



**Stevensville Public Hearing  
Minutes for  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019  
6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Public Hearing

a. Proposed changes to Water & Sewer Rate Charges

Finance Officer, Robert Underwood explained the proposed rate changes, along with Rural Water who provides a rate analysis services to utilities such as ourselves. The Finance Officer spoke about the rates, bonds, loans and revenues, which gives them the right to hold us accountable.

Dan Kramer, from Montana Rural Water spoke about the water rates, involving the different line sizes. The town currently has 852 EDU's. The wells are currently working more than they need to, with water leakage, wear and tear on the pumps, and the electricity.

Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment.

Pam Johnson, Creekside Meadows

Spoke about the Lighting Districts and the increase in taxes.

Dan Limen, 126 Valley View

Wondering what the decrease would actually amount to.

Joe Moore, Citizen

Read a letter from a citizen, 203 St. Mary's Drive. Spoke about "Pat's living situation" and lowering the taxes in order for the citizens to be able to afford to live.

Cheryl Wilson, 10<sup>th</sup> St.

Spoke about rates of the future; As she met with Mr. Underwood Utility costs usually do not go down, as this will cause a drastic rate increase in the future.

Marilyn Wolf, Creekside Meadows

Interested in the amount of water leaking and the land purchase opportunity.

Joe Moore, 514 Central

Reminded Council of the past Moratorium put on the water bills to assist those citizens whom could not afford their water bills every month.

A response to that was, there were not enough people participating in that program to sustain the program. The bond and the base rate are different.

Nancy Lowell, 211 Church St.

Discussion about lowering and raising rates, with a surplus, the best thing for us would be to pay down the principle.

Bob Michalson, 222 Turner St.

Addressed the issue of unpaid water bills, which continue to be backlogged, which when he was on Council last amounted to \$40,000.00

Councilmember Gibson stated that later in the meeting there will be resolutions on the Water & Sewer rate decreases, so if anyone interested, he suggests to stick around for that.

b. Request to vacate, with a utility's easement, the 40-foot Alley running through Block 17, Lots 3 through 18, of the Original Townsite of Stevensville

Mayor stated that there have been petitions received to vacate the alley. This has been before Council in the past and has failed. The Town has consistently backed away from vacating alleys in the past as this has caused issues and we would like to prevent these issues in the future. We will hear Public Comment on this tonight and the item will be on the Dec. 12 Agenda.

Carolyn Mickens, 211 Buck St.

Carolyn spoke about her family's 4<sup>th</sup> generation history and the property in which she has requested the town to vacate the alley. She has turned in the signed petitions in which the attorney has requested and would like to see the alley, which was never an alley be vacated with a utility's easement.

Bob Michalson, 222 Turner St.

This has been an issue with history. The easement of the alley was already approved when Mr. Michalson was on the Council and also the changing in city attorneys, the last attorney wanted signatures and the new attorney wanted notarized signatures.

3. Adjournment

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.**

**APPROVE:**

**ATTEST:**

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Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

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Monica Hoffman, Town Clerk

