

TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, Council Chambers

Monday, June 8, 2020 - 7:00 pm

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at City Hall, the Post Office, and on the City's website. Copies were emailed to residents requesting such, and the Press was notified.

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Mike Buchite.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag was recited.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Mike Buchite, Ross Rivard, Larry Julik-Heine, Mary Murphy, John Tangen

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Elizabeth Nealley (Clerk-Treasurer), Jacob Vodenka-Reed (Fire Chief), Lynn Longnecker (Wannigan Days Committee), Greg Marsten (Inter-County Leader), Reagan Hoverman (County Ledger Press), Geri Aanonsen

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Buchite added a second New Business item to the Agenda at Council Member Mary Murphy's request: Consider Fire Department application for Walmart Grant. Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve the amended Agenda for the Monday, June 8, 2020 Taylors Falls City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Tangen / Rivard to approve/accept the following Consent Agenda items: Minutes from previous meetings; Staff reports; Commission, Board, or Committee minutes/reports; Approval of claims and payroll; and Correspondence. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Geri Aanonsen of the Heritage Preservation Commission had turned in a Public Forum request card on the subject: "HPC change site for upcoming HPC meeting." Discussion followed. Mayor Mike Buchite explained that, as usual, changes to a posted commission meeting agenda could be made through City Staff. (Public Forum is not the appropriate time to handle minor procedural matters.) Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley told Geri that she could send an email any time about minor agenda adjustments the same way that she usually does. (As noted on the website and the letter that Mayor Buchite sent to all residents, email continues to be monitored by City Staff at normal City Hall hours despite the current Covid-19 work-from-home situation.)

Geri Aanonsen then asked to speak about an item from the previous HPC meeting minutes. There was no Public Forum request card for this. Mayor Buchite stopped her and said the Council was going to hold off on that because it was something that the commission needed to discuss and noted that the subject had been resolved at the previous HPC meeting according to those minutes.

Lynn Longnecker of the Wannigan Days Committee presented an update to the Council: It was decided between the committees for the two cities of Taylors Falls and St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin that the 2020 festival would be cancelled. He explained that the current Covid-19 situation made it understandably hard to gather donations from local businesses for an event that might not occur. He said that they had spoken of doing a different event during the fall if things changed, but that it was too early to decide. Discussion followed.

STAFF REQUESTS

Consider training request for Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Buchite explained that the Minnesota Municipal Clerks Institute had first been rescheduled from May to July, but then cancelled completely for 2020. The International Institute of Municipal Clerks is offering some virtual on-line classes that count towards certification. Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley is requesting to take the course: React, Rebalance, Rebound: How to Make Data Driven Adjustments to your Municipal Budget on July 15th. The Mayor expressed appreciation that Elizabeth was watching for training opportunities and continues to make progress towards certification despite the current Covid-19 situation. Council Members Tangen and Julik-Heine agreed and Council Member Rivard said that it was a good idea.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve the request from Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley for payment for an online training course about budgeting to The International Institute of Municipal Clerks at a cost of \$50.00, to be paid from the administrative training and instruction fund (101-41400-208). Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION, BOARD, OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Consider City Hall / Fire Department conduit under parking lot

Ross Rivard and Larry Julik-Heine explained that there was an opportunity to install a 3" electrical conduit for future use below the parking lot at City Hall and the Fire Station because that lot is in the process of being reconstructed.

Motion by Murphy / Tangen to approve the payment for installation of a 3" electrical conduit by Peterson Companies below the parking lot at City Hall and the Fire Department at a cost of \$751.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Fire Department application for Walmart Grant

Council Member Mary Murphy said that Fire Chief Jake Vodenka-Reed had requested to apply for the Walmart Grant opportunity. Jake further explained that the grant would be for up to \$5,000.00 and that there was no matching amount. Council Members Tangen and Rivard agreed that it was a good idea.

Motion by Tangen / Rivard to approve the request from Fire Department to apply for the Walmart Grant in the amount of up to \$5,000.00 for equipment to be determined by the Fire Chief and Council Liaison. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda payment of payroll check numbers 7791-7798 totaling \$11,215.06; as well as check numbers 31129-31144 and electronic check numbers 6302443-6302448 totaling \$102,409.79 for the previous month's expenditures.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mary Murphy

- said that the Economic Development Commission was on hiatus for now. Discussion followed regarding the Lighting Festival. Mary was told that the Lighting Festival might only be a parade and ornament for sale.

Ross Rivard

- said that the Planning Commission might meet in the future. He mentioned that the Public Works maintenance report was very good with many positive tasks completed for the City. This includes mowing, portable toilets, lift station maintenance, City Hall septic maintenance, downtown flower decor, water meter reading, and installation/update of MXUs (water meter radios). Ross highlighted that the generator at well #3 is up and running. Discussion followed.

John Tangen

- said that the HPC is meeting this week. He also said that he wanted to thank City Staff for the hard work they've done during this difficult time, and that Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley and Coordinator-Zoning Administrator Steve Heth have done a wonderful job of maintaining things. A resident in the audience (Geri Aanonsen) then interrupted the Council Member out of turn, but it was ignored by the City Council as proper procedure dictates.

- discussion between Mayor Buchite and Council Member Tangen followed regarding the obtainment of the first part of the HPC grant for \$12,000.00.

Larry Julik-Heine

- said that the Parks and Recreation Commission had a meeting. He mentioned that a lot of progress has been made on the Swedish Immigrant Trail. The Highway 8 Task Force has not met recently.

Mayor Mike Buchite

- showed off the Wastewater Award that the City, courtesy of Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz, had been awarded. The Mayor thanked Mike and Public Works Maintenance Worker Paul Stenger for their hard work in this area. The City has received this award from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency several years in a row.

- reminded everyone of the Covid-19 recommendations of social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing. He said that the City Health Officer, Dr. Bill Young, has been doing a very good job of keeping the Mayor updated. He mentioned that City Hall hours would be returning to normal beginning next week. The hours will be posted in the entryway and website.

- said that he was in touch with the Minnesota Department of Transportation about getting a used street sweeper for free. This would save the City a lot of money because a new one costs in the range of \$180,000.00 to \$205,000.00.

- asked the Press for comments, and they brought up the recent fire at the Springs Inn. The Mayor explained that the cause of the fire has yet to be determined. Four Fire Departments responded. Mayor Buchite commended Fire Chief Jake Vodenka-Reed and said that the Fire Department did an outstanding job. He also expressed appreciation for the detailed Council reports provided by the Chief.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rivard / Julik-Heine to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, June 8, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

Monday, September 14, 2020