

Stevensville Special Town Council Meeting Minutes

for Tuesday, June 04, 2024, 6:00 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Michalson called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Barker, Brown, and Smith were all present. Councilmember Nelson is not here tonight, he has prior commitments.

Pause, (Councilmember Smith answered his phone)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Jim Tadvick: 509 Mission Street, I would like to talk about the road work that is going on with Mission Street. It was my understanding in front of our house that they were going to rip up the road, we have to put sandbags in front of our house to keep the water out. I talked to the crew, and they are just going to do an over lament. If you remember in the first bid it was supposed to be ripped up and now it is not. Can we correct the problem now instead of in the future.

Mayor Michalson: I will talk to the engineer.

Jim Tadvick: another thing that has come up is the late notices on the water bills, and they send them in on May 10th and they did not post to their bank until May 30th. They got a late charge for it.

Jenelle Berthoud: what is happening is, payments that are being done when the bank is sending out the check it is taking anywhere from 14-21 days before the town is receiving the check.

Jim Tadvick: these are people who are paying with check.

Jenelle Berthoud: we do have two of them that have been brought to the attention of our deputy clerk and she is looking into this. I do understand that neither of them have gone through their banks. They did not even make it to town hall. There are sometimes that we do not get an in-town check for over two weeks. There are many that are sent on the 5th and we do not get them until the 20th or 21st.

Jim Tadvick: when does the late charge go into effect.

Jenelle Berthoud: the 25th of the month.

4. New Business

a. Opening of RFP's for Abatement Services to Cleanup Property Located at 523 E 3rd Street, Stevensville, MT

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item a. Opening of RFP's for Abatement Services to Cleanup Property Located at 523 E 3rd Street, Stevensville, MT. we did not receive a bid. Not one.

b. Discussion/Decision: Awarding of Bid for Abatement Services

Mayor Michalson: we go onto new business item b. Awarding of Bid for Abatement Services. We can't award anything, but we can discuss how we are going to go forth. Would the council like Jenelle and I to make some calls.

Councilmember Barker: I had someone talk to me tonight about paying our town employees instead of putting out an RFP.

Stephen Lassiter: I don't believe that we have the equipment for a lot of it. We don't really have anything to mow the big area in the back, they would not mind working overtime, but no one wants to be in there for very long.

Councilmember Barker: we have had this out for how long?

Jenelle Berthoud: the normal two weeks. I was talking to the mayor and the companies that I contacted out of Missoula they really specialize in water, fire damage, meth remediation. Stoves, cars, are not in there wheelhouse.

Mayor Michalson: I have the pictures from when we sent our building inspector over there, it is full of toxic materials.

Councilmember Smith: is this something that hazmat has to come in on?

Mayor Michalson: they have in the past.

Councilmember Smith: you say that you do not have equipment is this something that you can rent?

Stephen Lassiter: possibly. I don't know what we would do with all of the stuff on the property.

Mayor Michalson: looking back when this has happened there have been companies that have cleaned it up but when the town is doing the clean up it can't always be finished. And then it gets into disarray again.

Councilmember Barker: do we have an idea of what the cost is going to be?

Mayor Michalson: no.

Councilmember Brown: do you think that we can find any company?

Mayor Michalson: I would like the council to let Jenelle and I make some calls.

Councilmember Barker: I make a motion to discuss Abatement Services to Cleanup Property Located at 523 E 3rd Street.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd on cleaning up the property. Further discussion?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Groninger: I really think that getting involved in this process I think that it is out of the councils control. This is a serious issue that has been fought for many years. You have to identify what is there to clean up, what is harmful. Having someone else to do it takes the finger pointing away from the town. It is to big to handle on a motion to pass. You folks are busy, you need help.

Mayor Michalson: do we want to look at finding a professional company.

Councilmember Brown: do the city employees, public works do they actually want to do this and put themselves in that environment?

Stephen Lassiter: no, not without defense.

Councilmember Barker: if we could find somebody out there that wants to do it, that may be the route to go.

