

Stevensville Town Council Meeting
Minutes for
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Roll Call: Mayor Dewey, Councilmembers Michalson, Vick and Devlin were present. Councilmember Holcomb had an excused absence. Staff and members of the public were also present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Stacie Barker, 104 Winslett Ave.

Spoke about Nicole Court Housing Project, a low-income housing unit, including changing hands, surveying of the land and permits required for this project.

Mark Adams, 610 E. 2nd Street.

Expressed concern about the Town of Stevensville Fire Dept. and the Rural Fire Dept.'s Inter-Local Agreement. For several reasons, including the ISO rating, which raises homeowners' insurance, he would like this agreement to be completed.

Dave Thorson, 106 Winslett Ave.

Wrote a letter to the Council and Mayor several months ago; Opposes any low-income housing units being built because of the increase in crime activity and very concerned about flooding in house crawl-spaces.

4. Approval of Minutes
- a. February 6, 2020 Board of Adjustments
 - b. February 13, 2020 Council Meeting

Councilmember Michalson made a motion to approve minutes from February 6, 2020 Board of Adjustments and the February 13, 2020 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Vick. Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment before calling on the vote; Motion passes 3-0 vote.

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims
- a. Claims #15681-15806

Councilmember Michalson made a request to see the agreement from First Call. Councilmember Vick made a Motion to fulfill that request. Mayor Dewey requested the Financial Officer to provide that information, as requested. Councilmember Michalson asked about Claims # 15780, including the trash bags, forestry supply pants. Mayor Dewey clarified those purchases.

Discussion continued after the Finance Officer provided the agreement of services to Councilmember Michalson on First Call. The process was started before the budget was

approved, and the agreement was included in the FY20 Budget and signed after the FY20 Budget was approved.

Councilmember Vick made a motion to delay the approval of Claim #15796 until March 12th meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Michalson. Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment before calling for the vote, and the motion passed, 3-0.

Discussion continued on the current claims in front of Council tonight, including the Claim # 15780, for the Building Department's travel expenses for an international training conference; Then, continued with Claim #15808, Shipping for Gator.

Councilmember Devlin made a motion to approve the remaining claims. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Vick. Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment before calling on the vote; Motion passes 3-0 vote.

6. Administrative Reports

7. Guests

8. Correspondence

- a. Letter from Attorneys Worden Thane P.C., Re: Sewer Lane Issues- 108 Main St.

The Correspondence is very lengthy; therefore, it will not be read aloud, the entire document is in the packet online, and the issue lies in MMIA's hands at this point.

9. Public Hearings

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

- a. Discussion/Decision: Annual Review of Position Descriptions requested by Councilmember Michalson

Mr. Mayor explained Councilmember Michalson submitted an agenda item, previously and he obliged to allow us time to put these together in a structured, organizational chart, in your packet tonight, with the ability to access each position within that chart by clicking on that position. The chart is not active to navigate in the packet, but it is through the Town's website. Councilmember Michalson would like to take this agenda item to a COW meeting, as Councilmember Holcomb has requested. Councilmember Vick would like to make a secondary motion and delay the item to include it with item C. of New Business. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Michalson. Mr. Mayor called for discussion on the seconded motion, then called for Public Comment. Mayor Dewey called for the vote on the secondary motion and the motion passes, 3-0.

The original motion on the floor was then withdrawn.

- b. Discussion/Decision: Town Attorney to be at Council Meetings only when approved by Mayor and Town Council President (Michalson/Holcomb)

Councilmember Michalson stated to Mr. Mayor, per the discussion on Tuesday, himself and staff feel more comfortable with the attorney being present during meetings. During that meeting, the Mayor stated that meetings in the past have gotten a little out of hand, and himself, Mr. Michalson stated then that he did not agree with that, and looking at the budgetary, we are over budget; Also, it's not the city attorney's job to keep the peace, as it's the Mayor's job to enforce council rules, and if he cannot do that, maybe the Chief of Police needs to be here.

Mayor Dewey agreed, it is not the Town Attorney's job to keep the peace but yet an available resource for the Council's decisions. It is more helpful to have him here, witnessing the meetings, rather than having to repeat the meetings in a non-biased way. The tenure of the council and administration is early to be making this decision and the Mayor would like to entertain that maybe after being here a full year, come back to this question after everyone feels more comfortable. Mayor Dewey reminded everyone that before the Council was appointed, members of the community expressed the desire to have the attorney present at our meetings. Mr. Mayor reminded Council that half of the attorney's bill for legal services is for prosecution; Mayor Dewey reiterated, as of today, we are not over budget in the General Fund. Discussion continued on the attorney's presence and the budget. The attorney stated that it is the town's business how they would like him to provide legal services.

Councilmember Vick made the motion to have Town Attorney present only when approved by the Mayor and Town Council President. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Michalson. Councilmember Devlin asked about other options until July, the next budget cycle, as both parties are never going to agree when the attorney needs to be present; Concerned, as to what that balance includes, or that determining factor. The Town attorney spoke about the options.

Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment.

Patrick Shourd, 507 Central Ave.

In favor of Mr. Owens' presence for Council's resource until that cost savings is determined.

Stacie Barker, 104 Winslett Ave.

Wondering where the budget amendment is from moving money around. The Council should know where the money is coming from.

Dawn Geiger, 222 Turner St.

Expressed that she has failed to see why the attorney not being here would be an emergency, if Council needed an answer, he could be called, as the attorney is not a doctor.

Mayor Dewey called for the vote and the motion passes, 3-0.

- c. Discussion/Decision: Schedule a Committee of the Whole Meeting to review Town of Stevensville Purchasing Policy (Michalson/Holcomb)

Councilmember Vick made a motion to schedule a COW Meeting to discuss agenda items a. & c. on Thursday, March 19th @ 6:30pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Michalson. Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment before calling on the vote; Motion passes 3-0 vote.

12. Executive Report

Mr. Mayor delivered his Executive Report, which is available online. Clarification was delivered on plans, not yet received at Town Hall for what is being called "Nicole Court." 3rd Street Improvement Project was also discussed, with residents being included on hopefully a neighborhood meeting. The Town was awarded a grant to complete the emergency generator at Town Hall. The organization/job description chart has been completed.

13. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Michalson spoke about the timeline of the inter-local agreement and the Council is done with it, as it is in the Mayor's hands.

Councilmember Devlin asked about the alley vacate and its progress. She will not be attending the March 27th Town Council Meeting due to family health matters.

14. Board Reports

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

Monica Hoffman, Town Clerk