood: yes, when we did the sewer and the water they give us grants and loans, and if we do not follow what they tell us to do they can turn our grants back into loans if we do not follow what they say. The federal government when they give you money and the council signs off to pay that money we have to follow that and that is why we had to raise our rates because we were not following that, USDA was looking at us and telling us we were not making enough revenue to keep our plants in good shape, they look at it and the town puts a lot in the game and they also give us a lot too.

Council Wandler: thank you.

Mayor Crews: further council comment, Jenelle please call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: passes 4-0

6. Correspondence

Mayor Crews: read letters from Farmers Markert vendors that have concerns with the proposed fees. (these letters are included in the minutes of this meeting) Mary Olson, Alice Hren, Laura Krum, Jacqueline Miller, Catana Miller

7. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 11A, a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council for the Creation of a Park Advisory Board, and for the Designation of the Powers and Duties of the Park Advisory Board and the Terms of Members

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item a. Resolution No. 11A, a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council for the Creation of a Park Advisory Board, and for the Designation of the Powers and Duties of the Park Advisory Board and the Terms of Members. Any public comment on Resolution No. 11A? First I will give you some background, this change came into play when the mayor was to appoint a member of the council to the park board, I do not believe the mayor has the authority to tell a councilmember what to do so I believe that councilmembers should collaborate and appoint one of their own. (7-3-203 read duties of the executive)the mayor is the executive branch, and the council is the legislative branch so I think that you should administer your own affairs. (read the resolution into the record, 11A)

Councilmember Smith: I move to approve Resolution No. 11A, a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council for the Creation of a Park Advisory Board, and for the Designation of the Powers and Duties of the Park Advisory Board and the Terms of Members.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Smith: under the second paragraph it states 15 miles. In our planning and zoning it states one mile; this might conflict with that.

Mayor Crews: I don't think that it conflicts with that, we have people that come all the way from Missoula to visit our park, the skate park is a very popular activity, and I have seen them come up all the way from Idaho. When this park board was originally created I think the founders knew that it would be vital to the community because it is centrally located. People come from everywhere, today down at Father Ravalli there were people from out of town.

Councilmember Smith: good explanation, I am glad to see it balancing out.

Councilmember Ross: I agree with you that people come from everywhere, I do not believe that there is a distance requirement for the airport board, so I do not think that it is appropriate to compare it to the planning and zoning board.

Mayor Crews: any other debate or comment, hearing none, Jenell please call for the vote.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Mayor Crews: passes.

b. Discussion/Decision: RFQ for Motor Pool Services

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item b, RFQ for motor pool services, this came about because we were examining some of the claims and we noticed that some of the repairs were a little strange on what was being done so, the council has requested that we request a quote from local mechanics. Any public comments?

Councilmember Wandler: I make a motion for an RFQ for Motor Pool Services.

Councilmember Bailey: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. this will go out in a general area.

Councilmember Smith: just for my own information, how many fire trucks, trucks and cars does the town own.

Mayor Crews: I d not have an accurate answer on that; I know that we have 6 trucks down at the treatment plant and a half dozen here for the departments plus we have equipment at the airport.

Councilmember Smith: we have three squad cars, is that right?

John Boe: we have three Explorers and one pickup truck.

Councilmember Smith: a pretty decent pool for a small town.

Mayor Crews: any other council comment, Jenelle call for the vote.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Mayor Crews: okay.

c. Discussion/Decision: Approve Grant Creek Excavating LLC Contract for Sump Replacement

Mayor Crews: I request that council table this issue, we have some legal issues that we are working out with the towns attorney before we can go forward.

Councilmember Bailey: I ask that we table the approval of the Grant Creek Excavating LLC Contract for Sump Replacement.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd to table this issue, any public comment, any further council comment? Jenelle when can we bring this back?

Jenelle Berthoud: the COW meeting is scheduled for 6:30 we could bring it back before that one.

Mayor Crews: 6:00 on the 9th. Thank you, Jenelle call for the vote.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion carries 4-0

8. Board Reports

NONE

9. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Ross: I was able to sit in on the audit report for the town, and it came back with flying colors it came back really good, congrats to the finance team

and everyone else involved, good work on that. also wanted to make a comment in regard to the farmers market, I appreciate everyone that came and spoke as well as wrote in, I know it is something that I have spent considerable amount of time the past couple of weeks and trying to figure out a solution that benefits everybody and I appreciate the time that Jess has put in researching all of that stuff it is really helpful and I am hopeful that we can come to a good solution that fits everybody.

Councilmember Smith: Talon when you have a council comments you get to have a personal opinion, when it comes to the farmers market, when we looked at this and saw how much the fees were going to be due to the rules that we have, well this is one councilmember that went unt ah. We cannot do this, this is way to much, trust us that we are looking into it to lower it down and make it, we do not want it to go anywhere, it is to good of a thing it needs to be here, and we are working hard to make sure that it does.

10. Executive Report

Mayor Crews: we will have final answers concerning resolution 540A most likely before the next regular council meeting it should be a very positive outcome. The nasty bug that has been going around for awhile does not seem to let go hopefully spring arrives and those of us that have been afflicted, the sun is still shining, and we can proceed to live again. I will be at the executive conference next week the 4th through the 6th I will be available by phone, and in case of emergency the council president, Ms. Bailey will assume mayor until I return. We need only one more citizen to fill the water committee as soon as it is filled we can proceed with this task. We are looking at incorporating the small plot of land across the river into the Stevensville River Park as was intended and making a few very low-cost fixes so that people can enjoy the overlook there, folks stop there daily eating their lunch and drinking their coffee, it belongs to us and we are going to use it. It has a nice view of the river and lot site maybe we can get Alfred from Miami to come and do a YouTube video on our boat launches. We have also started looking at the river park in general to see what we need to do regarding improvements. I understand that Gerry was down going through the park, we have a lot of work to do and a lot of cleanup. I have spent these last two months in office letting things run how they had without to much interference so that I can learn what we are doing and how we are doing it. During my quarterly report I will expand on a few things, it is not my intention to disrupt what is working, but to help improve the process but in any process change will not be welcome as we have recently seen. I want to thank all of the staff for taking the time and effort with the transition, it has been much more smooth then I

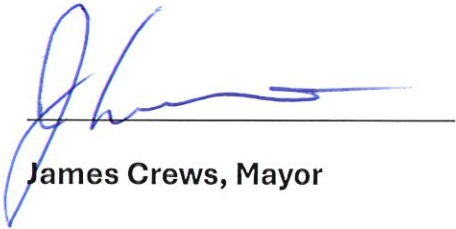
had considered it would be, thank you very much I appreciate it, I really do. Our town city attorney has been getting her feet wet in the needs of the town and getting up to speed on our litigation and routine needs like contracts and agreements, like anything there is a learning curve. It is nice to have a fresh set of eyes look at this stuff; we have actually covered some holes that we needed to fill, I have to thank Ms. Lindley for that. As councilmember Ross mentioned we had a very good positive audit report, no findings.

11. Adjournment

Councilmember Smith: motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

APPROVE:



James Crews, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk

Jess Bundren
Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market
Stevensville, MT 59870



February 17, 2026

Mayor Jim Crews,
Town Clerk Jenelle S. Berthoud,
Town of Stevensville

Clarification of Permit Process and Fee Application for the 2026 Farmers Market

Mayor Crews and Clerk Berthoud,

I am writing to clarify the process for the 2026 Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market Special Event Permit, based on the ordinance language in Sec. 22-315 and the approval timeline already on file.

Our application was submitted on January 9, 2026, and was approved by the Mayor on January 13, 2026. At the base of the application and under Sec. 22-315(a), when a special event involves fewer than 1,000 participants and is approved by all departments, "*it may be forwarded to the mayor for final approval.*" The same subsection states that the Mayor "*shall make a report to the town council regarding any special event issues,*" but it does not require Council action on the permit. Under this section, our permit fell under the Mayor-approval and did not require Council approval.

