

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024, 6:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Michalson called the meeting to order, Councilmembers Brown, Nelson and Smith are all present. Councilmember Barker has an excused absence.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

NONE

4. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #18884-#18888, #18892-#18896

Mayor Michalson: introduced bi-weekly claims #18884-#18888, #18892-#18896.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we adopt claims #18884-#18888, #18892-#18896.

Councilmember Nelson: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd, discussion from the council?

Councilmember Brown: claim #18884, where there three tires that where repaired?

Gina Crowe: no, that was split out among three departments.

Mayor Michalson: any further discussion? Public Comment? Seeing none, Jenelle, would you take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

5. Guests

a. Bear Aware Presentation, Michele Dieterich

Presentation was given by Bear Aware of Ravalli Count Bitterroot Bear Resources, Fish Wildlife & Parks, Biologist for Wind River Bear Institute and Bitterroot Disposal. Gave background information on being bear aware in Ravalli County. The importance of bear proof garbage cans, education around keeping your property protected from bears. Spoke about grants that are available.

6. Public Hearings

- a. 2nd Reading: Proposed Amendment of Ordinance 141, and Ordinance Incorporating Various Airport Ordinances, Resolutions and Policies into and Establishing Title 3-Airport of the Municipal Code of the Town of Stevensville

Mayor Michalson: introduced the public hearing.

Will Rowe, airport board manager: here for any further questions.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion/Decision: Proposed Amendment of Ordinance 141, and Ordinance Incorporating Various Airport Ordinances, Resolutions and Policies into and Establishing Title 3-Airport of the Municipal Code of the Town of Stevensville

Mayor Michalson: introduced unfinished business a. Proposed Amendment of Ordinance 141, and Ordinance Incorporating Various Airport Ordinances, Resolutions and Policies into and Establishing Title 3-Airport of the Municipal Code of the Town of Stevensville

Councilmember Brown: I move that we adopt the proposed amendment of Ordinance 141, and Ordinance Incorporating Various Airport Ordinances, Resolutions and Policies into and Establishing Title 3-Airport of the Municipal Code of the Town of Stevensville

Councilmember Smith: 2nd

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

Councilmember Brown: is this the cleaned-up version?

Jenelle Berthoud, Town Clerk: if you look at the last page you will see where it is signed from the last meeting. I cleaned it up.

Councilmember Brown: thank you for doing that, this is much cleaner.

Mayor Michalson: any further questions for Will. Public Comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

8. New Business

- a. Discussion/Decision: Special Event Fee for the Stevensville Civic Club Events

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item a. Special Event Fee for the Stevensville Civic Club Events

Sean Doyle, President of the Stevensville Civic Club: I came in a couple of weeks ago to start filing the event permits for three events coming up as we went through, I started to ask about the fees. I have a breakdown of the fees for all of the events around town. I also included the Scarecrow Festival. As we looked at the fees that we pay for some of our events, one that came into question was the special event with alcohol fee that has a \$200.00 permit fee. I am not sure what that gets us, we provide everything. The other thing that we started to question on the fees is the fee for the Farmers Market and that is a flat \$100.00 that works out to 20 Saturdays and that makes it about \$5.00 per day. Creamery is a two-day event, and we are \$300-\$400 per day. You can see as I was finalizing with Jenelle our fees increased by \$225.00. We are looking at a fee for Creamery of \$935.00. I don't mind paying it but it does set up questions about the event fees.

Mayor Michalson: my question to the council, Jenelle brought this up earlier today, where it says stage set up, the stage is owned by the civic club, a couple of administrations ago he put it in the fee schedule to charge the civic club for their own stages, so I would like the council to defiantly wave that one tonight.

Councilmember Smith: doesn't this have to do with where the stages are being stored?

Mayor Michalson: yes, we store them, but still.

Councilmember Nelson: so, we are charging them storage fees?

Mayor Michalson: I would like the council to consider waving that fee and then we get to our working on the budget we will bring the fee schedule back to the council, \$935.00 is pretty high. Same events every year, creamery, scarecrow the Civic Club promotes this, and it brings so much business to the town. I would think that it would only be fare that we give the Civic Club a break, we do it for the Farmers Market and I have talked to Stacie about it, she is all for it.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we get rid of the stage fee for \$100.00.

Mayor Michalson: wouldn't that be two?

Jenelle Berthoud, Town Clerk: in this case he has two.

Councilmember Smith: we will get rid of it don't need it; wave \$200.00.

Councilmember Nelson: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: we have a motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Brown: so, the town is storing the stage somewhere?

Jenelle Berthoud: in the field.

Councilmember Brown: so, it is up to the Civic Club to move it from where it is stored or is that streets and alleys?

Sean Doyle: public works has helped, and we have also sent a truck down to bring it up. Over the last two years it has been about half and half. One comes to the park and one to 3rd and Main. And at Scarecrow it is on the east side of 3rd.

Councilmember Brown: I think that we should put something in there about public works and them taking time out of their day.

Sean Doyle: that would make sense, gas and resources.

Councilmember Nelson: I was just looking at this, I know that I have been to the Scarecrow festival many times and I am sure that it brings a pretty good flow of people.

Sean Doyle: Creamery brings about 8000 people and Scarecrow brought 10,000. Two biggest events that take place.

Councilmember Nelson: I am thinking that we permanently wave the fees altogether.

Councilmember Brown: I think that for now we wave the fees for tonight and then when we come back to this, we review the fees and make that change. If they are not using public works, then there should not be a fee.

Mayor Michalson: we have a motion and 2nd. Public comment? Jenelle, will you take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

- b. Discussion/Decision: Special Event Permit for the Culpepper/Merriweather Circus Sponsored by the Stevensville Civic Club

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item b. Special Event Permit for the Culpepper/Merriweather Circus Sponsored by the Stevensville Civic Club

Sean Doyle: every two years the circus goes through western Montana. After talking to Lassiter and Ms. Berthoud. it has been held in the past on a lot owned by the Stevensville Foundation, parking was an issue. So, it was brought up to put it at the park. I have been talking with the circus for weeks, they do this in parks and fairgrounds, and everything looks good. The only damage as you will were from the tent spikes, Mr. Lassiter will mark sprinkler lines. They do not need power, they need a space, access to get in and out and water. June 21, two shows and then they are gone by the morning. They only thing left behind will be the trash container and we will have that picked up that day. It is a circus that works with small communities and it is a lot of fun.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we adopt special event permit for the Culpepper/Merriweather Circus Sponsored by the Stevensville Civic Club.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Brown: is there going to be camping overnight after the circus.

Sean Doyle: potentially in the parking lot before they pull out in the morning. I can work with Chief Boe and Steve Lassiter.

Councilmember Brown: we have a no camping and that would have to come.

Mayor Michalson: we would have to bring that to the council to wave that.

Sean Doyle: do I need to bring that as a request? I will do that. It will be covered by our insurance and then the civic club and the town are on the circus policy.

Councilmember Brown: I just knew that we had an ordinance about overnight camping, so we need to look at that.

Sewan Doyle: I will find out exactly how long,

Mayor Michalson: any other questions, any questions from the public. Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

- c. Discussion/Decision: Special Event Permit for the 4th of July Pig Nic Sponsored by the Stevensville Civic Club

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item c. Special Event Permit for the 4th of July Pig Nic Sponsored by the Stevensville Civic Club

Sean Doyle: Pig Nic is an annual tradition that has been going on, no charges, we provide everything, and the community brings a side dish. We use the pavilion by the pool, and we had about 200 people last year.

Councilmember Brown: I move that we approve the special event permit for the 4th of July Pig Nic Sponsored by the Stevensville Civic Club.

Councilmember Nelson: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion? I have been going to this picnic for a couple of years, more people keep attending. Public comments? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

- d. Discussion/Decision: Special Event Permit for the 111th Creamery Picnic Sponsored by the Stevensville Civic Club

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item d.

Sean Doyle: we want to put on the 111th Creamery Picnic. We would like to do all of our normal events on Friday and Saturday. Just like last year, added a few more things.

Councilmember Nelson: make a motion to approve Special Event Permit for the 111th Creamery Picnic Sponsored by the Stevensville Civic Club

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Nelson: I love what the civic club does for this town.

Mayor Michalson: any further discussion, public comment. Seeing none, Jenelle take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0. We will bring this all up at the budget meetings.

Sean Doyle: I will have a traffic plan for Chief Boe and Jenelle knows how to get a hold of me.

- e. Discussion/Decision: Request an RFP for Towing Services for the Town of Stevensville

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item e. Request an RFP for Towing Services for the Town of Stevensville.

Jenelle Berthoud: we have used a local towing company because they have been available for us, there has now been an interest from another towing company so at this point we need to look at an RFP.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we adopt a Request an RFP for Towing Services for the Town of Stevensville.

Councilmember Brown: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Is it okay that I did a little presentation, that is one of the reasons that the RFP came forward. The other reason, as you know we were ordered by the district judge to do the abatement process, it has been appealed. So, it has put us at a standstill but has not stopped us, Mr. Overstreet has appealed that to the supreme court and wants to name us. So, we do not have to wait and that will speed up that process. Another thing that is going on is I walk all over town and I put an article in the Bitterroot Star about cleaning up our town. I am serious about cleaning up our town, I see vehicles parked on the streets with expired plates and flat tires that have not been moved in years. Not only that but we have yards in disrepair and properties that need to be taken care of. I will be sending out letters about cleaning up. We have to get serious. Getting back to the case, the district judge ordered us to clean it up. We can go and mow our property. We have rights too. We have town ordinances that back us up. We used to have a spring clean up day, we have not had that for a long time. Anyone that wants to help me out please do.

Councilmember Nelson: I go on as well, I pick up a lot of beer cans, pick up your trash.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Groninger: we have been fighting this for a long time. I moved here in 1990, it has always been a problem. I was told to my face by the previous mayor that if I want to, I can make a complaint then they would act on it. It is not my job; it is the towns. Remember the boulevards are the towns responsibility. I want to thank you and it is your time and it is your rights.

Loye Knapp: I am across the street I just want to say that there is comment that the town of Stevensville was taken off of the suit, the reason the town was taken off is because we were told by the town that they would clean it up if they were taken off of the suit. It just keeps coming up please help us out.

Mayor Michalson: any further discussions? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

- f. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 527 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Declaring Certain Town Property as Surplus and Authorizing its Disposal

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item f. Resolution No. 527 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Declaring Certain Town Property as

Surplus and Authorizing its Disposal. We have a pretty extensive list, thank you Jenelle, Jenelle put it into who has what.

Councilmember Brown: I move that we adopt Resolution no. 527 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Declaring Certain Town Property as Surplus and Authorizing its Disposal.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Brown: just a couple of questions, because I know that it will be asked at one board, the money if any from the courtesy car, will go back into the airport fund and also the police vehicle.

Mayor Michalson: correct.

Councilmember Brown: thank you.

Mayor Michalson: I will make a mention on the police car, that John said that if it is needed to put in the general fund to help out others.

Councilmember Smith: that is the car at the airport?

Mayor Michalson: yes, it is, any further comments? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

9. Board Reports

NONE

10. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Nelson: What is it with the town being taken off of the lawsuit, it just seems back handed especially if nothing is being done. Is this really how the citizens were delt with in the past.

Mayor Michalson: that is what happened.

Councilmember Nelson: I understand that, I was just curious.

Pat Groninger: can I make a quick comment to that, that was a Dewey deal.

Councilmember Smith: I had the honor of going to Cassi Kopsa's graduation for the police academy. She came through with flying colors almost at the top of her group.

11. Executive Report

Mayor Michalson: 19th met with Fred Simpson and the Burnt Fork lawsuit. Fred has also made a motion to dismiss. 27th. we had a pre-construction meeting for the Mission Street project. Emerine will be passing out flyers to let everyone know of road closures and water shut offs. Jenelle put me up to Colette at the fire department and if anyone needs to get water, they can get that from the fire department. Water issues, we are going to be making phone calls to get water bills paid. Tomorrow is our 5th Friday workshop and will be fine tuning job descriptions with public works and start on budgets. We will be starting workshops in May, the budget is going to be tight again this year, we are only going to be funding three officers. We do have some savings, not having a utility billing clerk, speaking of that we are going to have to bring an agenda item forth, we have a clerk that is sitting over there who has worked her but off since December, she is doing utility billing, her work and that is why there are no minutes on the agenda tonight, she is also helping John. She is doing three roles, and we can say what we want but I believe that we have to have some compensation we owe that to her. Yes, we should have had a clerk by now, but we want to get that right, 7 interviews already, Jenelle knows this, they know what is going on. I want to put that out there now, we do need to compensate her.

Jenelle Berthoud/Gina Crowe: email migration, budget, housekeeping, job descriptions.

Councilmember Smith: one other quick announcement that I forgot, April 5th is a meet and greet for our new chief and Cassi.

Mayor Michalson: when Cassi got back yesterday, we were able to give her a raise to \$24.00 per hour.

12. Adjournment

Councilmember Smith: motion.

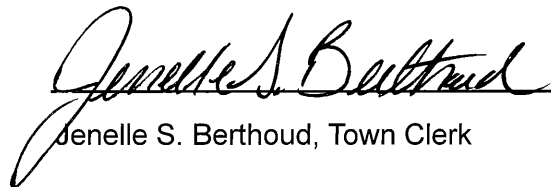
Councilmember Nelson: 2nd.

APPROVE:



Bob Michalson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk