

Stevensville Special Town Council Meeting
Minutes for
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019
6:30 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Roll Call: Mayor Dewey, Council members Holcomb, Gibson, Vick and Shourd. Staff and members of the community were also present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Unfinished Business

Discussion/Decision: Action on a First Right of Refusal for 26.06 acres adjacent to the Town's well-field.

Mayor Dewey explained the property and its importance to the town and its tie to the existing well-field. The timeline to act on the Town's First Right of Refusal is tomorrow 9:30. Council has been provided with appraisals and some of them have been able to meet with Public Works Director. Mayor Dewey asked how Council would like proceed.

Council member Shourd made a Motion to exercise the Town's rights to purchase the 26.06 acres adjacent to the Town's well-field for the price of \$185,000. The Motion then dies for a Lack of a Second.

Mayor Dewey asked how Council would like to proceed. Council member Gibson suggested that the administration and attorney get together and see about a possible easement.

The City Attorney continued with the importance of Council's decision tonight. He also spoke about the deadline and how the past Council must have found value in the land and the importance to the town's future water system.

Council member Gibson stated that there was other land down the road that was just as useful and the Council has made up their mind, they are not purchasing the land. Mayor Dewey clarified that Council has not made that decision, as they just have not made a decision.

Public Works Director spoke about his opinion on the purchase of the property, expressing his concern that not purchasing the land was a mistake as it will protect the infrastructure.

Mayor Dewey continued to speak more about the importance of the pond on the land is to the city.

Council member Gibson made a Motion to Adjourn the meeting. The Motion dies from Lack of Second.

Called for Public Comment

Christa Wortman, Logan Lane & former property owner.

Christa spoke about the history of the property back when her family owned it, sold it and the history behind the water rights with DNRC and placement of the town's current wells. The Town did not have the resources to purchase the property in the past, which what led to their First Right of Refusal on the land.

Councilmember Vick made a Motion to Suspend Council rules and allow Public Comment to allow the public the weigh in on the subject. The Motion was then Seconded by Councilmember Holcomb. Mayor Dewey called for the Vote and the Motion passes 4-0.

3rd party, interested in purchasing the land.

Her husband spoke about the pond in the last meeting. They are looking to annex into the town limits and giving the city an easement. They would not have legal ties to the water, as the water rights are tied up.

Robert Michalson, 222 Turner St.

Mr. Michalson spoke about councilmember Vick's complaint in the newspaper about the Mayor cohering others.

Chief Motley.

Chief spoke about the purchase of the land, and assuring it; This may be a way to secure the water system; Motions are being made without discussion.

Councilmember Gibson stated that he has faith and working with the buyer. We don't have to spend \$185,000 and everyone can win, as they just want to purchase a piece of property.

The city attorney spoke about the ratifications of not deciding to purchase the property.

Councilmember Gibson made a substitute Motion that Council not do the Right of Refusal. The Motion fails from a Lack of Second.

Councilmember Shourd made the Motion to exercise the First Right of Refusal for 26.06 acres adjacent to the Town's well-field. The Motion fails from a Lack of Second.

Jean McKinley, 401 Charlos

Ms. McKinley spoke about curiosity in how serious the buyers are in purchasing the land and the attorney has been hired to represent us and pushing on the decision is inappropriate.

The city attorney spoke about notifying each councilmember and explaining the legalities of each decision. The decision will be made for non-decision if the meeting adjourns without a decision. His role is to inform of the legalities.

Council member Gibson made the Motion to adjourn. The Motion was then Seconded by Councilmember Holcomb. Mayor Dewey called for the Vote. Council member Holcomb "Aye," Shourd "No," Vick "No," and Gibson "Aye."

After a 10minute recess, Councilmember Vick made the Motion to Not exercise on the First Right of Refusal for 26.06 acres adjacent to the Town's well-field. The Motion was then seconded by councilmember Gibson. Councilmember Vick explained his reasoning on "good faith" for the easement. Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment and then called for the Vote; Councilmember Holcomb "Aye," Holcomb "Aye," Shourd "No," Gibson "No," Vick "Aye." The Motion passes, 3-1.

3.. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:07 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Brandon Dewey, Mayor

Monica Hoffman, Town Clerk