Although our permit was taken to the Town Council, it was not required to be taken there under Sec. 22-315(a). The biweekly renewal requirement in Sec. 22-315(b) "*If the special event or use is ongoing, renewal of permit shall be required every two weeks **and** be subject to the town council's approval.*" our event falls under Mayor-approval. This applies only when an event is both ongoing **and** subject to Council approval.

The ordinance does not define the term "*ongoing.*" This means it must be and should be applied consistently and in line with the town's own admin history. The Farmers Market operates one day per week for 23 separate Saturdays, during set hours. This makes it a recurring event, not a continuous, uninterrupted "*ongoing*" event. For more than a decade, the town has never required biweekly renewals for any seasonal or weekly recurring event, which means that "*ongoing*" has never been defined to include of this type of event.

Because our event is recurring and not ongoing, and because it is not subject to Council approval under Sec. 22-315(a), the biweekly renewal requirement in Sec. 22-315(b) does not apply, even though the permit was mistakenly routed to Council.



Additionally, the fee listed on our application at the time of approval was **\$100**, and the Mayor later signed a change to **\$125** on **February 4, 2026**. The new fee schedule in Resolution 540A was not adopted until **February 12, 2026**, so those new fees, including the \$15 renewal fee, cannot apply retroactively to a permit that had already been approved on **January 13, 2026**.

Given this, our understanding is:

- The permit was validly approved on January 13, 2026 under the fee schedule in effect at that time.
- The Farmers Market is a recurring event, not an ongoing continuous event.
- The bi-weekly renewal requirement in Sec. 22-315(b) does not apply because it only applies to events that are both ongoing **and** subject to Council approval; our event meets neither condition.
- The new fees adopted on February 12, 2026 do not apply, and should not affect permits approved before that date.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,


Jess Bundren

Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market
SteviHVFM@gmail.com

Jess Bundren
Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market
Stevensville, MT 59870

February 24, 2026

Mayor Jim Crews,
Town Clerk Jenelle S. Berthoud,
Council Members
Town of Stevensville



RECEIVED
2/24/26
J. Bundren

Clarification of Approval Authority

Mayor Crews, Clerk Berthoud, and Council Members,

I am writing to clarify the approval authority for the 2026 SteviHVFPM permit. The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the Town's ordinances are applied consistently according to their intent and long-standing administrative history.

Sec. 12-116, adopted in **2012**, defines a farmers' market and requires only that:

"The *location and hours* of the market shall be submitted for approval to the town council prior to commencing operations."

This section does not assign Council approval authority for the special event permit itself. It applies only to location and hours.

The Council approved the Market's location and hours on February 12, 2026, fully satisfying Sec. 12-116.

In **2015**, the Town adopted **Ordinance 156**, which amended **Sec. 22-315(a)**.

Council discussion at the meeting showed the intent was to streamline approvals, reduce Council agenda clutter, and move routine special events to administrative approval. The 1,000-participant threshold was adopted to keep most events, including the Farmers Market, out of Council approval.

- Special events with fewer than 1,000 participants, that receive approval from all departments: "may be forwarded to the mayor for final approval."
- The ordinance also states:
"The mayor shall make a report to the town council regarding any special event issues."

So, my understanding is that Ordinance 156 was adopted to streamline the special event process and remove routine approvals from Council agendas. Under this structure, the Council's role is limited to approving the Market's *location and hours* under Sec. 12-116. The Mayor is the final approving authority for the permit itself under Sec. 22-315(a).

Jess Bundren - Clarification of Approval Authority
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From 2015 through 2023, the Farmers Market permit was never taken to Council. This eight-year period of consistency reflects the Town's interpretation of Ordinance 156 and its intent to streamline approvals.

The Market appeared before Council in 2024 only because a petition forced it onto the agenda, creating an "issue" that required Council attention. In 2025, the Market was again placed on the agenda, which to the best of my knowledge was a routing error.

