

TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
City Hall, Council Chambers  
Monday September 25, 2023

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Sept. 21, 2023 at City Hall and the Post Office. Copies were emailed to residents requesting such, and the Press was notified.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Brandon Weiberg.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Brandon Weiberg, Vice Mayor Lee Samuelson, Tim Grote, Larry Julik-Heine  
Also present: Attorney F. Knaak, Mary Tomnitz, Carol Schumann, Kevin Schumann, Rich Smith

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Weiberg removed #2 of Old Business: Mike Brady - Industrial Park Development.

*Moved by Grote, second by Samuelson, to adopt the amended agenda. Motion unanimously approved.*

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

*Moved by Julik-Heine, second by Grote, to adopt the consent agenda. Motion unanimously approved.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There were no minutes from previous meetings.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

There were not requests for public forum. Mayor Weiberg did express sympathy for Roger Couillard's family, as he passed away a couple weeks ago.

Weiberg also stated people are concerned because there are missing council minutes on the website. He said Tomnitz and Michelle Hanson are trying to get caught up.

Weiberg also gave an update on the YouTube channel. He said the City has its own camera and have been filming but are having difficulty getting the videos loaded to the channel all in one piece. Kirk Anderson, St. Croix Falls mayor, is working with Michelle on that. The new speakers have arrived, and Samuelson and Weiberg will be setting them up.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Preliminary Budget Approval - Resolution 2023-09-04

Grote asked if there was anything the council could discuss now that would reduce the 31½% tax increase, which he thinks unacceptable. If the budget were to increase by 18%, it would be \$58,000 less than the preliminary budget. He considered reducing the Council Contingency Fund (\$2,500). Tomnitz stated that included things like flowers, Wannigan Days, Lighting Festival, etc. It appears the Fund Balance will be healthy. He looked at reducing Admin Salaries by \$7,500; the whole package and not just salaries. He looked at reducing the Special Projects Fund of \$5,000. He wondered if the Capital Fund can be ratcheted back. He suggested cutting \$10,000 from Street Improvements. Cut Wannigan Days by \$3,200; get aggressive in fund raising. Cut back Community Center by \$1,000. Cut back Park Improvement by \$1,000. Look at what Charitable Gambling will allow monies be spent on. Julik-Heine emphasized this budget is preliminary, and everything is open to discussion. He stated the city is mandated by FEMA to buy a new fire truck. The Community Center fund can be reduced. Park Improvement's major expense is insurance.

Weiberg said there will be a truth and taxation meeting. Transferring fund balances should help lower the proposed budget.

***Motion by Julik-Heine, second by Samuelson, to approve Resolution 2023-09-04, the 2024 Taylors Falls Preliminary Budget. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion by Weiberg, second by Grote, to set the Truth & Taxation meeting for December 6, 2024 at 6:00pm. Motion carried unanimously.***

2. Public Works - Crack/Seal Repair on Repaved Roads from Last Year  
Grote stated the repair is 1) on Government Street from the Old Jail B&B up to the Methodist Church, and 2) Caneday Street. There is a finish to put on that protects the asphalt. There is one bid from SealTech, Inc. for \$6,300.00. He and Kevin Gruber have talked about collaborating with other cities in scheduling work, getting bids and lowering costs.

***Grote moved, second by Grote, to approve the crack and seal coating proposal from SealTech, Inc. for \$6,300. Motion unanimously carried.***

3. Cut Man Door in fire Hall  
Weiberg reported council previously approved Jewell Scanning and Coring to cut a door in the fire hall, but didn't have a dollar amount at the time.  
Grote expressed concern at the possibility of a non-bearing wall over the opening. He suggests having an engineer look at it. Weiberg asked if Jake and Bolton & Menk should take a look, and if it's OK, let the fire chief know they can start the work.

***Motion by Julik-Heine, second by Grote, to approve the bid of \$2,000 by Jewell Scanning and Coring LLC to cut a man door opening in a cement wall in the fire hall. Motion unanimously carried.***

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Cleaning Proposals for City Hall/Library/Community Center  
There were two proposals for cleaning the city hall, library and community center. One from Croix Valley Cleaning (\$750/ month) and the other from Loiselle's Building Maintenance (\$1,145/month).

***Motion by Grote, second by Julik-Heine, to approve hiring Croix Valley Cleaning to clean city hall, library and community center. Motion carried unanimously.***

2. Discuss Brian Pigott Plaque for Community Center  
A musical group called The Log Jammers requested a plaque be installed at the community center in memory of Brian Pigott, founder and leader since 2008. The Jammers will pay for everything and just want permission to hang it.

***Motion by Julik-Heine, second by Grote, to approve the placement of a plaque for Brian Pigott at the community center. Motion carried unanimously.***

3. Transfer fund balances from fund 412 Valley View Trail, 301 Sewer Fund, 900 Tax abatement, to General Fund  
During budget planning meetings, council asked Tomnitz to contact Abdo to make sure they had all the fund balances. They were surprised to learn there was \$21,174.00 in the 412 Valley View Trail fund, \$450.00 in the 301 Sewer Fund, and \$250,442.00 in the 900 Tax Abatement Fund.  
The Valley View Trail fund was collected by property taxes and a grant. The grant paid the expenses dor the trail and do not need to be returned. The trail was not completed and will not be in the future as easements were not allowed by some residents along this trail.  
The sewer fund has not been used since 2010.  
The tax abatement fund debt ended in 2021. The balance carried over from general property taxes that were collected along with tax abatement revenue.

***Grote made motion, second by Julik-Heine, to approve Resolution 202-09-03 to transfer fund balances from 412 Valley View Trail, 301 Sewer Fund, 900 Tax abatement, to the General Fund. Motion carried unanimously.***

Discussion. Grote verified these funds could be moved elsewhere at a future date, by resolution. Tomnitz agreed. Tomnitz informed council once the budget is set, some of these monies could be moved to the water fund to help offset that.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Moved by Julik-Heine, second by Grote, to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, September 25, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.*

Being there was no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.



Brandon Weiberg, Mayor

APPROVED

February 12, 2024



Fay Cameday