

**Stevensville Town Council Meeting**  
**Minutes for**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019**  
**7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call  
Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.  
**Roll Call:** Mayor Dewey, Council members Barker, Holcomb and Michalson were present. Staff and members of the public were also present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. April 11, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes  
Council member Holcomb made the motion to approve the April 11, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes. It was then Seconded by Council member Barker. Mayor Dewey asked for discussion from Council, then asked for any public comments. The Mayor called for the vote and all voted "Aye." The motion passed, unanimously 3-0.
4. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims
  - a. Approval of Claims #15112-15135  
Council member Holcomb made a motion to approve Claims #15112-15135. The motion was Seconded by Council member Barker. Mayor Dewey then asked for Council discussion. Council member Michalson mentioned that he noticed some claims will probably be on the May 9, 2019 meeting. He asked if the mayor is requesting the council to pay those claims out of cycle, under New Business. Mayor Dewey assured Council member Michalson, yes, that is an agenda item under New Business tonight. The claims before Council tonight are claims paid to-date. There will be claims occurred before the May 9, 2019 meeting, which will need to be paid, that is what the agenda item is pertaining to.  
Council member Michalson read personnel policy pertaining to no employee can benefit from a contract or personal purchase from town funds. He stated that Council member Barker and himself received a phone call from a local restaurant in which the mayor was eating lunch at and supposedly, the town credit card was used on April 12, 2019. Mayor Dewey responded with, yes, the working meeting between the Public Works manager and himself pertained to business of the town.  
Mayor Dewey called for the vote, starting with Council member Barker "Aye," Holcomb "Aye," Michalson "Aye." The motion passed with votes 3-0.
5. Administrative Reports  
No Administrative Reports
6. Guests  
No Guests
7. Correspondence  
Mayor Dewey read 3 Correspondence  
Dated April 11, 2019, Mayor Dewey read the resignation letter submitted by Town Clerk, Audree Tribbensee, which stated an Effective date of April 11, 2019. The letter stated her resignation is due to continued, relentless harassment, bullying and retaliation within the town, and as an employee, they can no longer endure the intolerable working conditions and environment.  
Dated April 17, 2019, Mayor Dewey read the resignation letter submitted by Council member Jerry Phillips, which stated an Effective date of April 18, 2019. It was stated this resignation is due to the continued fighting within the Town of Stevensville's council, and they can no longer be an effective council member after receiving numerous threats for not doing what others wanted them to.

3. Letter submitted business owners

Mayor Dewey read a letter signed by many local business owners, stating disappointment to hear of the recent resignations of both Town Clerk and Council member Phillips, both due to hostile environments in which the council put them in. They have asked the council to work together in the past and would like to see this change for the community, as this is a pure example of Council making decisions based on personal agendas, rather than good for the town.

8. Public Comments

Raymond Smith, 322 Valley View Rd

Raymond explained his concern about the removal of the porta-potties at the park, as people, including children and traveling families visiting Stevensville need those. He has witnessed public urination and wondering if there is something within codes that require a public restroom.

Mayor Dewey responded to the concern, explaining that the porta-potties were removed in the fall for winterization. They have not been replaced because parks have exceeded their funds for that service so the town is putting its energy into finishing the permanent restrooms.

Gretchen Speece, Business owner on Main St.

Gretchen has been here for 33 years and unfortunately, she lives 1 mile outside of city limits which prevents her from voting for Mayor or Town Council and feels this is unfair because Council has lost all civility. She urges for Council to learn civility.

Loey Knapp, 3rd St.

Loey Knapp wanted to let everyone know, there are numerous groups working toward economic development and does not appreciate the council, as they are suppose to be representing the citizens and businesses, not their own agendas.

Lewis Barnett, 419 College

Having been a mayor in the past, he understands conflict. What he doesn't understand is why a council member is being threatened; Isn't it illegal to threaten a member of the Council.

Mayor Dewey responded, stating that Mr. Phillips decided not to pursue anything with law enforcement but it is, indeed a felony to threaten a council member.

No further public comments.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion/Decision - Council Reconsideration of the approval of the Mayor's Employee Reorganization Plan

Councilman Michalson: He explained he was not at the last meeting, which was a committee as a whole meeting, it was his understanding the council's decision was sustained. Council member Michalson feels the Mayor's Employee Reorganization Plan is lacking in several areas, including the Town Clerk as the Building Official and hiring a part-time Court Clerk. Starting of the budget season; Mayor Dewey recently hired a police officer; Michalson reminded the public that they had to release an officer last year to balance the budget. Councilman Holcomb read comments from the newspaper and how they pertain to the Mayor's reorganization plan and communication. Barker stands buy her decision to resend the Mayor's Employee Reorganization Plan.

Council member Michalson made a motion to resend the Mayor's Employee Reorganization Plan. Seconded by Council member Holcomb.  
Council was not interested in further comment.

Public

Comment:

Joe Moore, Central Ave. Noted that the Employee Reorganization Plan was approved Jan 10, 2019 and was published in the newspaper. He recalled all council members voting on the

plan.

Raymond Smith, 325 Valley View St. Commented on trust and communication is key so that we can vote as a council for the good of the community.

The vote was called and all voted "Aye." Motion passed 3-0.

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Councilman Holcomb read comments from the newspaper and how they pertained to the Mayor's reorganization plan and communication. Barker wanted the council to know that she stands buy her decision to resend the Mayor's Employee Reorganization Plan. Council member Michalson then made a motion to resend the Mayor's Employee Reorganization Plan. It was Seconded by Council member Holcomb. Mayor Dewey asked for further comment and Council had none, therefore Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment: Joe Moore, Central Ave.

Joe noted that the Employee Reorganization Plan was approved Jan 10, 2019 and was published in the newspaper. He recalled all council members voting on the plan.

Raymond Smith, 325 Valley View St.

Raymond commented on trust and communication is key so that we can vote as a council for the good of the community.

Mayor Dewey called for the vote and all voted "Aye," with the motion passing 3-0.

- b. Discussion/Decision - Council direction to the Mayor to open the Town of Stevensville River Park Fishing Access site

Council member Michalson made a motion to Redirect the Mayor to open the Town of Stevensville River Park Fishing Access site reopened and properly maintained, with an official date for public use.

Seconded by Council member Holcomb.

Financial means and collaboration with the park board was discussed. The Mayor advised the council

that Gas Tax money cannot be used for pot-a-potties at the park but can only be used for snow removal. Off topic, the Mayor redirected the Council's conversation back to the motion.

Public Comment:

Richard Marcus, Winslett Ave. Encouraged communication with the state to see where they are at; before we waste money to open the access site; Requested that we not move forward.

Joe Moore, Central Ave. Reminded that it was a temporary fishing access.

Vickie Motley, 318 9<sup>th</sup> St. Commented that she does not believe the voters will be utilizing the access, when there is a better option.

Tonya Eckert, 102 College. Wondering if Fish & Wildlife has already worked on it.

Jim Crews, 316 9<sup>th</sup> St. Commented how the Boy Scouts worked on it, and would like everyone to not forget about the recreational activities that do not include commercial activities.

Raymond Smith, 325 Valley View St. Encouraged council to table the decision and relook over the financial costs associated with it.

The vote was called, Barker "No," Holcomb "No," Michalson "I,"

The motion Fails 2-1.

Council member Michalson made a motion to redirect the Mayor to open the Town of Stevensville River Park Fishing Access site reopened and properly maintained, with an official date for public use. The motion was Seconded by Council member Holcomb.

Financial means and collaboration with the park board was discussed. The Mayor advised the council that Gas Tax money cannot be used for porta-potties at the park but can only be used for snow removal. Off topic, the Mayor redirected the Council's conversation back to the motion.

Mayor Dewey called for public comment

Richard Marcus, Winslett Ave.

Richard encouraged communication with the state to see where they are at, before we waste money to open the access site; Requested that we not move forward.

Joe Moore, Central Ave.

Joe reminded everyone that it was a temporary fishing access.

Vickie Motley, 318 9th St.

Vickie commented that she does not believe the voters will be utilizing the access, when there is a better option.

Tonya Eckert, 102 College.

Tonya was wondering if Wildlife Fish & Game has already worked on it.

Jim Crews, 316 9th St.

Jim commented how the Boy Scouts worked on it, and would like everyone to not forget about the recreational activities that do not include commercial activities.

Raymond Smith, 325 Valley View St.

Raymond encouraged council to table the decision and look over the financial costs associated with it.

Mayor Dewey called for the vote, starting with Council member Barker "No," Holcomb "No," Michalson "I."

The motion Failed with a 2-1 vote.

## 10. New Business

a.

Council member Holcomb brought to the attention that Council will be attending the Montana Municipal Institute held by the Montana Local Government Center in Bozeman from May 7-9, 2019. Council member Holcomb made a motion to cancel the regularly scheduled May 9th Town Council Meeting and authorized the payment of claims out of cycle. The motion was then Seconded by Council member Michalson.

Mayor Dewey called for the vote starting with Council member Michalson "I," Barker "I," Holcomb "I." The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

b.

Council member Michalson brought forth a discrepancy between the paying of the out-of-cycle bills. The Mayor paid the out-of-cycle bills to avoid the town any late occurring charges because the meeting was cancelled.

Council member Michalson made a motion to approve the attached interpretation of Resolution 361 & 387C and then Seconded by Council member Holcomb.

Mayor Dewey called for public comment

There were multiple public comments on emergency snow removal. The businesses needed to open. Therefore, whether or not a meeting can be collaborated. The bills, including snow removal were necessary for businesses to be open, the snow fall was also abnormally high. The mayor clarified that all of the snow removal equipment was in working condition prior to the snow fall.

Mayor Dewey called for the vote starting with Council member, Michalson "I;" Barker "I," Holcomb "I."

The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

c.

Children involved in the working areas of the town hall was discussed. It is not illegal to bring children into the workplace but it was consensus among the town council that children should not be anywhere near working areas.

Council member Holcomb made a motion to restrict the Town of Stevensville work areas of all children with the exception of tours and special events with reasonable adult supervision and that the appearance and maintenance of the child or day care facility of town hall be promptly eliminated. The motion was Seconded by Council member Michalson.

Mayor called for public comment

Joe Moore, Central Ave. Joe reminded everyone that we are not a metropolitan area and we are a small town and should be caring for each other.

Unknown. Concerned about the way the motion reads now, as citizens paying their water bill are not allowed to bring their children into town hall.

Councilman Michalson requested to ask the council to vote "No" on this motion. Mayor Dewey suggested that councilman Holcomb cancel her motion.

Council member Holcomb moved to withdraw her motion. The motion was Seconded by council member Michalson.

d.

Council member Michalson would like Council to review, amend and recommend the Access Control Resolution. Council member Holcomb asked if the adapted Resolution has been seen by the town's attorney. Mayor Dewey reassured everyone, yes, the attorney has reviewed it and "sincerely urges the council not to adapt it as written."

Council member Michalson made a motion for the council to table the draft of the proposed Access Control Resolution until future time. It was then Seconded by Council member Holcomb.

e.

Council member Michalson discussed the budget, with last year being over budget. The position of Town Clerk/Treasurer was combined up until 201/12 (?). The Town of Stevensville by law, needs a Town Clerk. Discussion continued among Council and the mayor. Mayor Dewey explained that workload of the Town Clerk, Treasurer and Court Clerk as one position is too much for one position. Mayor Dewey gave an example: The Town Financial Officer, right now is working full-time on the budget, to pull any time away from the budget right now is not do-able.

No further discussion among council.

f.

Council discussion/decision to direct the Mayor to not use Zero Based Budgeting Process during the 2019/2020 budgeting process and that the upcoming budget shall be documents and published by line item for the general public and council

Council member Michalson discussed the use of graphs verse the line item approach, without the use of the Zero Based Budgeting Process during the 2019/2020 budgeting process. Attorney: the council cannot force the mayor from using Zero Based Budgeting; he

encouraged collaboration. The mayor will produce the budget with the numbers for the council, as the numbers were provided last year as well, along with the graphs for the public

g. Council discussion/decision to rescind Resolution 444

Council member Michalson discussed Resolution 444 was adapted with large council members in mind, not smaller "charters," such as the Town of Stevensville and would like to keep it simple. Mayor Dewey clarified that the Town of Stevensville is not a charter form of government; with clarification that Code of Conduct is referring to behavior, while the Code of Ethics is morals.

Council member Michalson made a motion to Rescind Resolution 444.  
No Second. Motion fails from Lack of Second.

h.

Council member Michalson said it is the mayor's responsibility to make sure all boards are running efficiently and smoothly; If they are not, the mayor needs to be more efficient and aggressive.

Council member Barker requested to know of any clubs that were currently lacking memberships. The mayor explained that certain board seats are allocated to in-town members and non-resident members, therefore all boards are lacking members.

i. Discussion/Decision regarding Council Interviews Procedural Guidelines and Councilmember Candidate Interview Questions

Mayor Dewey explained this item on the agenda is to allow Council to determine the interview process for Council seat Ward 2 after the resignation of Council member Jerry Phillips. The mayor has attached the procedural guidelines from the last time Council went through this process. Applications are due Monday, May 3, 2019. The Council will hold interview May 13/14 and plan on swearing in the new council member May 16, 2019.

Mayor Dewey would like to entertain the motion to follow the Procedural Guidelines and Council member Candidate Interview process to fill Ward 2. The motion was Moved by Council Holcomb and Seconded by Council member Barker. All voted "Aye," therefore, the motion passed.

11. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey gave his Executive Report and appreciates patience from Council and citizens as he is trying to juggle the workload with the vacancies at Town Hall.

12. Town Council Comments

13. Board Report

14. Adjournment

Mayor Dewey adjourned the meeting at 9:53 pm.