Fee Resolutions Did Not Change Approval Authority

- Resolution 491 (2021) adopted the annual special event permit fee.
- Resolution 540A (February 12, 2026) replaced that annual fee structure with a new fee schedule.

Neither resolution overrides Ordinance 156 or Sec. 22-315(a). The Market's 2026 permit was approved by the Mayor on January 13, under the fee schedule in effect at that time. New fees adopted on February 12 cannot apply retroactively.

I stand by my statements:

- The Market's 2026 permit was legally approved by the Mayor on January 13 under Ordinance 156.
- The Council's February 12 approval was for location and hours in Sec. 12-116.
- Sec. 22-315(b)'s bi-weekly renewal requirement does not apply to recurring weekly events under 1,000 participants.
- Resolution 540A did not change approval authority and cannot apply retroactively.
- The permit is fully approved. Issues involving fee questions do not create any legal authority to place an approved permit on hold.

I respectfully request that the Town proceed in line with its ordinances and the approval authority established in Ordinance 156 and Sec. 22-315(a).

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bundren".

Jess Bundren
Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market
SteviHVFm@gmail.com

From: Mary Olson <msmartyo32@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9:28 AM
To: Jim Crews <mayor@townofstevensville.gov>
Subject: Stevensville Farmers Market

Hello,

As a tax payer and longtime homeowner and resident of Stevensville; as a small business owner and independent contractor, the fees you intend on charging the farmers market is ridiculous. Not only does it bring business to our downtown, but it gives our community homemade products and options to keep money cycling through our small businesses. Adding unessesary charges and offering NOTHING exceptional in return is going to harm not only downtown businesses, but small business owners throughout our area. Pushing out locally made products and causing excessive expenses to those already trying to make ends meet.

Those who produce products for resale already try to keep their prices low, adding extra fees makes every price margin go up, making less lucrative for the customers.

There needs to be transparency about how these extra fees would benefit the community, as the market already pays for their own power and rental of the space. We implore you to bring a debate to the city council on this matter. If you can not offer another spot in town for the same pricing, you MUST NOT increase fees without providing any extra services or space.

Please keep our community affordable, in these desperate times adding fees will ONLY harm our community members. It will not improve our town or community at all. Without specific details on where the extra charges will be going to benefit the market or community it is your duty to throw these new guidelines out.

Thank you for your time,
Mary Gunter

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Jenelle Berthoud

From: Alice Hren <alicehren72@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 9:52 AM
To: Jenelle Berthoud
Subject: Added Fees

I have been a part of the Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market since 2017. I chose to become a part of this market after moving to Stevensville in 2015 to get acquainted with the people in the town of Stevensville. I have met many wonderful people and have some long lasting friendships. I have had people from all over the state of Montana and people from out of state visit our market and come back year after year. People love our Market. I am asking you to NOT add the new fees and administrative requirements to our Market.

I am requesting that this letter be read into record at the Council Meeting and go to all Council Members.

Thank you, Alice Hren
Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market Vendor.

Jenelle Berthoud

From: Laura Krum <lmkrum50@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 11:13 AM
To: Jenelle Berthoud
Subject: Increase in Fees

Dear Ms Berthoud,

I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the proposed increase in fees for special events and park use.

While I understand the need to periodically review and update municipal fees, an increase of this magnitude is deeply concerning and appears excessive. I fear this change will be detrimental to established community events such as the Stevensville Farmers Market and the Creamery Picnic.

These events are vital to the health of our struggling downtown. Local merchants on Main Street rely on the foot traffic they generate. As a county resident who drives into town every Saturday throughout the summer to shop at the farmers market—and frequently patronizes other local businesses while there—I have firsthand experience of their importance in bringing people to Stevensville.

I urge you to reconsider the scale of this fee increase to ensure the continuation of these essential community lifelines.