Stephen Lassiter: if we had access to walk it and see what is there.

Mayor Michalson: there are some things that we can pickup but around that structure, no.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Tadvick: if they were to pick some of that stuff up and take it to the dump would they be responsible for the dump fees.

Mayor Michalson: yes, we will put that on a lean. And we have been back and forth with the attorney.

Pat Groninger: I want to go back to what I was saying, Jenelle and you were talking about it. I think that we should have a community meeting. I don't think we should send in our workers. It is like yes you have the courts saying clean it up, but if you do not have a plan. Have a meeting with the community to see what they have to say. You can't take away from Jenelle and the mayor and their time, have a committee.

Councilmember Barker: are we still sitting on a time frame?

Mayor Michalson: the court does not have us on a time frame.

Jenelle Berthoud: just had to start something with in those 60 days.

Mayor Michalson: the mowing started that clock.

Pat Groninger: I am not limiting the council but have the committee do the groundwork. You don't have much time.

Councilmember Smith: is this committee formed?

Mayor Michalson: no. would you like me to.

Jeff Motley: I think what you are going to have to look for is some one that will do a hazardous waste mitigation. It is going to cost a ton, and if we have to front that upfront cost it is going to be hard. And then have to squeeze that turnip to get the money back.

Jenelle Berthoud: you make a good point; the upfront cost is on the town and then we will lean the property, but those leans can sit out there for years.

Mayor Michalson: we do have a potential buyer on the property by the storage sheds, from Ramona Vance. That will be on the agenda for you to approve that. That money would be used to pay for the cleanup.

Councilmember Brown: have we sent them any bills so far?

Mayor Michalson: no, just billing attorney fees.

Jenelle Berthoud: Councilmember Brown there has not been a bill sent out for the attorney fees.

Councilmember Brown: I think that if we are incurring costs then we should be sending that to the attorney to get some of our money back.

Jenelle Berthoud: Gina is back at the end of the week; I will ask her about that for you.

Councilmember Brown: I wish the attorney was here to see what the time frame is when we take some action.

Mayor Michalson: I can ask him that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Tadvick: is that something that the police department is going to have to deliver to him? Is there going to have to be police or officers up there.

Mayor Michalson: actually, when the building official went through John went up there for a little bit and Frank was not there the attorney was there and walked through.

Councilmember Barker: I like the idea that Mr. Groninger has about the committee, but how much time do we have, we have to get it cleaned up.

Pat Groninger: if the committee takes another 20 hours it is worth it, if you get together then there is a team effort. When you finally have a judge, a supreme court of Montana to say clean it up. Once we leave here tonight it will be another 30 days. Put it out to the people and help us clean up our mess, it is the towns mess. We need help from selected people in the town that can do it.

Councilmember Barker: I do not know how to start with it.

Jenelle Berthoud: Mayor if you are looking to do a committee, we could put something on the towns website, looking committee members.

Councilmember Barker: I think that we need to put it out more than the website. I know that it is going to cost some money, but we have to do it.

Pat Groninger: there are already out of pocket expenses from the neighbors.

Councilmember Brown: that is a concern, and it is hard to find people for committees.

Jenelle Berthoud: just so you know that if you want an ad in the newspaper, I would not be able to do that until the 10th for the 12th paper.

Councilmember Smith: is there a chance to put this on the water bills, when is the next one?

Jenelle Berthoud: end of June, there is not that much room now that we have gone back to the post cards.

Councilmember Brown: Jeff, do you have a suggestion?

Jeff Motley: so, we did not have anyone respond to the request, and then you are going to put it out there again, form a committee. It seems to me that, I just did a google search and I have found some. No one has stepped up to get paid, I think that we should do what Jenelle and Bob said. Figure out what this is going to be and what this is going to take. I think that we have established that this is a hazardous situation. Call these companies and see what this is going to take to clean it up.

Councilmember Barker: go out and do those phone calls.

