

TAYLORS FALLS CITY TRUTH & TAXATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
City Hall, Council Chambers
Wednesday, December 6, 2023

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted November 30, 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 6:03 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, Troy Aanonsen
Also present: City Clerk Sherrie Thomasen, Attorney F. Knaak, Kevin Schumann, Geri Aanonsen, Karen Linde

PUBLIC FORUM

Geri Aanonsen addressed the council regarding the Covid ARPA funds, stating she did not see it on the budget. Mayor Weiberg stated this will be explained in detail at the December 14, 2023 City Council Meeting. We did not receive additional ARPA funds in 2023.

The second item Mrs. Aanonsen asked clarification on was the reduction of funding to the Historic Preservation Committee from \$500 to \$300 in 2024. She stated the committee needed at least the \$500 for one person to attend a required conference yearly. The HPC does receive grants as well. Mrs. Aanonsen questioned whose decision was it to reduce the amount. Mayor Weiberg stated it was his decision to take all of our commissions down to \$300, with Grote injecting that the Council was involved as well. The mayor asked what the grant amount will be and Mrs. Aanonsen stated that has not been revealed yet.

Mayor Weiberg stated all of the public information will be brought back for discussion and the final approval of the budget will be held December 14, 2024.

TRUTH AND TAXATION

1. Discuss Certified Property Taxes for Taxes Payable in 2024

Mayor Weiberg emphasized that only the projection budget is completed, not the certified or final budget which will be presented at the December 14, 2023 City Council Meeting. The projected budget was due and completed by September 15, 2023 and the current proposed budget went from approximately 24% down to a 15% increase.

Grote reported the status of the reserve fund that is presented with this 2024 budget; assuming we stay on budget throughout the year, this will give us an additional \$70,000. We received more money from local government aid that went up 11.9% and moved some funds around that were not being used and we closed those accounts. Today, we have a balance of \$168,000 in the general fund, which is getting us close to where we want to be (30%).

Geri Aanonsen asked if \$272,000 was transferred into the general fund and which funds. Grote stated these were from various accounts and presented at a previous meeting. Mayor Weiberg gave the example of expenses coming in the near future like the purchase of a new fire truck. Hopefully the fire department will help find grants and raise money for that as well, since there is only a fraction of the money allotted for the truck.

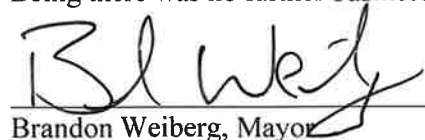
Grote thanked the council for working together and digging to reduce the initial 31% increase and bring it down to a more reasonable number. He feels good about the process. It is still higher than he would like to see, but there were significant investments within the city, especially in regards to staffing that will serve us well in the future. Samuelson also acknowledged the good meetings and sessions.

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ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Julik-Heine, second by Council Member Grote, to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Wednesday, December 6, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Being there was no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.



Brandon Weiberg, Mayor

APPROVED

January 8, 2024



Sherrie Thomasen, City Clerk