Sincerely,

Laura M Krum, PhD
4776 Longley Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870

Jenelle Berthoud

From: Jacqueline Miller <heartandthistleretail@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 10:03 AM
To: Jenelle Berthoud
Subject: Stevensville Market

Dear Town Clerk,

I was recently notified of the local market fees being updated due to recent decisions.

Please please help us fight to keep the market low cost. That is the primary incentive for folks to come to be a vendor at the Stevi market over Hamilton.

We could potentially lose our vendors if it is not longer marketable to stay here.

We own Heart and Thistle LLC. My name is Jackie Nicole Miller. We are a young family with three kids under 5. We use this event to help us have a "side gig" during the year. We really need the extra income. I just wanted to make you aware that this could negatively impact our family and community.

We are building our business starting with organic sugar scrubs. We seek to have a deeper message in encouraging folks that "Beauty can save the world." Many times, that beauty begins in your own home.

We've really enjoyed being able to participate in the local market and I think it's been an asset to the community.

Having an organic product line attracts folks from Missoula. Many of our customers have been from out of state visiting their families in Stevi. It seems like the market is a definite draw for people to visit stevi and support local business.

Reasons it would be bad to raise vendor site fees:

-We barely break even some days.

-this past year we made \$175, but with product cost, vendor, and help cost, we only made \$30. We said it was still worth it because we adore being a part of the family friendly event. Plus, it is fun to meet folks of all walks of life from Stevi. In addition, it provides advertising to the community of our small product line.

-If gauge prices, we are taking away opportunities for our kids. We want to encourage our kids to develop their own entrepreneurial skills in homeschool and wanted this as an outlet for them to create and sell their own products. This can help kids learn to create something of value and build confidence in their own creativity. Keeping things low cost can encourage all ages.

(As a homeschool momma, I already have a limited budget for these things.)

-If prices raise, then we would lose the small town vibe and become like everyone else. Stevensville will no longer be serving its local people.

Is there a reason for wanting to increase the fees here that is absolutely warranted? If it is just to match the prices of other markets to raise more money in Stevi, please know many vendors who need it may have to drop out and would be discouraged from starting up entrepreneur endeavors.

Why it's good to keep prices low:

- This is the cheapest and most helpful option in our area and serves as a stepping stone for getting into stores and local businesses.
- This makes our market full of vendors as opposed to empty.
- This encourages folks to stay true to Stevi and dissuades people from being a vendor at the busier market in Hamilton.
- This is our home and we want to keep things affordable. Why try to imitate the busier places?

Thank you,

Feel free to call me!

Jacqueline Nicole Miller

4065291950

From: Catana Miller <catemiller25@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 9:16 AM
To: Jim Crews <mayor@townofstevensville.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting

Dear Mayor and Members of the Stevensville Town Council,

I hope this message finds you well.

In light of the upcoming changes to the Stevensville public farmers market and the additional fees that may make participation cost prohibitive for some vendors, I would like to respectfully propose a potential solution that supports both our local businesses and our community.

I am considering opening my private commercial property at 108 Main Street as a location for a farmers/vendors market from May through September. My intention would be either to supplement the existing market by offering an additional market day (for example, Sundays) or, if appropriate, to provide an alternative location operating on the same days and times as the current market.

My goal is to ensure that our small vendors—many of whom rely on seasonal income—continue to have a viable and welcoming venue to sell their goods without undue financial strain. Another downtown market location could also increase foot traffic for its surrounding businesses and contribute positively to the vibrancy of Main Street.

To make this feasible, I would respectfully request consideration for temporary closure of the alley on the 100 block of Main St, behind my business at 108 Main Street during the vendor market hours. This would allow for safe pedestrian flow and proper vendor setup while minimizing disruption to traffic.

I am committed to working collaboratively with the Town to ensure appropriate planning, safety measures, and compliance with any necessary regulations. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss logistics and explore how this proposal might best serve Stevensville.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your ongoing efforts to support our town and its local businesses.

Sincerely,
Cate Miller
Stevensville, MT

Catana Maus Miller