

TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
City Hall, Council Chambers
Thursday, December 14, 2023

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted December 11, 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 p.m. 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, Tim Grote, Larry Julik-Heine, Troy Aanonsen

Members Absent: Vice Mayor Lee Samuelson,

Also present: Attorney F. Knaak, Sherrie Thomasen, Elizabeth Haas, Joe Heinen, Melba Johnson, Kevin and Carol Schuman, Denise Martin

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Grote requested that the addition of Sandra Berg's application for the Planning Commission be added to New Business under number 6 to incorporate discussion of all committee applications.

Moved by Council Member Grote, second by Council Member Julik-Heine, to adopt the amended agenda. Motion - unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no minutes presented from previous meetings.

STAFF REPORTS

Written reports presented from Public Works, City Clerk and Zoning Administrator.

Aanonsen thanked city staff (referenced above) for their reports and commended the good communication. Aanonsen appreciated the Zoning Administrator's comment that the intention of her report was not to speak down on previous staff, but to move forward with a clear vision of what the situation is. Aanonsen stated hiring new staff was a good thing.

Grote also thanked city staff for their reports. He stated city employees should be treated respectfully and if they feel they are not, to report to the council member employee liaisons.

Julik-Heine acknowledged the staff is doing a great job.

Mayor Weiberg was impressed by the reports that were submitted and acknowledged the staff's hard work.

Moved by Council Member Grote, seconded by Council Member Aanonsen to approve staff reports. Motion unanimously approved.

TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, Council Chambers

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Page 2

PUBLIC FORUM

No member of the public wished to speak.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Kevin Gruber's Approval of Wage Increase

A closed meeting was held prior to this evening's Council Meeting for Mr. Gruber's 6-month review. It was recommended Mr. Gruber receive a \$1.00/hour rate increase retroactive to September 14, 2023, as stated per his hiring contract.

Moved by Council Member Julik-Heine, Council Member Aanonsen seconded to approve the \$1.00/hour wage increase for Kevin Gruber. Motion unanimously approved.

2. Follow-Up from November 13, 2023 Council Meeting – Questions on Expenditure Report

Aanonsen thanked Treasurer, Michelle Hansen, for reaching out to Abdo Solutions and for her excellent work on the reports. He stated the monthly expenditure report looks great and would like to see the fund balance report run in the same fashion. Grote agreed with Aanonsen's comments. Julik-Heine appreciated receiving the information so quickly and accurately. Mayor Weiberg thanked Michelle for her efforts and continuing to gain knowledge of the different reports.

3. ARPA Expenditure for Balance of Pit Pumps – Tri-State Pump

Council Member Aanonsen inquired if there had been invoices or checks issued prior to 2022 and it was reported that there were not any transactions. Aanonsen thanked the Treasurer for her report. Julik-Heine stated he was glad this is finally "put to bed." Grote appreciated the clear and concise report, which matches previous comments. Mayor Weiberg is pleased the pumps have been delivered.

4. Approve Resolution 23-11-01 Delinquent Utilities Certified to 2024 Property Taxes

No discussion.

Moved by Council Member Grote, Council Member Julik-Heine seconded to approve Resolution 23-11-01 to certify delinquent account balances to the County for property taxes payable in 2024. Motion unanimously approved.

5. Approve 2024 Final Budget – Resolution 23-12-00

Julik-Heine commended the hard work of the Finance Committee and City Council to achieve the final budget. Grote also commented on the dedicated work to get the budget reduced.

Moved by Council Member Julik-Heine, Council Member Grote seconded to approve Resolution 23-12-00, for the Final 2024 Budget and Tax Levy payable in 2024. Motion unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CUP (Conditional Use Permit) 400 Military Road

Zoning Administrator, Elizabeth Haas, reviewed her memorandum to the Council which included processes, Planning Commission recommendations, public comments, City Attorney remarks, along with other attachments. It was Ms. Haas's recommendation that the Conditional Use Permit be approved for 400 Military Road.

TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, Council Chambers

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Page 3

Council Member Julik-Heine moved, Council Member Aanonsen seconded to approve the proposed conditional use permit application using the findings of fact in the staff report, with the following conditions:

- 1. The applicant will adhere to applicable requirements for Conditional Use Permits found in Section 1000.008 in the Zoning Ordinance.*
- 2. The applicant will adhere to applicable requirements for Short Term Rentals found in Section 2000.020 in the Zoning Ordinance, with the exception of:*
 - a. The Conditional Use Permit will not require the owner to occupy the dwelling to operate a short-term rental.*
- 3. The applicant shall provide contact information to anyone within 350 feet of the property. The contact information shall include an owner of the property and the representative who is designated to be within a half-hour of the property.*
- 4. The applicant shall have a representative, or themselves, be within a half-hour of the property who could respond to complaints should any arise.*

Motion unanimously approved.

