

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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 Barker, Brown, Nelson and Smith were all present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Peter: I want to talk about the Ahava parking situation. I am fully aware, have spent a lot of time at Ahava, it is not easy for the traffic, and I would hate to see the parking go away. I think that it would be hard on her business. She has done a good job there and has hired some good people.

Jim Crews: provided public comment with the town clerk, the town clerk read the public comment into record and will be included with these minutes.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting Minutes 10/24/2024

Mayor Michalson: introduced approval of town council meeting minutes 10/24/2024.

Councilmember Barker: I make a motion to approve town council meeting minutes 10/24/2024.

Councilmember Nelson: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: abstain.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0 with one abstain.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #19314-#19365

Mayor Michalson: introduced approval of bi-weekly claims #19314-#19365.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve claims #19314-#19365.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Brown: #19328, Berta Farms, where are we at for getting any closer to getting some of our bills off and collected on the tax bill.

Mayor Michalson: Greg has just sent a written letter to the judge about getting paid.

Councilmember Brown: #19341, George May property tax 2024.

Gina Crowe, Finance Officer: it is a tax bill that we have been paying on for years.

Councilmember Brown: is this under the claim the GEO code?

Gina Crowe: it is on the tax bill.

Councilmember Brown: I can look it up, thank you.

Councilmember Barker: #19321, Montana Department of Revenue.

Gina Crowe: that is the 1% that we have to pay the state, like Emerine and MR Asphalt. And they go back in and pull that from the state.

Councilmember Barker: #19331, MT Department of Environmental drinking water fee for water systems, permit registration.

Gina Crowe: that is an annual service, and we have 903 connections at \$2.00 per connection.

Councilmember Barker: #19344, precast in corp. Visa transaction.

Gina Crowe: just like every Visa bill. It is broken down.

Jenelle Berthoud: Wilbert Precast and Corp? we purchased Niche place for Riverside Cemetery and that company is in Spokane.

Councilmember Barker: I see Costco charges that are the same, water and then what is that below it.

Gina Crowe: they are split up between the different departments, we take the total bill and split it up, water, sewer, admin, another water and wastewater.

Mayor Michalson: when we order from Costco it comes in and split among those departments.

Gina Crowe: it depends, garbage bags were needed this time.

Councilmember Barker: #19363, Civic Plus, Municode meetings, subscriptions. Are these meeting minutes and can you explain what we are paying for.

Jenelle Berthoud: it is for our website, for the ability to have our town code on the website, the ability to set up meetings, agenda packets and that program talks to our website and that is how those pieces are loaded in the website. That also holds the minutes that you approve.

Councilmember Barker: is this something new?

Jenelle Berthoud: it has been for years.

Councilmember Barker: you look at the cost.

Jenelle Berthoud: it is a lot; I get that bill, and I give it to Gina and then she breaks it down to each of the departments and how they are using the website.

Councilmember Barker: I am sure that it has been one line item, and it is now more.

Gina Crowe: no, it has been on multiple line items, because we do fund accounting. For subscriptions and office supplies we all use these items.

Councilmember Barker: maybe it was the cost.

Gina Crowe: last year when we got them, I did not know, they come up in December.

Jenelle Berthoud: the company is good about getting us invoices sometimes 60 days in advance knowing that we have to have council approval.

Mayor Michalson: just about every town and city uses Municode.

Councilmember Nelson: #19336, Graves Tree Service. \$450.00 for removal of broken limbs.

Mayor Michalson: that was for the trees that fell on Romana Vance's storage units.

Gina Crowe: this was more than public works could do, so they had a professional crew come in to do it.

Councilmember Nelson: #19328, is this what we are pertaining to about Berta's Farm, current litigation.

Gina Crowe: when he sends us his bill, I break it out.

Councilmember Nelson: is this what we were talking about with Berta's Farm.

Mayor Michalson: when we started the Berta's Farm deal, I think the written from the district judge said that the town could recoup its expenses.

Councilmember Nelson: how are we doing that.

Mayor Michalson: we go back on them with the taxes.

Councilmember Nelson: back on the taxes for the bills that we occur during current litigation or the past?

Mayor Michalson: this is ongoing.

Councilmember Nelson: thank you.

Mayor Michalson: any other comments on the claims from the council. Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle, will you please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

6. Administrative Reports

a. Airport

Brian Germane: report in the packet. curtesy car, graphics are done, and it is back at the airport. Snowplow maintenance. CIP projects, meetings with the FAA in Helena working through the 2025 projects. Working on a vendor for fuel temporarily. Huge need for T-hangers in the valley and in Missoula. Talking about investment hangers for the town. Volunteer turnout has been very impressive.

b. Building Department

In the packet.

c. Finance

d. Fire Department

Jeff Motley: report in the packet, what is coming up is All Valley Fire Council is putting together a communications radio grant for new radios, we are looking into joining that grant, the town will look at updating 22 handheld radios and 9 mobile stations and 2 repeaters. Grant writers cost for the town is \$1800.00 for our share. Our newest handheld radio is from 2004. Our problem is that our old radios do not reach. We are getting forced to updating our radios. Throwing some ideas around

about what a fire department public safety levy would look like, I will be meeting with Chief Boe.

e. Police Department

John Boe: report was given to the council at the meeting. those that don't know Officer Pierce graduated from POST, Franklin will come on at a later shift and Pierce will be at the school. As far as maintance goes on the vehicles as of tomorrow we will have all of our patrol vehicles with all of the changes, and we should be good to go for maintenance. I have worked out a deal with Jeff's Automotive for the oil changes and got a pretty good rate on that. Went over the stats provided to the council in the police report.

Mayor Michalson: one of the traffic accidents was on the "S" curve?

Chief Boe: two of them were.

f. Public Works

Mayor Michalson: In the packet. I will say that once Andrena came on board and we have that down to 66 meters. I want to thank Andrena and public works for a good job. We have also dropped our number of gallons that are leaking from 15 million to 11 million.

7. Public Hearings

a. 1st Reading: Proposed Additions to Ordinance No. 135 an Ordinance of the Town of Stevensville Traffic Code, Section 10.06.100 (3)

Mayor Michalson: introduced the public hearing. 1st Reading: Proposed Additions to Ordinance No. 135 an Ordinance of the Town of Stevensville Traffic Code, Section 10.06.100 (3) . closed the public hearing. (read the additions to the Ordinance).

No public comments.

8. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Additions to Ordinance No. 135 an Ordinance of the Town of Stevensville Traffic Code Section 10.06.100 (3)

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item a. Additions to Ordinance No. 135 an Ordinance of the Town of Stevensville Traffic Code Section 10.06.100 (3).

Councilmember Brown: I move that we adopt the additions to Ordinance No. 135 an Ordinance of the Town of Stevensville Traffic Code Section 10.06.100 (3)

Councilmember Nelson: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Another reason that we are doing this is when John writes a ticket, he would have to write this under MCA code, and this will make it easier.

Councilmember Nelson: so, this is pertaining to the speed relative for the side area where it is 15 mph, are we talking about lowering the speed limit.

Mayor Michalson: this is paperwork, and this is cleaning it up. Any other questions from the council? Any questions from the public? Seeing none, Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

b. Discussion/Decision: Placement of a 15 MPH Speed Sign at the Corner or Bend of East 3rd Street and Railroad Ave

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item b. Placement of a 15 MPH Speed Sign at the Corner or Bend of East 3rd Street and Railroad Ave.

Councilmember Nelson: make a motion to approve Placement of a 15 MPH Speed Sign at the Corner or Bend of East 3rd Street and Railroad Ave.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

c. Discussion/Decision: Replacement of Yield Sign with a Stop Sign at the Corner or Bend of East 3rd Street and Railroad Ave

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item c. Replacement of Yield Sign with a Stop Sign at the Corner or Bend of East 3rd Street and Railroad Ave.

Chief Boe: it would slow down and catch all of the vehicles coming down Railroad Ave.

Councilmember Brown: I move that we approve Replacement of Yield Sign with a Stop Sign at the Corner or Bend of East 3rd Street and Railroad Ave.

Councilmember Nelson: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Baker: I understand the point of taking away the yield sign why cant we do a three way stop.

Chief Boe: I do not think that intersection is appropriate for a three way stop some are coming out of the parking lot at the school, what I am trying to get is the people coming off of east 3rd where they are navigation on to Railroad or the parking lot. In the mornings myself of Officer Franklin are monitoring that area.

