

TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, Council Chambers

Monday, July 13, 2020 - 6:30 pm

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, July 8, 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 6:30 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), Steve Heth (Coordinator-Zoning Administrator)

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor stated the Council would enter closed session for the purpose of performance evaluations of Coordinator-Zoning Administrator Steve Heth and Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley.

Council Member John Tangen was appointed as secretary for the closed session portion of the meeting.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to enter into closed session. Motion carried unanimously. The Council entered closed session at 6:35 pm. Clerk-Treasurer Nealley left the room. At 6:45 Clerk-Treasurer Nealley returned to the room and Zoning Administrator Heth left the room.

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. The Council entered open session at 6:55 pm.

ROLL CALL AT RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

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), Denise Martin (Chisago County Press), Greg Marsten (Inter-County Leader), Joe Stein

SUMMARY OF CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Mike Buchite explained that the City Council evaluated the job performance of Zoning Administrator Heth and Clerk-Treasurer Nealley during its closed meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Buchite added two agenda items, #11: Set dates for Budget Workshops, and #12: Consider a pay raise for Zoning Administrator Heth because of completing his six month probationary period. Motion by Julik-Heine / Rivard to approve the amended Agenda for the Monday, July 13, 2020 Taylors Falls City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine 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; Correspondence, and New Business Items: Consider a liquor license for the Muller Boat Company; Consider payment to Wausau Electric for fixing the lighting on Hilltop Drive and Gable Street; Consider payment to Central Lakes College for Firefighter I & II training; Consider payment to Industrial Safety for road safety gear. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

STAFF REQUESTS

COMMISSION, BOARD, OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Joseph and Ruth Stein's annexation application

The Steins are petitioning to have the remainder of their farmstead annexed to the City of Taylors Falls. Joe Stein came to the podium and read a letter from Shafer Township showing that as of 7/9/20, they had no contest to this. The petition still needs to be forwarded to Shafer Township for their approval. Discussion with the Council followed. Motion by Murphy / Rivard to approve the petition from the Steins to have a portion of their property annexed to the City of Taylors Falls. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from Public Works Department to sealcoat streets

Council Members Rivard and Julik-Heine explained that Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz was requesting having the following seats sealcoated: Locust Lane, Briar Lane, Cedar Court, and portions of Colby and Oak Streets. Council Member Rivard suggested that they add in crack-sealing now instead of doing it later. Discussion followed.

Motion by Tangen / Murphy to approve the request from Public Works Superintendent Kriz to accept bids for sealcoating and crack-sealing the above streets. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from Public Works Department to have sections of sewer televised

Council Member Julik-Heine explained Superintendent Kriz's request to have sections of sewer televised. A couple of spots were previously full of sand and the camera could not get through. Discussion followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve the Public Works Department's request to remove debris and televise areas of the sewer at a cost of \$10,650.00, to be paid to Visu-Sewer. Overages can be field approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from Fire Department to apply for grant from Firehouse Subs

Council Member Murphy explained that the Fire Department would like to apply for this grant in order to get an extrication tool. It was field approved in order to get the application in on July 1st. There is no matching funds. Discussion followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Rivard to approve the request from the Fire Department to apply for a grant from Firehouse Subs. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from Fire Department to apply for grant from Otto Bremer Trust

Council Member Murphy explained the requirements for applying for the Otto Bremer Trust grant. It is a full grant, with no deadline. If applied for in July, it might be awarded after the first of the year. Discussion with Chief Vodenka-Reed followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Rivard to approve the Fire Department's request to apply for a grant from the Otto Bremer Trust. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution 20-07-01 appointing Election Judges

Mayor Buchite explained the Resolution appointing Steve Heth as Election Administrator and Sandra Berg and Lynn Longnecker as Head Election Judges. The following were also appointed as Election Judges: Stan (Gene) Andersen, Rebecca Caneday, Eleanore Collins, Diane Dedon, Haley Hoefler, Katherine Johnson, Heidi Jo Karlsson, Kris Koran, Ron Schorr, Debra Scott, Robin Spencer-Beck, and Debra Stein. Discussion followed.

Motion by Murphy / Tangen to adopt Resolution 20-07-01 appointing Election Judges for the 2020 Elections. Motion carried unanimously.

Set dates for Budget Workshops

Mayor Buchite suggested having the Council meet for the Budget Workshops every Wednesday at 8:00 am in the Mayor's Office from August 5 through September 9. Discussion followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to meet for the Budget Workshops every Wednesday at 8:00 am in the Mayor's Office from August 5 through September 9. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider a pay raise for Zoning Administrator Heth because of completing his six month probationary period

Mayor Buchite explained that this performance evaluation for Zoning Administrator Heth was due to his six month anniversary in April marking the end of his probationary period. He suggested increasing his pay \$1.00 per hour. Discussion followed.

Motion by Murphy / Rivard to approve increasing Zoning Administrator Heth's pay \$1.00 per hour as of his six month anniversary in April. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consider a liquor license for the Muller Boat Company

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda a liquor license for the concession stand of Taylors Falls Scenic Boat Tours (Muller Boat Company), contingent upon receipt of all application paperwork, fee payments and background check.

Consider payment to Wausau Electric for fixing the lighting on Hilltop Drive and Gable Street

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda payment to Wausau Electric in the amount of \$1,034.34 for fixing the lighting on Hilltop Drive and Gable Street.

Consider payment to Central Lakes College for Firefighter I & II training

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda payment to Central Lakes College in the amount of \$1,370.00 for Firefighter I and II training for Jessica Munkholm.

Consider payment to Industrial Safety for road safety gear

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda payment to Industrial Safety in the amount of \$1,074.17 for road safety gear for the Fire Department.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda payment of payroll check numbers 7799-7820 totaling \$23,188.89; as well as check numbers 31145-31227 and electronic check numbers 6302449-6302457 totaling \$101,893.98 for the previous month's expenditures.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mary Murphy

- said that the CERT purchased a generator. She said that she is involved with the Lighting Festival, and unfortunately it was going to be smaller scale.

Larry Julik-Heine

- said there was to be a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting next week. A concrete bench was installed in the pocket park. There was no Highway 8 Task Force meeting. They are putting the finishing touches on a roundabout by Hazelton. The Swedish Immigrant Trail is almost finished and is gorgeous so far. He also commended the part time Public Works workers.

John Tangen

- said the City had received two grants for Historic Guidelines.

Ross Rivard

- said that the Planning Commission has not met recently.

Mayor Mike Buchite

- said that he talked to Representative Neu about the approximately \$77,000 dollar CARES Act allotment for covid relief. The City of Taylors Falls will have to use it by the end of the year or give it back. He will find out more about the requirements. He also mentioned that the City received the property tax check from the county and despite the covid situation, it looks good.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, July 13, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

Monday, December 14, 2020