2. 2024 Annual Renewal of Liquor and Tobacco Licenses

The following liquor and cigarette licenses for the year 2024 were presented for approval:

Liquor Licenses

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. The Goat Saloon LLC – | On Sale Intoxicating and Sundays |
| b. Tangled Up in Blue (Halverson Investment Inc.) | On Sale Wine |
| c. Muller Boat Co. | On Sale Intoxicating and Sundays |
| d. Romayne’s on Main (DDMCVQ LLC) | On Sale Intoxicating, Off Sale and Sundays |
| e. Schoony’s Malt Shop & Pizzeria Inc. | On Sale Wine |

Cigarette License

- a. Casey’s General Store #3661

Moved by Council Member Grote, seconded by Council Member Aanonsen to approve 2024 renewal liquor licenses for The Goat Saloon, Tangled Up in Blue (Halverson Investment Inc.), Muller Boat Co., Romayne’s on Main (DDMCVI LLC), Schoony’s Malt Shop & Pizzeria Inc. and 2024 renewal cigarette/tobacco license for Casey’s General Store #3661. Motion unanimously approved.

3. Discussion on Closing Government/West Government Street for Snow Removal During/After Storms
Kevin Gruber, Public Works, submitted a report regarding safety concerns on Government/West Government Street during and/or after winter storms with icy surface conditions. Recently with two snow systems, multiple cars were stuck and several were sliding sideways down the hill. Public Works has reported problems in this area for years, even having the plow truck sliding down the street.

Aanonsen asked of the exact area to be closed and it would be from the Community Center up to the Methodist Church and the city would maintain the parking areas at the church.

Public Works will consult the Community Center schedule to be aware of events that may be happening during those times. Please contact Kevvin Gruber with questions and concerns.

TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, Council Chambers

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Page 4

It was agreed this was a reasonable and safe request to close these streets when hazardous weather arises and to use this winter as a test year. Council Member Grote will relay this information back to Mr. Gruber.

4. Bid for Hazardous Tree Removal – Vitalis Tree Service

Kevin Gruber, Public Works, received a bid to remove some hazardous trees on city property. Aanonsen asked where the trees were and Grote stated these were on a city easement, not the responsibility of Xcel Energy or a homeowner.

Julik-Heine questioned why there was only one bid and Mayor Weiberg indicated that Mr. Gruber requested several quotes, however, only received an answer from Vitalis Tree Service. It was discussed to approve this bid and attempt additional quotes from new businesses in the future.

Moved by Council Member Aanonsen, seconded by Council Member Grote the approval of the Vitalis Tree Service bid for Hazardous Tree Removal. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Resignation of Gene Anderson from Planning Commission

Mayor Weiberg thanked Mr. Anderson for his excellent work. Julik-Heine stated it is hard to lose good people and wished him good luck. Aanonsen stated Gene had an inspirational parting message at the last Planning Commission meeting and thanked him as well. Grote agreed with previous statements and applauded him for his service to the committee for so many years.

Moved by Council Member Grote, Council Member Julik-Heine seconded to accept Gene Anderson's resignation letter from the Planning Commission.

6. Economic Development Committee Application – Diane Nelson and Planning Commission Application – Sandra Berg

Mayor Weiberg stated Diane Nelson shows a lot of interest in joining the EDC. There are 3 additional openings to fill the committee. Brett Lincoln has been a member, and Mayor Weiberg will contact him to see if he is still interested in serving on the committee.

Sandra Berg's application for the Planning Commission was reviewed and it was shared she is motivated to serve on the committee.

It was discussed and agreed that the committee vacancies be posted on the Organizational Meeting agenda in January and on the website for additional applicants. These two applications will be tabled and voted on at the Organizational Meeting.

7. Elizabeth Haas – Set Date for 6-month Performance Review

Council Member Grote will send the review packets out for a closed meeting on December 20, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Julik-Heine, second by Council Member Aanonsen , to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, December 14, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Being there was no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Brandon Weiberg, Mayor

APPROVED

January 8, 2024



Sherrie Thomasen, City Clerk