

**Stevensville Town Council Meeting**  
**Minutes for**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 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. Members of the public were also present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims
  - a. Claims #15188-15247  
Council member Michalson made a motion to approve the Bi-Weekly Claims #15188 - 15247, totaling \$72,070.32. It was Seconded by Council member Holcomb.  
Mayor Dewey made a Motion to amend the Claims to include #15248, Seconded by Council member Michalson. The vote was called and all voted "Aye." The amendment on the Motion passed 3-0.  
Council member Barker questioned the claim from Northern Woods Tree Services. Mayor Dewey clarified, that was part of the kiosk project; We do have funding from the DNRC to replace the tree. The projects were separate entities, to prevent a tree from falling on the kiosk. The vote was called, starting with Council member Barker "Aye," Holcomb "No," and Michalson "Aye." The Motion on the Claims passed, 2-1.
5. Administrative Reports
  - a. Airport Manager's Report
  - b. Building Department Report  
Building Department Report provided in the packet.
  - c. Finance Report  
Finance Report provided in the packet.
  - d. Fire Department Report
  - e. Police Department Report  
Police Clerk, Jenelle Berthoud reported, April and May were busy months. Chief Marble gave a presentation on Email fraud on Coffee with a Cop. The police vehicles are continuing to have issues, 3 vehicles are currently under maintenance, including sirens out, which has to do with the age of the vehicles, the electrical components and batteries. The problems mentioned on 3 of the 4 vehicles are weighing on the department. There were 62 calls in April, of those, 15 were Incident reports. 76 in May, of those, 3 became Incident Reports. We do not have a night officer at this time.
  - f. Public Works Report
6. Guests
7. Correspondence
8. Public Comments  
Mark Adams, 319 College St.

Mark commended on the reporting of hours from the Fire Department and wondered as to why his hours are moving up and down, and why there are 4 people allowed access to the Fire Dept's Admin report.

Dave Laursen, 310 Main St.

Dave is a property owner. He expressed concern with ongoing construction, and potential apartments being built in a commercial-zoned area.

Leslie Tadvik, 509 Mission St.

Wondering where to put grass clippings. Her trash is being filled each week and was wondering if the grass clippings area will be opened to the public.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion/Decision/Update regarding the Finance Officer and Town Clerk vacancies and completion of associated functions during the recruitment and on-boarding process  
Mayor Dewey updated the council on the recruitment for the two vacant positions and as to-date we have one application for the Finance position and six for the Town Clerk. The most recent deadlines for those positions in June 21, 2019, however we will start reviewing those applications received. Council member Barker and Council member Holcomb commented on the posting of those positions.
- b. Discussion/Decision: Ward 2 Council Vacancy  
Ward 2 Council vacancy was re-published in the newspaper for 10 days per council rules. Council member Michalson made it aware that he plans on appointing a candidate to the council seat for Ward 2, under New Business (a.). Mayor Dewey per council rules, an application is needed to nominate and appoint a council candidate, Section 3. There are currently no applications. Council member Michalson would like to make a motion to sustain council rules, nominate and appoint a candidate because they are past 30 days. He would like to do that under the next agenda item.

10. New Business

- a. Discussion/Decision to suspend Council Rules in order nominate and appoint a candidate to the Council from Stevensville, Ward 2 (Micalson/Barker)  
Council member Michalson made a Motion to suspend council rules and appoint a candidate to fill the open Ward 2 seat. The motion was Seconded by Council member Holcomb.  
Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment:  
Raymond Smith, 326 Valley View Rd.  
Raymond requested the council to look at what the council is trying to accomplish. There was only one candidate that met the 60 day residential requirements.  
Mayor Dewey clarified that both applicants met the requirements as far as residency, prior to both candidates withdrawing their applications for council. Currently, there are no valid applications before us today because all candidates have withdrawn their applications.  
Raymond Smith, 326 Valley View Rd.  
Raymond clarified, that is correct, there are no applications today; Raymond then volunteered to fill out an application as a candidate if necessary, to fill the position.  
Leslie Tadvik, 509 Mission St.  
Leslie mentioned that her husband sat on the council; He was appointed in one night.  
Council member Michalson made a motion to appoint James Crews for the Council member Ward 2 seat for Stevensville, MT  
There was an existing Motion already on the floor: Council member Michalson made a Motion to suspend council rules and appoint a candidate to fill the open Ward 2 seat. The motion was then Seconded by Councilman Holcomb. The vote was called starting with Council member Barker "Aye," Holcomb "Aye" & Michalson "Aye." The Motion to suspend council rules passed, 3-0.

Council member Michalson made a Motion to appoint James Crews for the Council member Ward 2 seat for Stevensville, MT. The Motion was Seconded by Council member Barker. Council member Holcomb mentioned that she too was appointed to the council prior to her running for her seat. We need to follow what the book says, as well as the Resolutions. Council member Michalson said it has been a “trying time” to fill the open council seat, having council members crying after meetings, the public shaming of applicants, the seat can be filled for 5 months and the people can vote in fall who they want in the seats.

Mayor Dewey continued with calling for Public Comment.

Raymond Smith, 326 Valley View St. The council and Mayor do not understand their roles and responsibilities. Neither candidates are here today but it's the council's decision, we need to get the government running.

Many residents spoke in support of the council for Jim Crews.

Mayor Dewey called for the vote, starting with Council member Barker “Aye,” Holcomb “Aye,” & Michalson “Aye.” The vote was unanimously 3-0. The Motion passes to appoint James Crews for the Council member Ward 2 seat for Stevensville, MT,

- b. Discussion/Decision Council to Rescind Resolution 281 and 281A (Michalson/Barker)  
Council member Holcomb made the motion to Rescind Resolution 281 and 281A. The motion was then Seconded by Council Barker.  
Council member Holcomb explained the reasoning to do this is so that the council can contact the attorney any time they would like.  
Mayor Dewey then called for Public Comment.  
Raymond Smith, 326 Valley View  
Raymond expressed that he disagreed with the council, as it is the council chairman's role; It would cost \$85 an hour, and charges would accumulate with 5 separate people contacting the attorney per any simple question. Even if it takes the attorney an hour per question to answer that question. There is a mechanism to accomplish goals without everyone contacting the attorney. In response, Council member Holcomb mentioned the council has tried to go thru the council's chair but emails with questions are not being answered.  
Mayor Dewey mentioned the problem the attorney is having with the current resolution is the council is not taking the steps necessary to contact the attorney, and then the council president not corresponding to the rest of the council.  
Raymond Smith, 326 Valley View.  
Raymond mentioned that Mayor and Council President have equal authority to seek advice and reach out to the town's attorney.  
Mayor Dewey then called for the vote starting with Council member Michalson “Aye,” Barker “Aye,” & Holcomb “Aye.” The Motion passed, 3-0.
- c. Discussion - Council reminder to the Mayor that the Mayor is required by law, § 7-3-203 (1) MCA to enforce Council Resolutions (Michalson/Barker)  
Council member Michalson, addressing the Mayor: When the crowd was here, it was getting loud, and when council members are leaving here in tears, that's a big red flag. The Mayor moderates the meetings. When it comes to some people, you are pretty good, others, not so. Council member Michalson read council rules and Robert's Rules of Order and requested that the Mayor be more diligent if the crowd gets loud, which would then require to call Point of Order. If the Mayor does not call Point of Order, the council will.
- d. Discussion/Decision: Council consent to Mayor's appointment of Christa Wortman to the Park Board  
Mayor Dewey mentioned Ms. Wortman's application attached in the packet. Council member Holcomb made the Motion to appoint Christa Wortman to the Park Board. The Motion was then Seconded by Council member Barker. Mayor Dewey called for the vote, Council member Barker “Aye,” Holcomb “Aye,” & Michalson “Aye.” The Motion passed, 3-0.

- e. Discussion/Decision: Approval of audit services contract with Strom & Associates P.C. for FY2019, FY2020 and FY2021  
The contract is a mirror of the current contract. Mayor Dewey clarified that the audit report will be issued back to the town close to mid-next week, then there will be a presentation to the council and it will most likely to be on one of the next two agendas.  
Council member Holcomb made a Motion to approve the auditing service contract with Strom & Associates P.C. for FY2019, FY2020 and FY2021. The Motion was Seconded by Council member Barker. The vote was called, starting with Council member Holcomb "Aye," Michalson "Aye," & Barker "Aye." The Motion passed, 3-0.
- f. Discussion/Decision: Review/selection of legal services proposals  
Mayor Dewey went thru and explained the cost differences between the proposals, basing it on 10 hours a month and the fees that were associated. July 1st is the due date on the current attorney's contract. Council member Holcomb would like to sit down and talk to both of them.

11. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey reported that most of the Executive Report has been covered in the agenda. The Mayor is doing his best to input revenue and expenditures. Mayor Dewey expressed appreciation to the council for their patience on the output of the agendas and packets. Speaking on some of the agenda items tonight, for example, there should be an expectation for council candidates; We are cancelling council rules and appointing candidates without applications, not even in the presence of the council tonight. Instead of changing the rules, or removing the rules, we are just simply suspending rules to achieve agendas, opening up the floodgates. When I enforce the rules, they easily just suspend rules. In one item, the council is suspending council rules, then in another item, is requesting the Mayor to enforce council rules.

12. Town Council Comments

Council member Holcomb would like the mayor to verify the legality of the residential units going in above the laundry mat.

Council member Barker will not be available for the June 22 meeting.

13. Board Report

14. Adjournment

**Mayor Dewey adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:27 pm.**

**APPROVE:**

**ATTEST:**

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Brandon Dewey, Mayor

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Monica Hoffman, Town Clerk