Mayor Michalson: any other comments from the council? Public comments? Seeing none, Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

d. Discussion/Decision: Special Event Permit for the Annual Country Christmas and Parade of Lights

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item d. Special Event Permit for the Annual Country Christmas and Parade of Lights.

Sean Doyle, President Stevensville Civic Club: it is time for the annual Christmas celebration, we now have the MDT permit and burn permits reviewed by Chief Motley. Closing the street around 6:15 pm and then carriage rides. The only change

in the moving of a fire pit to Storybrook Medicine. We keep everything closed up until about 9:00 pm.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve Special Event Permit for the Annual Country Christmas and Parade of Lights.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Brown: it looks pretty straight forward.

Councilmember Barker: it starts where.

Sean Doyle: we had to change and start the parade at Lewis & Clark Park and then south on Main Street.

Councilmember Brown: did Chief Boe get to review this?

Chief Boe: yes, I did with Sean.

Mayor Michalson: any other comments from the council? Public comments? Seeing none, Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

e. Discussion/Decision: Suspension of Town Council Rules to Cancel the November 28, 2024, Town Council Meeting in Observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday and Authorizing Claims to be Paid out of Cycle

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item e. Suspension of Town Council Rules to Cancel the November 28, 2024, Town Council Meeting in Observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday and Authorizing Claims to be Paid out of Cycle.

Councilmember Barker: I make a motion to approve Suspension of Town Council Rules to Cancel the November 28, 2024, Town Council Meeting in Observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday and Authorizing Claims to be Paid out of Cycle.

Councilmember Nelson: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Smith: who will be given the run down of the sheets of the paid out of cycle?

Jenelle Berthoud: at the December 12th meeting.

Mayor Michalson: any further comments? Public comments? Seeing none, Jenelle, take the vote.

Jenelle Berthoud:

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

f. Discussion/Decision: Suspension of Town Council Rules to Cancel the December 26, 2024, Town Council Meeting in Observance of the Christmas Holiday and Authorizing Claims to be paid out of cycle.

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item f. Suspension of Town Council Rules to Cancel the December 26, 2024, Town Council Meeting in Observance of the Christmas Holiday and Authorizing.

Councilmember Smith: I move for the Suspension of Town Council Rules to Cancel the December 26, 2024, Town Council Meeting in Observance of the Christmas Holiday and Authorizing.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Nelson: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

9. Board Reports

Councilmember Smith: Airport Board report, basically Brian gave pretty much the report. We did have a presentation from Skydive Missoula.

10. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Barker: I had Kylie from Ahava Coffee reach out to me. As we all know the corner down there is a tough corner. I do not believe it was appropriately handled I think that it could have been a little bit nicer, I think that it could have been done in person instead of over the phone and letting her know that she would not be having the parking spaces. She had grown this business she bought the business about a year ago, I do understand that the corner is a hazard, and I have gone down both sides. After reading the ordinance on this and putting myself into a citizens position, how it reads is very hard to understand to be told that she is losing parking and instead of trying to find a solution for parking I think that it should have been done before a phone call was made make it professional and go from there. Kylie is obviously with the Big Sky Doghouse, and she has bought that business, and she has bought Ahava and going in I do not believe that she understood the parking. I did talk to her about the parking behind the building and the landlord said that it would not be an option. I think that we need to come up with a solution for her and the business around her she has grown it, she holds markets on Wednesdays, maybe the Museum could work with her. As a public eye I think that we need to look at it as a whole meet with our business owners and come up with a solution before we jump to conclusions so that is my comments.

Councilmember Smith: I too had a conversation with her today. I agree with everything that Stacie said, Ms. Wilson did tell me that she has a lease there until February and if she does not get the parking, and we have the winter coming in, I am in full agreement that we should try to work with her, and she might be able to find something new in February.

11. Executive Report

Mayor Michalson: 10/31/24 Andrena and I had a meeting with the Forest Service regarding bulk water and a possible trade for tree work. They did sign a contract with us including a user fee so that is in place, they have already taken some water out and they have reported that to Andrena. 11/4/24 Cindy and I handed out service line notices and that saved us about \$2,000.00 by doing that instead of mailing. On 11/8/24 Jenelle and I had a meeting with Fred Croci about the development east of Creekside Estates and what he wants to do where is lot is he wants to put in a water and sewer line and cap it off so that he can build a house on it. I also told him that he

needs to have an approach off of eastside highway and as long as I am here, I will try to make sure that no road goes through Creekside for this development. I had a conversation with Dominique the mayor of Hamilton due to him being so busy he will not be able to do the turkey trot for Pantry Partners. Next Friday I will be going out in my turkey suit to all of the businesses trying to raise money. One last part, it is a big part with Ahava Coffee as you know we had a meeting in July with MDOT with street issues, stop signs and the "S" curves. I told John when we had more time, and after the last accident John called and said that we need to do something, last Thursday we went over to Ahava Coffee and she was not there I got her phone number, I told them that I would call, and I did call her and I did not get a response and then of course this week I went over and spoke to the manager and did not say that we were taking away your parking I just said that we were in the process and that we are willing to work with you. Jenelle and I went and talked to her brother in the back about possible solutions in the back, we talked about the museum they can also park across the street at Kodiak Jaxs, when he built that he went through the right process, he came to the town asked for a variance for parking and it went to the P&Z, and they approved it and then it went to council, and they approved it. A former mayor did not do that, when he was heading out the door, he gave a business license to Ahava Coffee, we have all had call, Jenelle and Chief Boe has to deal with it. I do feel bad and yes, I do not see any other way to handle this, John and I talked to the husband we are still trying to do that, you all saw the emails that I sent to MDOT. My biggest issues as mayor are to serve the public and to keep us out of a liability, I am telling you and if some one opens their door and steps out and a semi comes through and hits somebody, we are going to wish that we would have done something then. They are going to come back to the state or the town and come back to say that we are not following procedure. I do not want to see them go; it is a thriving business they have many people out in their park. But we have a liability issue with the parking, Jenelle and I talked today, and I need to talk to Chief Boe him and I went over and marked off that 500 feet and if you come around the corner south to north you can see all of the cars at Kodiak Jaxs but if you come from north to south and come around that curve you cannot see, I see the back car but not the front car. That is a liability issue, that is the main reason. I will get with John and see if we can shorten up that area, Jenelle mentioned it, she did not sleep last night because it was on her mind, it is on all of our minds. I am just trying to do the right thing for the town, in the wintertime when they put that berm in the middle it gets tight, I have talked to semi drivers that take an alternative route to get to Burnt Fork Market because they do not want to go around that curve in the winter.

Chief Boe: the last accident at the "S" curve the lady that parked her SUV at the post, the tractor trailer that came through it ripped her vehicle from the rear bumper to the drivers side door, they totaled the vehicle and the tractor trailer was doing the

speed limit. I have watched when people go into the north bound lane to go around cars. I did meet with the husband about solutions for her parking issues.

Mayor Michalson: I stopped in there again yesterday it is not like we are taking away the parking.

Councilmember Barker: she just got word tonight that she can not use the parking space behind, so it is out of the question.

Chief Motley: that cross walk needs to be moved as well, you come around that corner and someone is going to get hit.


Chief Boe: the mayor and I talked about that as well and move it to the straight away.

12. Adjournment

Councilmember Brown: motion.


Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

APPROVE:



Bob Michalson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk

Jenelle Berthoud

From: Jim Crews <shadowsdolittle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 10:09 PM
To: Jenelle Berthoud; Bob Michalson
Subject: Public Comment on an item that is not on the agenda

My public comment for the Town Council Meeting for 11-14-24 is in regard to the parking area commonly used by the Coffee Shop on Main Street across from Kodiak Jax.

I have attached a video link that will express my comments and I request this be played for the council and the public. You have the capability to do this so there should be no reason not to do so.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NscAtDmCam4>

The video is short, is narrated and has text for the hearing impaired.

As there seems to be a significant interest in this parking area by many people who support the business I think it is beneficial to show the problem. I sent this video to the Town and to the MT DOT over 2 years ago.

There is plenty of parking on either side of the road, before and after the proposed "no parking" area. That should be made clear to the public and business. Some believe the town is targeting the business and in no way does that appear to be the case.

It is simply an issue of safety.

Jim Crews * 316 9th Street * Stevensville, MT * 59870 * shadowsdolittle@gmail.com * 406-546-1102

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