

Stevensville Special Town Council Meeting Minutes

for MONDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2026, 6:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Crews called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Ross, Wandler and Smith were all present. Councilmember Bailey was not present, unexcused absence.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

NONE

4. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Approve the Recommendation of Christine Lindley as the Town Attorney for the Town of Stevensville

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item a. Approve the Recommendation of Christine Lindley as the Town Attorney for the Town of Stevensville. Public comment? Council?

Councilmember Smith: I make a motion to approve the recommendation of Christine Lindley as the town attorney for our great town of Stevensville.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion? I will fill you in real quick, myself, the human resource officer, the clerk and councilmember Smith interviewed the candidate a few days ago and she answered every question that I had and seemed to be very competent and that is why I brought her forth for a recommendation.

Councilmember Ross: Wally did you have any comments about the interview?

Councilmember Smith: I found her extremely competent. Somewhat direct and to the point and I like that.

Mayor Crews: any other comments from the council?

Councilmember Smith: Christine, I read this but my predigane is not working today. You graduated from school of law?

Christine Lindley: Pepperdine School of Law.

Councilmember Smith: thank you, good school.

Christine Lindley: in its time it was in the top thirty.

Councilmember Smith: you will have your school loans paid off when you are eighty.

Christine Lindley: pretty much, were there any other questions.

Councilmember Wandler: I was just wondering you live in Stevensville now?

Christine Lindley: no, currently my home and main office location are in Missoula, and I am in the process of moving down back into Ravalli county. The exact details of where the office will be located I am not sure there are a couple of places. We will give you an update when we know, and that is Lindley Law, LLC. When you are hiring me you are actually taking on my firm, I am a solo practitioner, and I have one office assistant that helps me and is another point of contact. You will that in the proposed contract.

Councilmember Ross: it mentions in here that you have been an attorney for about two and half years and you served as the Ravalli county deputy attorney and went into private practice, how long did you work for the county.

Christine Lindley: a little over a year.

Mayor Crews: Ms. Lindley would you please go over a brief synopsis of what you have been doing for the last couple of years.

Christine Lindley: for past couple of years as mentioned before, Councilmember Ross, I was right out of law school and was Ravalli counties deputy civil attorney and sometimes we would have two and other times no, I was in that other time. I handled advising both the county, board of commissioners and also every department at Ravalli county. I did a significant contract work, land issues, appeals, human resources, I went through one union negation. Have delt with those issues related to union contracts as well. Elections, take your pick there is a pretty wide category in there. And then for there I went to be an associate attorney, primarily my practice shifted from transactional to primarily litigation practice. What that shift brought a few different practice areas for me, so I also added that in there, construction law, defect some lien disputes. I have maintained doing government work thought out the entire time that I have been an attorney. Mainly that has been on the defense side occasionally not, I have really enjoyed working in local

government and would be happy to do it again. That is kind of why when this came available it fit perfectly.

Mayor Crews: further questions?

Councilmember Ross: with you having your own firm how do you feel your balancing between city and your personal business as well.

Christine Lindley: my own firm I only opened that up in November of last year, so we are still fairly small, and I am the only owner on it, so I have the ability to chose to take on a client or not based on how much work I have for my pre-existing clients. So, the fact that Stevensville would be getting in early, I still have some clients right now, but this is early enough and should have high level of control over that and I have an idea of how local government works.

Mayor Crews: no further comment from the council, Jenelle

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: most definitely aye.

Mayor Crews: motion carries 3-0. Welcome aboard. We will sign some paperwork and do a swearing in.

Councilmember Smith: we will give you some tissues for the crying that you will most definitely do.

Mayor Crews: five-minute recess.

Mayor Crews: reconvene the meeting. Swearing in of Christine Lindley.

5. Adjournment

Councilmember Smith: move to adjourn.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

APPROVE:



James Crews, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk