



**Stevensville Town Council Meeting  
Minutes for  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019  
7:00 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. Approval of Minutes

a. August 5, 2019

Council member Holcomb moved to approve the minutes for August 5, 2019. The Motion was Seconded by Council member Vick. Mayor Dewey called for Council discussion, Public Comment, then for the Vote. Council member Holcomb "Aye," Gibson "Abstain," Vick "Abstain," Shourd "Abstain." 1- 3 Abstain.

b. August 6, 2019

The attorney gave advice as how Council can proceed with the approval of the minutes. The August 5 & 6 Minutes will be Tabled until the next meeting to be allow the Council to review the audio recording of the minutes before approving.

c. August 28, 2019

Council member Holcomb moved to approve the minutes for August 28, 2019, the Motion was then Seconded by Council member Shourd.

Correction to the September 28, 2019 Minutes: "3%" needs to be in place of "5%." -Corrected

Council member Gibson would like it to be added to the September 5, 2019 Minutes:

A special meeting was called to do the bids on the airport, it was stated at the Aug. 28, 2019 meeting that it would be to do the bids for the airport, which did not happen; Council member Gibson asked the question to the Mayor if that was the only think on the Agenda, he said Yes; He asked if it was about the Budget; He said No. For whatever reason that was changed, it included the Budget and the Lighting Districts approval. Council member Gibson would like to be reflected in the Minutes as an Addition.

Mayor Dewey called for Council discussion, Public Comment, then for the Vote. 4-0.

d. September 5, 2019

Council member Holcomb moved to approve the minutes for September 5, 2019, the Motion was then Seconded by Council member Shourd.

Council member Gibson would like it added to the September 12, 2019 Minutes that is was stated on the September 5, 2019 Agenda to approve the Mill Levies and stated by the Mayor that we needed Public Comment on the September 12, 2019 Agenda, and it was not placed on the September 12, 2019 Agenda.

Mayor Dewey called for Council discussion, Public Comment, then for the Vote. 4-0.

4. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claim #'s 15446 – 15504

Council member Holcomb moved to approve Claim #'s 15446 – 15504, the Motion was then Seconded by Council member Shourd. Mayor Dewey then called for Council discussion. Council member Holcomb asked about claims and Mayor Dewey clarified. #15473, 15474 & 15475, they are not duplicate claims. #15487, that is time split between departments, everyone's registration amounts to \$150.00. #15488, \$2 water fee collected, that is where it is paid to Dept. Environmental Quality. #15492, Mayor Dewey clarified that was to MMIA, provide defense for current claim. #15499, Airport packing materials. #15502, Market Analysis Grant, License for GIS Software.

Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment, then called for the Vote, Motion passes, 4-0.

5. Administrative Reports

6. Guests

7. Correspondence

8. Public Comments

Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment.

Loey Knapp, 526 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

Spoke about the SMSA grant match opportunity in the Budget. By approving the grant match, the Town is allowing SMSA to take control of the growth and development.

It was clarified that Council did pass the Motion to Not grant the money to SMSA.

Gretchen Speiss,

Suggested Council to walk the streets, as there are businesses closing and there are empty store fronts.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Contract for legal services with Scott B. Owens, City Attorney

Mayor Dewey stated, as per Council consented to the Mayor's appointment of Attorney, Scott Owens, as the Stevensville City Attorney on July 11, 2019, a contract is before Council tonight for Council's approval. The term of the contract is for 2 years, from July 13, 2019 through July 12, 2021.

Council member Holcomb moved to approve Contract for legal services with Scott B. Owens, City Attorney, the Motion was then Seconded by Council member Gibson. Mayor Dewey called for the Vote. Motion Passes unanimously, 4-0.

b. Discussion/Decision: Performing a special audit from May 2019 through July 2019

Mayor Dewey stated Council approved proceeding with the special audit. The intent was to bring forward an RFP; After speaking to multiple auditing firms, and all discouraged him, as the value was not there for what we would have to pay. The suggestion was given to contact our current auditing firm and ask them to look over a "high risk area," which will come at an additional cost. Council member Gibson stated, as before, we really will never know unless we do the RFP, therefore no harm. Council member Holcomb strongly advises what we continue with the process. Mayor Dewey made it clear that the Administration is not objecting to an audit, by any means, what we are doing, what we are coming forward with, is a solution, a sensitive solution to the town, and still set out to accomplish to the Council as a goal.

Council member Gibson recommended that this be a next Agenda item.

Council member Holcomb moved to Table Discussion Performing a special audit from May 2019 through July 2019 until the Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Motion was then Seconded by Council member Vick. Mayor Dewey called for the Vote. Motion Passes unanimously, 4-0.

#### 10. New Business

##### a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution 449, Adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2020

Council member Gibson started the conversation over the Mill Levies. It was stated on the Sep.5 Agenda to approve the Mill Levies; It was stated it was going to be on the Oct. 12 meeting, that the mills had to be approved and submitted by Sep. 13; We never had that discussion and they have already been submitted; Now it is in the Resolution that we approve the Mill Levies. This should have been in connection with the Budget. Mayor clarified, that going and reviewing resolutions, there was no stand-alone Resolution that approved mill values, besides 2012; Previous to 2012 we did not see it and therefore after 2012; Therefore the Finance Officer took the same approach the last few Financial Officers did, following suit, the process which has always been accepted. Council member Gibson stated that it is irresponsible to pass a Budget tonight without even knowing what it is.

Council member Holcomb stated this is not ready to pass.

Council member Shourd does not think the Budget should be passed unless all members do so but would like to continue. The wages included in the Resolution are desired.

Discussion about the building inspectors, their certifications took place and their hours of work.

Council Gibson thought the Building Department's employees' hours of work and wages might need to be a topic of discussion, while the Mayor Disagreed; Council is in an awkward position, as we have never had a 30-day vacancy of 3 Council members over a budget season. Mayor Dewey continued; The Budget has been presented; During the Preliminary Budget Presentation, we presented where we were allocating mills, and nobody at that time asked what the value of a mill was or the taxable evaluation was at that time. Council member Gibson replied that was because it was on the Agenda twice, and it was not. We need to have a balanced budget; we cannot spend more than we take in. The Mayor replied that this is a balanced budget, unless you don't want to ever make any capital improvements. Council member asked for information that has not been provided; Mayor Dewey asked if he had those questions tonight; what was asked for was revenue and appropriations, which was provided before you tonight.

Council member Holcomb suggested allowing Chief Marble speak to Council.

Chief Marble spoke about the Police Department with Council, issues about retention in his department and how those issues are related to wages.

Council member Gibson made a Motion to increase the Investigator's wage from \$18/per hr. to \$19/per hr. The Motion was then Seconded by Council member Vick. The Mayor called for Council discussion. Council member Vick would like to see an Investigator's Job Description. This is on top of the 2%, which makes the wage \$19.36. This change is for employee retention. Mayor Dewey called Public Comment.

Jim Chandler, 405 Charlos

He spoke for the Ad Hoc Budget Committee, and spending over 50+ hours, and the amount of

detail in the Budget, including individual salaries.

Council member Gibson thanked the Ad Hoc committee's time involved but the Council is the overall one approving the budget.

Jim Tadvick, 509 Mission.

The Ad Hoc Committee was formed without council approval and without council involvement.

Council member Gibson stated that he respects what those involved did but overall, it's the council's responsibility to the Town of Stevensville to adopt a budget. Mayor Dewey clarified that council was repeatedly informed on the committee and the status as to where the budget stood and the agendas were publicly published. The Motion was to increase a certain position \$1.00/ hr.; Mayor called for the Vote. The Motion Passed, 4-0.

Council member Holcomb stated that any other committees were formed by a resolution.

Council member Gibson recommended more transparency, including a council person, any chance the administration can.

Discussion took place about the Police Clerk's wages, and a salary adjustment, to allow that position to be more equal to similar clerk positions in the organization.

Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment.

Laura Miller, 331 Turner St.

As one of the clerks in the organization, Laura spoke on the Police Clerk's behalf, as far as supporting the decision to pay the position for the job duties she performs.

Council member Shourd made a Motion to increase the Police Clerk's position \$1.50. The Motion was Seconded by Council member Vick. Discussion took place about the Merit vs 2% decision and these conversations as a result of those decisions. This would change to \$16.81. This is being addresses as a retention issue.

Leanna Rodabaugh, 204 Ravalli St.

Leanna would like to know what that wage amount totals, including social security and retirement; which makes it closer to \$19/per hr, rather than \$16/ per hr.

Mayor Dewey called for the Vote. Council member Holcomb "No," Shourd "Aye," Vick "Aye," Gibson "No," & Mayor Dewey broke the Tie Vote with "Aye." Motion Passes 3-2.

Council member Gibson made a Motion to cut the Aerobics Instructor position, the Motion was then Seconded by Council member Holcomb. Discussion on the position among Council. Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment.

Leslie Tadvick, 509 Mission St.

Suggested the Aerobics instructor position can be on an honor system.

Mayor Dewey called for the Vote. Council member Vick "No," Holcomb "Aye," Shourd "No," Gibson "Aye," & Mayor Dewey broke the Tie Vote with "No." Motion Fails 3-2.

Council member Gibson made a Motion for the Town to Develop a Strategic Plan before the end of the Fiscal Year, which includes getting rid of the surplus cars and the car insurance, the Motion was then Seconded by Council member Vick. Mayor Dewey called for the Vote, and the Motion passes unanimously, 4-0.

It was agreed upon that the changes in the Council's pay need to be in a Resolution, under the salaries and wages.

Council member Holcomb would like to see it before Council, anything paid for from Capital Improvement.

Council member Vick made a Motion to Table Adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 until October 10, 2019 Meeting. The Motion was then Seconded by Council member Holcomb. Mayor Dewey recommended to Council to push that even further at a Special Meeting or the regular meeting October 24, 2019 because of time off and the time needed to make the changes. Council accepted Amending the Motion. Council member Holcomb Seconded the Amendment.

Jim Tadvick, 509 Mission St.

Asked for clarification, making sure that the town is not paying for any employee mileage from their home to work. It was clarified; No.

Mayor called for the Vote, and it Passes unanimously, 4-0.

c. Discussion/Decision: Stevensville Scarecrow Festival Event & Alcohol Use Permit

Council member Holcomb made a Motion to approve Stevensville Scarecrow Festival Event & Alcohol Use Permit. The Motion was then Seconded by Council member Shourd. It was clarified that it was approved by the Chief and insurance is on file. Mayor Dewey called for the vote, unanimously Passes 4-0.

11. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey gave his Executive Report.

12. Town Council Comments

13. Board Report

14. Adjournment

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:02 p.m.**

**APPROVE:**

**ATTEST:**

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Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

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Monica Hoffman, Town Clerk

