

TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Electronic Zoom Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2020 - 7:00 pm

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, May 6, 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 7:03 pm by Mayor Mike Buchite.

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), Mike Kriz (Public Works Superintendent), Jacob Vodenka-Reed (Fire Chief), Brad Falteysek (Abdo Eick & Meyers), Greg Marsten (Inter-County Leader), Troy Aanonsen

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Buchite explained that additional bids had been added to the packet for New Business items #7 - Consider Fire Department request for maintenance on south side of the Fire Hall including fence, and #10 - Consider Bench Street fence replacement. Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the amended Agenda for the Monday, May 11, 2020 Taylors Falls City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Rivard / Tangen to approve/accept the following Consent Agenda items: Minutes from previous meetings; Staff reports; Commission, Board, or Committee minutes/reports; Consider payment to A-1 Tire Services for Fire Department; Consider payment to Allied Generators; Approval of claims and payroll; and Correspondence. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

STAFF REQUESTS

COMMISSION, BOARD, OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the 2019 Financial Audit

Brad Falteysek from Abdo Eick & Meyers shared his screen for the audit presentation. It was brought out that things looked good and the general fund is in good shape. He was concerned about the water fund, but Mayor Buchite explained that the vendor who was supposed to replace some nonfunctioning meters last summer had backed out. Since they have now been replaced, it should bring the fund back to a good level. It was also brought out that the sewer fund is down because of the lift station problems, but that the anticipated insurance payment will bring that back to where it should be. The City tax rate as well as the debt per capita continues to decline. Discussion followed.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to accept the 2019 financial audit report from Abdo Eick & Meyers LLP. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution 20-05-01 - acceptance of donation to the Library

The City of Taylors Falls received a donation in the amount of \$300.00 from Mary Rivard on behalf of the Clayton Rivard Memorial to be used for the Taylors Falls Public Library. Larry Julik-Heine said that this was very generous. Many thanks were expressed by the City Council and discussion followed.

Motion by Tangen / Rivard to adopt Resolution 20-05-01 and accept the donation from the Clayton Rivard Memorial in the amount of \$300.00 to be used for the Taylors Falls Public Library. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider revolving loan request from Wade Vitalis

Wade Vitalis, the owner of 424 Bench Street, has applied for \$5000.00 through the City's revolving loan program. The owner's project is to wash, scrape, and paint the entire building including the soffits, doors, and all siding. The review board of Council Member Mary Murphy, Coordinator-Zoning Administrator Steve Heth, and Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz reviewed the application and determined that everything requested falls within the guidelines of the program. The program is a minimum loan of \$500.00 and maximum amount of \$5,000.00, at an interest rate of 1%. Terms are 2.5 years for \$500.00 to \$2,499.00 and five years for \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00. Discussion followed.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the application by Wade Vitalis for \$5,000.00 from the revolving loan program to make curb appeal improvements to 424 Bench Street, at an interest rate of 1%, to be paid back in five years. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider corporate sponsorship for the Minnesota Real Estate Journal North Metro Summit

The Chisago County HRA-EDA has invited Taylors Falls to join with other Chisago County communities to help sponsor the North Metro Summit to be held on July 30, 2020. They are requesting a contribution of up to \$250.00 for the Bronze Sponsorship. The HRA-EDA will be contributing \$1,500.00. This is an opportunity to market Taylors Falls business opportunities. Discussion followed.

Motion by Rivard / Murphy to approve a contribution of \$250.00 to the Chisago County HRA-EDA Bronze Sponsorship of the Minnesota Real Estate Journal North Metro Summit to come from the contingency fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Fire Department request for repair of garage door opener

Fire Chief Jake Vodenka-Reed explained in his report that one of the three door openers was replaced last year, and that another one has started having issues. He recommends getting both of the remaining ones replaced because of wear and equipment age. The doors are too heavy and time-consuming to open manually. Discussion followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve the request from the Fire Department to replace two garage door openers at a total cost of \$3,028.00 for both to be paid to Lake Country Door from the repairs and maintenance - buildings fund (101-42260-401). Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Fire Department request for maintenance on south side of the Fire Hall including fence

The Fire Chief explained his request for maintenance on the side of the Fire Hall. The retaining wall needs repairs. One of the storage containers can be painted so that the area is more appealing from the new trailhead. Also a chain link fence with a gate would be installed to enclose the storage container and equipment stored outside. Discussion followed.

Motion by Tangen / Rivard to approve the request from the Fire Department for outdoor maintenance including a fence and repairs of the retaining wall, to be field approved and not to exceed \$3,500.00, to be paid from the general fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Public Works Department request for removal of trees

Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz requested in his report that 11 trees on Plateau Street, Basil Street, and Riverwalk Park be removed. Larry Julik-Heine described the request and explained the quotes. Discussion followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve the request from Public Works for removal of trees at a cost of \$5,549.00 by Arbor Tree Service, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Bench Street fence replacement

Mayor Mike Buchite explained that this project was planned for last summer, but the work didn't get done. These bids are updated - they have four horizontal sections instead of three. The fence will be completed by August 1st. Discussion followed.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the proposal from Amery Welding at a cost of \$49,700.00 to core mount new railings along Bench Street, to be paid from the special projects fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider drain field repair

Ross Rivard explained that the existing drain field required additional rock to be installed in order to extend its life. Peterson Companies is already onsite with the needed equipment as part of the Swedish Immigrant Trail construction. The existing drain field is over 20 years old. Discussion followed.

Motion by Rivard / Julik-Heine to approve payment to Peterson Companies in the amount of \$3,885.00 for repairing the City Hall/Fire Hall drain field. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consider payment to A-1 Tire Service for Fire Department (field approved)

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda the request by the Fire Department for a payment to A-1 Tire Service in the amount of \$3,172.68 for tires for unit #1, to be paid from the repairs and maintenance - equipment fund (101-42260-404).

Consider payment to Allied Generators

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda the payment of \$21,230.00 to Allied Generators for replacement of the existing emergency generator at well #3 to ensure that it continues supplying water in the event of a power outage.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda payment of payroll check numbers 7771-7790 totaling \$23,316.72; as well as check numbers 31063-31128 and electronic check numbers 6302431-6302442 totaling \$112,305.86 for the previous month's expenditures.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Ross Rivard

- said that there is nothing going on with the Planning Commission. He mentioned that Public Works has completed their repairs and spring maintenance. Hydrants have not yet been flushed.
- complimented Fire Chief Jake Vodenka-Reed on his Fire Department reports for the Council.

John Tangen

- said that they will attempt to have an HPC meeting if the restrictions are lifted.

Larry Julik-Heine

- said that there was nothing new from the Highway 8 Task Force. The Park and Recreation Commission is going to meet and elect a chairperson. They are considering several projects - including a staircase to the big yellow chair.
- asked if the application for the Wannigan Days parade permit had been completed. Mayor Buchite said yes, it had been and that he had talked to Lynn Longnecker and Sandra Berg of the Wannigan Days Committee. He was told that they were hoping there could be a parade, although other activities were still on hold.

Mary Murphy

- said that the Economic Development Commission had not met. She has been meeting with the Fire Chief about projects to complete. She will be getting bids for the Community Center ceiling and painting project. Mary explained that Jack Liljanberg has information about matching the original paint.
- complimented the CERT for rising to the challenge and doing an outstanding job with the grocery and prescription pickup program.

Mayor Mike Buchite

- explained that Coordinator-Zoning Administrator Steve Heth has been working hard. He has looked at the downtown commercial property and talked with City Engineer Jake Guzik about fixing the drainage. He has also been working on the Bench Street railing project and will be working on bathrooms for Heritage Park.
- thanked Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley for her work with audit-related responsibilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, May 11, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

Monday, July 13, 2020