

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Bailey: called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Ross, Wandler, Smith and Bailey were all present.

Jenelle Berthoud: Councilmember Bailey is filling in tonight for Mayor Crews who had a medical emergency.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Sue Devlin: on Monday night my next-door neighbor called and said that my whole basement is flooded with sewer water. I called the mayor, who then called Mr. Lassiter, the raw sewage was this deep in my neighbors basement. I just want to thank Mayor Crews and Mr. Lassiter for finding out that it was three manholes down and they did an excellent job. Whoever has made the financial part of the minutes readable, thank you we can read them.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. C.O.W. Meeting Minutes 01/28/2026

Council President Bailey: introduced C.O.W. Meeting Minutes 01/28/2026.

Councilmember Smith: I move to accept the C.O.W. Meeting Minutes 01/28/2026.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Council President Bailey: any council comments on the minutes, any public comment? Okay lets take a vote on that.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Council President Bailey: okay.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #20211-#20212, #20227-#20267

Council President Bailey: introduced Claims #20211-#20212, #20227-#20267.

Councilmember Smith: I move to accept Claims #20211-#20212, #20227-#20267.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Council President Bailey: any council comments on the claims.

Council President Bailey: Claims #20211-#20212 are from last time, they missed the claim sheet.

Jeff Motley: truck 54 repair, these are not budgeted monies, it is through the Rapp Family Grant. The Rapp Family Grant will fund the truck 54 repairs.

Councilmember Smith: is truck 54 is the one that was just donated?

Jeff Motley: yes.

Council President Bailey: any other public comment? Jenelle would you take the vote.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

6. Administrative Reports

a. Airport

Brian Germane, Airport Manager: (report provided in the packet) we have all the part to repair our lighting now. The receiver, we thought that we were going to have to replace it, but we were able to repair it for \$453.00. Receiver should be back early next week and should have the system back up and running. Fuel project is pretty well wrapped up and waiting for the tank to arrive, sounds like next month 4/10/2026. Little bit of a delay but not bad. Asphalt rehab project, bidding closed out yesterday and we will be opening those a little later tonight. Sales are still good. Aeronautics board, we did receive our official grant offer from MDT so that is going to the airport board for review and then to the council meeting. Missoula Skydiving opens up next week, working through parking and spectator areas for them.

b. Building Department

In the packet.

c. Finance

Robert Underwood: (report provided in the packet) the one that we just gave you was the bank reconciliation that goes with the cash report. 51% of the general fund is spent so far. All of the other funds, 40% right now, that is because of the big projects at the airport and the leak project. Revenue, 56% at this time. The big tax check comes in May, and the gas tax will also come.

d. Fire Department

Jeff Motley, Fire Chief: (report provided in the packet) checking in with Chief Boe, seeing much more traffic on Main Street. We are a little shorthanded right now; we have missed 13 calls so far this year. March is burn month for the city; the town opens again in October. It is also open in the county; you do have to get a burn permit. We will be taking down Christmas lights this weekend.

e. Police Department

John Boe, Chief of Police: (report provided in the packet) Officer Baugh will start off on his eight week and doing very well. Chili Cook-off is coming up. Looking like it is going to be the biggest yet. Don't forget that there is going to be a memorial for George Golphenee on March 21st before the chili cook-off.

Councilmember Bailey: any updates on the tasers and tough books.

John Boe: we have all of our tasers in, we have all of the units mounted to the wall in the squad room and we are waiting on a few more items for training. Tough books are on the list that will depend on how well we do on the chili cookoff.

Councilmember Wandler: have you had a lot of response to the chili feed.

John Boe: yeah it has been amazing, not just community wide but valley wide. We have 19 chili contestants so far. A lot of people donating for the auction.

f. Public Works

Stephen Lassiter, Public Works Supervisor: (report provided in the packet) not much else to say, it is in the packet.

Council President Bailey: any information on the sample meters.

Stephen Lassiter: I have ordered five more and when they come and we will find targets and get them located.

Council President Bailey: any council or public comments on the administrative reports.

7. Guests

a. Jon Konen, Superintendent Stevensville Public Schools

Jon Konen: 9 months into the job, I am here tonight to talk about a technology levy. I am here to let people know that we have a vote on May 5th. (Mr. Konen, interacted with the council, staff and citizens in a brain activity). Jon Konen went through the programs/systems that the school is currently using from a technology standpoint. Gave background to the last technology levy.

8. Unfinished Business

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

Council President Bailey: introduced unfinished business item a. Approve Grant Creek Excavating LLC Contract for Sump Replacement

Councilmember Ross: I move that we approve Grant Creek Excavating LLC Contract for Sump Replacement .

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Council President Bailey: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion? Public comment? I believe that this has already been budgeted for, correct Robert and Jenelle.

Robert Underwood: yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Michalson: the reason that I am here is because of this unfinished business item. I would like to give you some history on the item. In 2024 Mr. Mello lives at the location where all of the water runs down to the sump drain by his house. He came by my office to ask if I could do something about the sump drain, he had come to the three previous mayors, and nobody would do anything. I told him that I would look into it but at the time we were also doing the ARPA grant. I thought that I would try to squeeze it into the ARPA grant but in May we were told that we got it in late. I told him that we would have to get it in in 2025. We got it into the budget and Caleb with HDR and Stephen and I looked it over and said that we would get some bids, in December

we met to discuss it. This was budgeted for \$25,000 I really think that this should be approved, I talked to George Thomas at the hardware store today and he said that it has been an eyesore for years. Thank you and I hope that you support it.

Council President Bailey: any other comments or questions, lets call for a vote.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Passes 4-0

9. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Late Fee on a Water/Sewer Bill

Council President Bailey: introduced new business item a. late fee on a water and sewer bill. Do we have a Ms. Sayer here tonight. (no comment) we will move on to item b.

b. Informational: Conclusion Governance Letter FY24-25

Council President Bailey: introduced Conclusion Governance Letter FY24-25. Any comments on that.

Councilmember Ross: we talked about it last meeting that I was able to sit in on the meeting and everything went well. Thank you.

c. Opening of Bids for Pavement Rehabilitation at the Stevensville Airport

Council President Bailey: introduced new business item c.

Jenelle Berthoud: we received two. The first bid that was received was from Hollow Contracting Inc; the total bid was \$334,234.23. The second bid that was revied was from Knife River; the total bid was \$428,670.00. What will happen next is after the meeting tonight both of these will be scanned and sent over to Tyler Reed with Morrison & Maierle, and they will be reviewed by them to make sure that everything was filled out correctly and make sure that nothing is missing. Then it will be included in the Airport Boards agenda packet for next Monday nights meeting at 6:00pm where they will give their recommendation back to the town council at a special town council meeting on Thursday the 19th at 6:30pm. And that is when we will award. Anything to add Brian or Tyler?

Brian Germane: you nailed it.

d. Opening of Bids for Surplused Items up for Sale

Council President Bailey: introduced new business item d. Jenelle did we receive any bids.

Jenelle Berthoud: there were no bids on the three items. One was a fire truck and the other two were from public works.

e. Discussion/Decision: Awarding of Bids for Surplused Vehicles

NONE

f. Discussion/Decision: Request for Waiver of \$20/Day Electricity Fee for 2026 Market Season

Council President Bailey: introduced new business item f. Request for Waiver of \$20/Day Electricity Fee for 2026 Market Season.

Councilmember Ross: I move that we approve the Request for Waiver of \$20/Day Electricity Fee for 2026 Market Season.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Council President Bailey: motion and a 2nd. Is Jess Bundren here this evening? No comment. Council comments?

Councilmember Smith: is there a rep here tonight? I have a question for Stacie. It says that you want to meter our own usage through the season. Do you have a meter for that?

Stacie Barker: we are working on getting a meter and we are talking about that being in good faith to pay the town back.

Councilmember Ross: can I ask if there is anything that Stacie want to say.

Stacie Barker: I just want to say that I hope that you really consider this because this has been an event for many years and it is a way to give back the community as well. Doesn't sound like a lot but that \$400 can go back to the community.

Councilmember Ross: I think that it is a reasonable request we have got 20 years of history of them being reliable and we have not had any problems with them paying I think that it is a reasonable ask of them.

Councilmember Wandler: they are reliable, so I do not see a problem with this.

Councilmember Bailey: I do have a question on how the electricity meter will be collected.

Stacie Barker: we are working on this. Right now, we use three plugins one for the cotton candy machine, the music and the food truck. Last year we came to the town and asked about putting up a second power pole and help out with the cost of that, that was kind of pushed to the side. We appreciate that you are working with us.

Councilmember Bailey: do you guys think that it would be appropriate that we hold this until our special meeting next week so they can find a method to meter their electricity.

Councilmember Ross: can we just put a statement in there that they have to a meter by the first market day.

Councilmember Bailey: that they have a method.

Councilmember Ross: versus tabling it.

Councilmember Bailey: do you see a problem with that Jenelle.

