

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 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)

NONE

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes 07/08/2026

Mayor Crews: introduced budget workshop meeting minutes 07/08/2026.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve the budget workshop meeting minutes for 07/08/2026.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Council comments, public comments? Jenelle call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion carries 4-0

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #20527, #20529-#20550, #20552-#20568

Mayor Crews: introduced approval of bi-weekly claims #20527, #20529-#20550, #20552-#20568.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve #20529-#20550, #20552-#20568.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Councilmember Wandler: we have bill for \$9,200.00 for our regular lawyer, Kierra Smothers, \$2160.00 and then Lindley Law \$2,600.00. Why do we have three lawyers when we only approved one. #20527, #20540, #20563.

Gina Crowe: We do not have three lawyers; we have our town attorney and Kierra Smothers is our prosecuting attorney. She deals with the court.

Councilmember Wandler: then what is #20527.

Gina Crowe: that is the one that was tabled last time. So, there are two from Lindley Law. #20563 is the newest one.

Councilmember Bailey: if I recall, it was tabled because we were missing invoices, is that correct.

Gina Crowe: we weren't missing invoices we were missing details of the invoices.

Councilmember Bailey: and that has been received.

Gina Crowe: no, we just received hours.

Councilmember Bailey: and that was what was missing from the last one.

Gina Crowe: normally we get some sort of a detail we don't just get hours, in the three and a half years that I have been here we get some sort of detail, but we only got hours.

Christine Lindley: if the town council would like I can address that. I had submitted detail but there was confidential information between me and the mayor. I did submit hours, so I hope that was enough.

Gina Crowe: I did not get anything. You said that you submitted a detail of that. I think one of the things that is the question and the one thing that brings it up, this is taxpayer money that is paying you and the only thing that should be confidential should be is a personnel matter.

Christine Lindley: I had settlement information, any communication with me that is reflected in my billing is protected by attorney/client privilege. If I waive that and distribute that to the public could be detrimental in the future.

Gina Crowe: we are talking about taxpayer money here.

Mayor Crews: the attorney and the finance officer should not be having this debate. This is a debate for the council.

Councilmember Bailey: I find the hours sufficient enough to process the claim, you obviously charge for your work, and I am going to hope that you are using her appropriately. As long as we have the hours for what we are paying her for.

Councilmember Wandler: #20546, building inspection costing \$9,000.00

Gina Crowe: he is the one that does our building inspections.

Councilmember Ross: #20529, DUI blood draw. Is that something that we get recompensated for.

Gina Crowe: unfortunately, we don't. the reason is, if they get a DUI in the town here they have to process it down there if you want further information the chief could go over that.

Chief Boe: yes, any time we take someone down to Ravalli County for a DUI, if they refuse then we have to take a blood draw. That is the cost and we can't get away from that.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Council comments, public comments? Take the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion passes 4-0

6. Administrative Reports

a. Airport

Brian Germane, Airport Manager: Report provided in the packet. (touched on lighting, building of T-hangers and the fuel farm). Tactor, we should see the money for the tractor tomorrow.

Councilmember Smith: marker light, I am going to assume that you just can't take an LED and change it.

Brian Germane: people do it, but because these are FAA STP products you cant. If you are going to follow the guidelines of the FAA you are not.

Councilmember Smith: so, we are going to have to replace them all.

Brian Germane: This the rotating beacon.

Mayor Crews: Brian has issued a letter to Skydive MT for some issues and all of those issues seemed to be resolved.

Brian Germane: there are some growing pains and we needed to address; there had been conversations with them and the response to the letter has been good.

Councilmember Ross: how many T-hangers are you looking to build.

Brian Germane: 8-unit complex, comparable to an 8-unit complex that is privately owned, he is renting those right now for \$275.00 per month and have individual metering for power. We are currently running a \$23,000 deficit each year so this would wipe that out.

Mayor Crews: I told Brian the other day I think that he is the best airport manager we have ever had.

b. Building Department

Report provided in the packet.

c. Finance

Gina Crowe: I do not have any reports for this council meeting I can do it next council meeting; we have just been trying to close up the year and get everything ready for the budget.

d. Fire Department

Chief Motley: report provided in the packet. Everyone is aware of the fires that are around. The rain is not going to clear out the smoke; wind will move out the smoke but not good for the fires. Creamery Picnic went well raised a little over \$4,000 with fill the boot. I would like to ask for a meeting to accept a grant from Town Pump, we have been notified that we have been awarded the \$20,000 for a new command vehicle. However, that happens mayor.

Mayor Crews: we can do that, any word on the Hitching Post fire.

Chief Motley: Hitching Post fire was a grass fire from a mowing operation.

Mayor Crews: I have instructed that the public works department place a sprinkler out at the well house.

e. Police Department

Chief Boe: report provided in the packet. Creamery Picnic went well. We will need a set of tires for one of our units.

Councilmember Bailey: can you speak to the steady increase of traffic stops this month.

Chief Boe: us being a little more proactive. I get calls about areas around town, we tackle those areas more and being out more often.

Councilmember Wandler: what constitutes a fraud crime?

Chief Boe: let's say I take your debit card and use it claiming to be you.

Councilmember Wandler: how many arrests at Creamery Picnic, you had your little jail.

Chief Boe: we had two DUI's so you will see the bill for those.

Councilmember Wandler: I was questioning about you were going to set up and arrest people at Creamery Picnic.

Chief Boe: we would not do that; we call that fishing in a pond. I like to look at us as a determinate. We had the Safe Bus and people utilized the bus.

Councilmember Bailey: I think what Karen is talking about is at the previous meeting you said that you were going to fake arrest people and make their buddies pay to get them out of jail.

Chief Boe: that was an opportunity that we were going to look out for funding, we weren't able to do it at the Creamery Picnic, so we are going to look at doing it at the Scarecrow Festival.

Councilmember Smith: maybe you can educate me on the law, if a person is stopped for a DUI and they wont blow then they go. You take them right in and get a blood test.

Chief Boe: this is a lot to it; there are field sobriety tests and then a breath test. If they are not safe to drive they will go to the jail.

Mayor Crews: I want to thank Councilmember Bailey for picking up trash.

Chief Boe: I wanted to thank you for that also; there were also fire department personnel that helped with the road closures.

Mayor Crews: first year for Eli running the picnic I got to talk with him in the office and I am sure next year will be greatly improved.

f. Public Works

No report this month due to Stephen Lassiter, Public Works Supervisor being out.

7. Correspondence

a. Letter From Student to Mayor Crews

Mayor Crews: read the letter from Adin. About thirty kids signed the letter and I got him some books about Stevensville.

b. Ms. Luanne Greer

Mayor Crews: read the letter from Ms. Greer. (letter will be included in the minutes of this meeting). Next year I will ask if they leave the debris at their homes.

8. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Approval of Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market for 08/15/2026 and 08/22/2026

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item a, Approval of Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market for 08/15/2026 and 08/22/2026.

Councilmember Ross: I move that we approve Approval of Stevensville Harvest Valley Farmers Market for 08/15/2026 and 08/22/2026

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion? Public Comment? Jenelle call for the vote.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Mayor Crews: carries 4-0

b. Discussion/Decision: Approval of Sign Permit for the Valley Drug

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item b, Approval of Sign Permit for the Valley Drug. We have started enforcing our sign permits and I called Chad up and asked him to get a permit.

Councilmember Bailey: I make a motion to approve Sign Permit for the Valley Drug.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Mayor Crews: carries 4-0

c. Discussion/Decision: Appointment of Brinda Barnett to the Water and Sewer Advisory Board

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item c, Appointment of Brinda Barnett to the Water and Sewer Advisory Board.

Councilmember Smith: I move to appoint Brinda Barnett to the Water and Sewer Advisory Board.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Smith: I have known Brinda and met her on the committee she is very thorough and loves this town and loves the water and sewer.

Mayor Crews: public comment. Call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion passes. Thank you Brinda.

d. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 596 a Resolution Accepting Donated Funds for the Town of Stevensville Fire Department

Mayor Crews: introduced new business Resolution No. 596 a Resolution Accepting Donated Funds for the Town of Stevensville Fire Department.

Councilmember Wandler: I move to approve Resolution No. 596 a Resolution Accepting Donated Funds for the Town of Stevensville Fire Department.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Read the resolution into the record. Council comment? Public comment. Call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion carries 4-0

e. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 597 a Resolution Adopting a Mail Collection and Distribution Policy

Mayor Crews: introduced new business item e, Resolution No. 597 a Resolution Adopting a Mail Collection and Distribution Policy. We are trying to standardize all of our mail. Coming into one location and distributed and any funding that comes in can be distributed to the finance department. (Read the resolution into the record)

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve Resolution No. 597 a Resolution Adopting a Mail Collection and Distribution Policy.

Councilmember Wandler: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Bailey: how often will the mail be collected.

Mayor Crews: daily.

Councilmember Bailey: and distributed daily.

Mayor Crews: yes.

Councilmember Bailey: so, there is not delay.

Mayor Crews: no delay, opened by the town clerk, deputy clerk or the finance officer.

Councilmember Wandler: has this been a problem before.

Mayor Crews: we just realized that it has not been standardized. This is a policy that we need to adopt.

Councilmember Wandler: how many boxes do we currently have?

Gina Crowe: we only have one and I think the fire department has a box. And they were sending mail across the street when the police department was over there.

Mayor Crews: the town clerk, deputy clerk or finance officer will collect and distribute.

Gina Crowe: we check the mail Monday-Friday and then we open immediate and distribute immediate.

Mayor Crews: public comment, council discussion? Jenelle call for the vote.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion carries 4-0.

f. Discussion/Decision: Resolution NO. 598 a Resolution Accepting Donated Funds for the Town of Stevensville Pool

Mayor Crews:

Councilmember Wandler: I move that we accept Resolution No. 598 a Resolution Accepting Donated Funds for the Town of Stevensville Pool.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Crews: motion and a 2nd. Read the resolution into the record. Council discussion, public comment? Call for the vote.

Councilmember Bailey: aye.

Councilmember Ross: aye.

Councilmember Wandler: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Crews: motion passes.

9. Board Reports

NONE

10. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Ross: I will be out of town the next two weeks, feel free to email me, but there may be a delayed response.

11. Executive Report

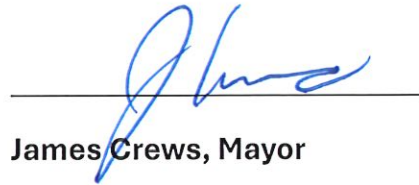
Mayor Crews: we have a problem around town with parking, and we are going to have to address it as a council, the only street that you can park diagonal and that is Main Street. Every other place is parallel parking. People are parking their utility trailers tail in and that leaves the hitch out into the road. During Creamery Picnic we had people blocking the public easements, you can't do that. Starts blocking the views for fire trucks, garbage trucks. We also need to look at tree trimming on some of those streets. I have authorized the pool to stay open an extra two hours so that they can have a little extra training. We have a new hire at public works, thanks to all of the work that Gina put in his name is Eddy Oliver, a very bright man and comes with some credentials already close to ten years' worth of experience , CDL. OSHA certified, traffic control certified and forklift certified and he has been working for some time on his water and sewer certs. We got lucky not only is he a smart young man he is a very nice person and blending in with the crew down there nicely. Did not have a public report tonight because our supervisor has been out on a family emergency. Things have been going pretty well down there, one call out for a SCADA alarm, we have Glenn, you approved his contract last week. Held a team building meeting with those guys yesterday took them to Kodiaks and learned about each other. Crews family will be brining in a luncheon for the town, bratts and sausage rolls it will be pretty good. Do have one opening in Public Works.

12. Adjournment

Councilmember Smith: motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Ross: 2nd.

APPROVE:



James Crews, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk



08/06/2026

Stephen Lassiter
Public Works Division
City of Stevensville
206 Buck Street
Stevensville MT 59870

Hello Mr Lassiter

I am writing about tall grasses in my area, along the street.

The area of which I speak is the East Second Street and Winslett Avenue area. I believe it would be the south side of East Second Street.

In previous years the city has cleaned it up and mown down the tall weeds. This area is in the city right of way.

I did see young children playing in these weeds and I am deathly afraid that they will run out on to the road and be hit by a car.

In previous years your predecessor, George had told us to take our Spring "yard" waste to that site as our cul de sac is to tight for the city trucks to do Spring "yard pick up".

If there is something different that you want please let me know. Thank you . This is an elderly neighborhood.

Sincerely
Luanne Greer
112 Winslett Ave
Stevensville MT 59870

Attempted Contact on 8-11-26 JL

406-531-0460
bot4lu@hotmail.com