Councilmember Brown: bring it back to a meeting.

Jenelle Berthoud: so, you want to see this on the meeting of the 13th.

Councilmember Brown: yes.

Mayor Michalson: why don't we have a motion to have the town make some phone calls and form a committee.

Councilmember Barker: we still have a motion.

Mayor Michalson: that was to start the discussion.

Councilmember Barker: I would like to retract my motion for awarding a bid for abatement services to cleanup property at 523 E 3rd Street, Stevensville, MT.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion? Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

Councilmember Barker: I would like to make a motion for calls for services out to companies and to form a committee to work on volunteer services.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Groninger: you say to form a committee and what about the regulation on what the committee is going to do.

Councilmember Barker: this is going to be messy, every time I say something.

Lesslie Tadwick: why don't we get a company down here to look at it.

Mayor Michalson: any more from the council or the public? Seeing none, Jenelle take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: I want to make sure what I am voting on.

Jenelle Berthoud: I would like to make a motion for calls for services out to companies and to form a committee to work on volunteer services.

Councilmember Brown: services?

Councilmember Barker: that is why I said do I need to retract that, because what kind of services are we talking about. I think that we really need to do the motion to call for services to companies for right now.

Mayor Michalson: I agree.

Councilmember Barker: we need to know. We can have it on the next meeting. what the committee can and cannot do.

Councilmember Brown: the motion on the floor is with the committee.

Councilmember Barker: I would like to amend my motion to make calls on services for abatement and take the committee out of it.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: we have a motion and a 2nd. Comments from the public. Further comments from the council. Seeing none, Jenelle take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

c. Discussion/Decision: Allocating Funds for Storm Cleanup

Mayor Michalson: as you know we had a storm and there were limbs all over. After speaking with George Thomas. They had some storms like this, and public works did the cleanup, it just took a bit longer. I took my truck and trailer and picked them up . 6 loads in three hours. I think that public works can do it and I think that the two junior men Jeff and Matt would like a little over time and it would be a bit cheaper. I already aske Jeff if he would like to work some weekends.

Jeff Motley: why can't we just open it up and let people bring down their own limbs?

Mayor Michalson: we are already doing that.

Jenelle Berthoud: we probably get 35 calls a day. And if they are able to, we get with Stephen.

Jeff Motley: I think able to is the thing. People are working overtime to pick up branches, I don't think we can afford that. My budget gets cut, cut, cut and then we are going to do this. I don't think that it is right.

Mayor Michalson: the problem is that we had a unique storm. It knocked down branches on the boulevard and in the street, we don't know who's branches are who's. it is just what we have to do.

Jim Tadvick: it is my understanding that you had a person lined up for \$100.00 per hour so what is the difference.

Stephen Lassiter: there is a difference, and the \$100.00 would probably be faster but these guys would be \$70.00.

Pat Groninger: I have had privileges to do this, but if I make a mess. We have to be careful on that. It will work if it is structured right. We are supposed to maintain the boulevard and the trees are the towns. It goes both ways.

Mayor Michalson: this storm brought out a lot of things, this brought out that we do not have a tree board to help address the trees. Stephen and I went out and looked at trees that were down. It comes down to money. We do not have the money to trim or cut down trees.

Stephen Lassiter: I did put money into the budget for that.

Mayor Michalson: If you are fine with it, we will get caught up and then pick up branches. I rushed to judgment because I want it all cleaned up. We will get to it.

5. Town Council Comments

None

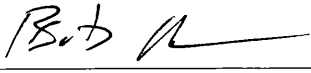
6. Executive Report

NONE

Councilmember Brown: motion to adjourn.

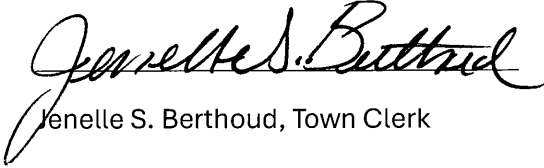
Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

APPROVE:



Bob Michalson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk