

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026, 6:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

2 Councilmembers in Person, 1 Councilmember Telephonic

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Crews called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Bailey and Wandler were present, Councilmember Ross has an excused absence and Councilmember Smith is attending telephonically.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Sue Devlin: mayor it is my understanding that the town has always put its money in various banks around town, again it is my understanding that all of the money has been moved into one bank at First Security Bank. I believe that there is about \$3.5 million dollars that the town has which is actually our money. I did look up regulations you can only be guaranteed up to \$250,000.00 through the FDIC. I would like to know who authorized to move all into one bank, number one. I was told that it was a great move and that we now get \$90,000.00 a year in interest and this bank has given us a pledge to cover anything over the \$250,000.00 that the FDIC has guaranteed. I would like to know if this pledge is in writing is the pledge legal what if the bank fails, they would be broke they will not be able to cover the money, we are completely out. I know at the April 9th meeting Ms. Wolff brought this subject up again number one, who authorized it, does the town council know about it. Number two how have we gone from all of our money in one bank with a pledge that if something goes wrong our almost \$3.5 million would be covered. I don't listen to gossip, but I have heard that perhaps the finance officer is related through a fiancé or marriage to one of the officers at First Security Bank to me that would be a definite conflict of interest if that is truly what is happening. I know that the town would like some answers on that.

Mayor Crews: I can tell you that I can not comment right now because this is public comment, but what I can do is get an official statement to this and answer those concerns. That did happen under our previous administration, and honestly I have not had time to look at it yet, but we will I promise you that.

Sue Devlin: that is very scary to me.

Mayor Crews: we will do it before the budget season is over.

Marilyn Wolff: read public comment (provided with the minutes of this meeting.)

Mayor Crews: I am hereby directing the finance department to answer these questions by the next council meeting.

Jim Tadvick: I do concur with these ladies, being on the council we always diversified the money, and it is a safety thing and yes the pledge is there but how good is that pledge. And I do not believe that it was approved by the previous administration to put all eggs in one basket.

Jeff Motley: I wanted to come tonight and inform you guys that on June 18-20 Stevensville Fire and Stevensville Rural will be hosting the state fire convention. They will be coming in Thursday evening and will be here through Saturday. We will be at the school a lot for training. We have people coming in from all over the state and multiple presenters coming to present and do workshops. We have come up with a \$20.00 coupon that every attendee will receive and that will be good for them to use at local businesses for food and beverages. Upwards of 300 people coming into town. They will also have a cruise down Main Street.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes 04/22/2026

Mayor Crews: introduced Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes 04/22/2026. Public comments?

Councilmember Wandler: motion to approve Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes 04/22/2026.

Councilmember Bailey: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. any further council discussion? Call for the vote Jenelle.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion carries 3-0

b. Town Council Meeting Minutes 04/23/2026

Mayor Crews: introduced Town Council Meeting Minutes 04/23/2026. Public comment? Council comments?

Councilmember Bailey: motion to approve Town Council Meeting Minutes 04/23/2026.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. any further council discussion. Call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Wandler aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #20375-#20410

Mayor Crews: introduced bi-weekly claims #20375-#20410.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Wolff: #20383, Ross Miller. Is that for.

Mayor Crews: water rights.

Marilyn Wolff: #20393, HDR I am wondering if that is related to the water pump failures.

Mayor Crews: the SCADA system.

Councilmember Smith: I have no problem with what is going on, #20392 and #20399 these are purchases to Missoula Motor Parts Company for vehicles, I have no problem with what is being bought but my questions is why don't we stay local to Napa or something of that nature and support our own town merchants.

Mayor Crews: sometimes Napa just doesn't have parts.

Robert Underwood: I would say the same thing; the department heads need parts.

Mayor Crews: we did not send people to Missoula to get parts.

Councilmember Smith: that is not what I am saying but they were probably delivered, I am looking at filters, windshield washer and fuel hose that is something that Napa has. Let's keep it as local as possible as we can.

Councilmember Bailey: motion to approve #20375-#20410.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: thank you.

6. New Business

a. Informational: Stevensville Pool Lifeguard Update

Gerry Galor: currently we have enough lifeguards to open the pool, I am still doing interviews, but I do have twelve good candidates.

Councilmember Smith: we do have enough now?

Mayor Crews: we do.

b. Discussion/Decision: Approval of Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market for 05/30/2026

c. Discussion/Decision: Approval of Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market for 06/13/2026

Mayor Crews: I would recommend that council suspend council rules and combine b and c as one item. Any public comment around this.

Councilmember Wandler: motion to suspend council rules and combined.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: that is to include to suspend council rules. Motion and a 2nd. Council comments hearing none, I will call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion carries.

7. Board Reports

NONE

8. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Wandler: previously Jamie Devlin requested that we vote, will that be brought up next meeting.

Mayor Crews: yes, we did not know if we were moving forward and so yes we will be addressing that issue.

9. Executive Report

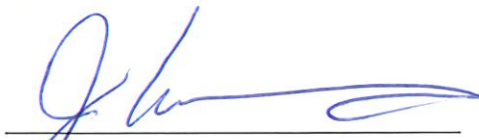
Mayor Crews: it has been a crazy week. We are examining the MMIA benefits package and that package will come forward to the council on June 3rd for review, approval or modification. Along with a special part to discuss cash-in-lieu of. We are continuing to go forth and enforce the businesses licenses in the town; we have to make sure that the citizens know we need to get their grasses cut with fire danger and the town needs to do this also. We are also moving the John Deere Gator from public works to town hall to use as a vehicle for town hall, but before we can have that happen we need to get it registered, a set of tires, and brakes checked on it. We cannot continue to let town employees use their personal vehicles to conduct town business. I have authorized employees to walk and get the mail, with \$5.00 a gallon gas we can not afford it and they can't afford it in their own cars.

10. Adjournment

Councilmember Bailey: motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

APPROVE:



James Crews, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk

5/28/2026

Dear Mayor Crews and Town Council Members:

Town revenue and banking services over \$80,000 need a bid contract process with the Town Council deciding via sealed bids, reviewed and then awarded. A Town attorney should be consulted on the contracts and the process begins with a request for bids published in the newspaper. Does the town currently have a legal banking contract in place for millions of taxpayer dollars?

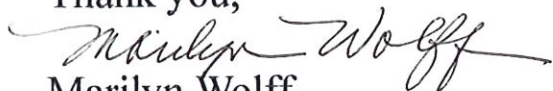
Banking services such as security and investment returns are no different than paving street contracts. All are a service to the town and requirements should be followed over the dollar amount stated.

Also, Town Bonds cannot pay regular town salaries, retirement and health insurance. Bonds cannot pay daily operational costs, administrative expenses or routine repairs.

The Town is taking in substantial money from water and sewer fees, likely over two million dollars a year, as well as marijuana money and BARSA funds. I believe these bonds must legally be in separate accounts. The Town wants a good rate of interest on these monies but not at the risk of bank failure or economic downturns like in 2008 when 25 banks closed.

Please see that the town's money is diversified with multiple banks and help property owners lower water and sewer fees which still seem excessive. The Town can't just get high interest rates on a super fund account with one bank and never help residents with lower monthly fees. An old saying applies, never put all your eggs in one basket.

Thank you,



Marilyn Wolff

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