Jenelle Berthoud: no, right now, you have a motion to approve the request along with your 2nd.

Councilmember Ross: Jenelle would that be a motion to amend?

Councilmember Ross: I make a motion to amend the motion to add the requirement for the means to meter the usage prior to the first market day.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Council President Bailey: motion and a 2nd.

Councilmember Smith: for Stacie, are you aware that you are going to need a 50amp meter.

Stacie Barker: yes, I believe that we are.

Council President Bailey: any other comments, lets take the vote.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Council President Bailey: passes 4-0

g. Discussion/Decision: Proposal for Reducing Rates for SELC Children Swim

Council President Bailey: introduced new business item g. proposal for reducing rates for SELC Children Swim

Councilmember Ross: make a motion that we discuss the proposal for Reducing Rates for SELC Children Swim.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Council President Bailey: motion and a 2nd for a discussion.

Jamie Devlin: I am the chair for SELC, Sapphire Early Learning Center, we are nonprofit early learning center for infant to 12 years old. What we are trying to accomplish this summer, we have a summer program every year, to include more children and more activities and stay local. We have between 10 to 40 children in different age groups. We are asking for a reduction in rates to provide 8–12-year-olds an option to swim once a week and also participate in swim lessons. We are not asking for a special session for that, we would do what is available. We have children that come from homes that cannot afford these services. These children and families are not currently using these facilities. We would provide two to three teachers with the children, allow the children to swim once a week and also participate in the ability to take swim lessons. Right now, it is \$5 per day we are asking for \$2 per day for a 12-week period. For the swim lessons you currently charge \$75.00 for the group we are asking for \$65.00 for the group. With that said, our teachers to be able to provide our teachers we would ask that they would not be charged. To meet that request we are open to see what you feel is appropriate as well.

Councilmember Wandler: I do not understand what SELC is.

Jamie Devlin: we are an early learning center infant to 12 years old.

Councilmember Wandler: operating out of Stevensville, part of the Methodist Church.

Jamie Devlin: attached to the Methodist Church not part of the church.

Councilmember Ross: for clarification this is specifically for a reduction for the children.

Jamie Devlin: and the teachers would have no charge.

Councilmember Ross: how many students again?

Jamie Devlin: 10-40, we would divide that up not all at once.

Councilmember Wandler: are the students in a position from all walks of life.

Jaime Devlin: they are part of Best Beginnings, a scholarship program so they pay a reduced rate, we are not in it to make money, we are in it to enrich children lives. We are not in a position to ask these families for more money; we have to absorb those costs.

Councilmember Bailey: Robert can you give us an overview on the pool.

Robert Underwood: last four years in the pool we have lost \$37,000 and \$8,000 in the splash pad and both come from the general fund. Last year we had an issue with labor because our lifeguards were being paid \$12.00 an hour and that is not going to fly this year, you can go up and get \$15.00 an hour at a fast-food place. We really do not have any returning lifeguards if we are going to increase the pay to \$15.00 an hour we will need another \$7,000 in wages and that would be another loss. If we went to \$16.00 that would be \$10,00. It operates at a loss anyways; there are some positives to what Jamie said about bringing kids to the pool and learning how to swim. We do not know if the pool is going to even be open, we do not know what the cost is going to be to open the pool, we will go through the budget process, and it will be up to you guys.

Councilmember Ross: it may have missed it; you intend to start in June when the pool opens.

Jamie Devlin: we are flexible, we are open from the end of school to the beginning of school.

Councilmember Wandler: do they still have an annual fee if your kids go down there all the time?

Robert Underwood: season passes.

Councilmember Wandler: so, there is a chance that these kids would have season passes any ways.

Jamie Devlin: our kids would not have season passes to the pool, in the survey that we did most of our kids did not know we had a pool. Our families cannot afford a pool pass.

Robert Underwood: that pass would be \$80.00 if you go off of last year's rate.

Councilmember Smith: Jamie have you taken a survey to see if they can even afford the \$24.00.

Jamie Devlin: we pay for it.

Councilmember Bailey: I would like to make a recommendation to table this until we have our COW meeting to understand our financials.

Councilmember Wandler: I move that we table this until more information is received after the COW meeting next week.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Council President Bailey: motion and a 2nd. Public comment, Jenelle go ahead and take the vote.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: no.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Council President Bailey: motion passes.

h. Discussion/Decision: Seeking permission to install temporary book walk signs in Lewis & Clark Park or other public park in Stevensville

Council President Bailey: introduced new business item h. Seeking permission to install temporary book walk signs in Lewis & Clark Park or other public park in Stevensville.

Lisa DeMoss: we are trying to do a story walk; it is just posting a book outside and promoting being outside. We just need permission to post about 12 boards in Lewis & Clark Park. (Lisa gave a background on the story book walk).

Councilmember Bailey: do you have a time frame for how long they would be up.

Lisa DeMoss: 2- 4weeks per story. It would be nice to start ASAP but for sure in the summer.

Councilmember Smith: so, you want it at both parks?

Lisa DeMoss: we only have about 12 signs. So, Lewis & Clark would be the best.

Jenelle Berthoud: the only comment that I have is, and Lisa is really good at this, letting us know ahead of time just in case there is anything scheduled at the park.

Councilmember Ross: I make a motion to approve installing temporary book walk signs in Lewis & Clark Park or other public park in Stevensville.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Council President Bailey: motion and a 2nd.

Councilmember Ross: I am fine with Lewis & Clark Park.

Councilmember Bailey: asking for Lewis & Clark Park.

Councilmember Smith: lets leave it open.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Council President Bailey: motion passes.

Councilmember Smith: I have a question whatever happened to Dick and Jane?

i. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 415A, a Resolution Amending Resolution No 415 to make the Land Donation to the Town of Stevensville via Ravalli County Resolution 3600, a Permanent Part of the Stevensville River Park

Council President Bailey: introduced new business item i. Resolution No. 415A, a Resolution Amending Resolution No 415 to make the Land Donation to the Town of Stevensville via Ravalli County Resolution 3600, a Permanent Part of the Stevensville River Park. It would be my suggestion that we table this.

Councilmember Smith: I move to table item i.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Council President Bailey: motion and a 2nd. Council comments? Public comments?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Michalson: I came here originally for the unfinished business item on the sump. I looked at this and thought I am old; this was in front of the council two other times. My opinions, has this gone in front of the park board. You will see in the March 2022 minutes that I asked that. It has been eight or nine years since the park board looked at it. Has the mayor met with the finance department about the liability on this with MMIA. Whether it will raise our rates or not. Has anyone from the town council been out there to look at it. Has a member of the council talked to public works about their take on it. Public works and staff, whatever you tell them to do they have to find a way to do it. Do we have the money to fund it? We have to have the money to fund this park. The budget is looking good right now, thanks to Gina, Robet and the staff. We might be okay this year and not have to make cuts. Next year the property taxes are going to be rough. You should always get together with the finance department and don't be afraid to talk to Jenelle and Andrena people who come into to town hall and tell them, they are the ears of the town. Something like this, I think that it should be looked at closely. These guys are busy, we have six parks and two cemeteries and they are busy. If you add another park out there it is going to mean more work and more money. I also want to say thank you to the new council members for stepping up.

Jim Battisti: I am a frequent visitor to the river, I have gained access to the river on all sides, this particular piece of property does not have the ability. It does have a place to park but to get to the river you really have to work at it, and you cant launch a boat. The river got closed down, and that is another story, Crews was mayor then and that was going to be the next spot to launch a boat.

Stephen Lassiter: it does bring up a good point, it is not a user-friendly area, come out and see where it is at, give me your idea where you would put a picnic table in there. It is pretty steep; I am not saying that it is bad to have but to develop it.

Jeff Motley: what it does give you is continuous land. Glad to see that you are tabling it until you get your thoughts together.

Bob Michalson: the reason that we did not pass it was in the resolution it said that the county will give it to the town as it is used for 5 years. I asked the mayor at the time, does the five years start when it was given to the town or when we develop it.

Councilmember Smith: didn't we hear from the county that they did not want it back.

Bob Michalson: I heard that, but I never got anything in writing.

Councilmember Smith: I wanted to say that the things you said are some of the reasons that I wanted to table it. we need to look a little deeper.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Council President Bailey: passes

10. Board Reports

NONE

11. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Smith: the only one that I had was already brought up about Georges memorial.

12. Executive Report

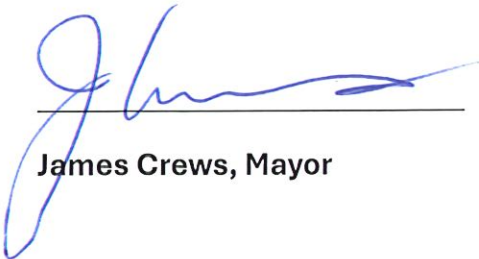
NONE

13. Adjournment

Councilmember Ross: motion to adjourn.


Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

APPROVE:



James Crews, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk