

MINUTES
TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
City Hall, Council Chambers
Monday, August 10, 2020

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, August 5, 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 7:00 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), Jacob Vodenka-Reed (Fire Chief), Reagan Hoverman (County Ledger Press), Joe Stein, Geri Aanonsen

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve the Agenda as presented for the Monday, August 10, 2020 Taylors Falls City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Rivard / Murphy 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; as well as the following Agenda items:

Consider Deer Herd Management Hunt

City Staff requested approval by Consent Agenda of having a fall 2020 Taylors Falls archery deer herd management hunt.

Consider request from First Lutheran Church to sell maple syrup

Don Hansen with the First Lutheran Church requested approval by Consent Agenda the use of the Marmon parking lot to sell maple syrup as a fundraiser for the church on weekends from mid-September to mid-October.

Consider Authorizing RFP for preservation consulting

Zoning Administrator Heth requested approval by Consent Agenda to authorize City Staff to solicit request for proposals from preservation consultants for Heritage Preservation Commission guidelines.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Geri Aanonsen had turned in a Public Forum card before the meeting with the subject marked as: RFP (HPC). This item had just been passed by Consent Agenda, so there was nothing further for the Council to do with it. Geri was told that any questions she had could be directed to Zoning Administrator Heth who is handling the RFP. Geri said she didn't know when he was in. Mayor Buchite explained that Zoning Administrator Heth is in the office the same days he has always been in the office since he started (Tuesdays through Wednesdays).

STAFF REQUESTS

COMMISSION, BOARD, OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Joint Resolution 20-08-01 regarding annexation for Joe and Ruth Stein

Mayor Buchite explained that the Taylors Falls City Council has already approved the Stein's petition for annexation. To proceed, a joint resolution is required to be adopted by both the City and Shafer Township. The Shafer Town Board would then consider it on Thursday, August 13, 2020. Discussion followed.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the adoption of joint resolution 20-08-01 for the annexation of the Joe and Ruth Stein property. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution 20-08-02 accepting Federal CARES Act Covid Relief allocation

Mayor Buchite stated that the City of Taylors Falls was allocated \$77,148.00 by the Federal CARES Act for covid relief. There are specific rules that dictate what the money can be used for. Any unused funds will be required to be returned. City Staff will present proposals for spending the funds at the September meeting. Discussion followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve Resolution 20-08-02 accepting the Federal CARES Act covid relief allocation of \$77,148.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from Fire Department for turnout gear

Council Member Murphy and Fire Chief Vodenka-Reed explained that Fire Department was requesting turnout gear. Discussion followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Rivard to approve the request from the Fire Department for turnout gear at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00 from the turnout gear fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider bids for chip-sealing city streets

Council Member Julik-Heine explained the quotes that were turned in to Public Works for crack and chip sealing. There was only one bid for crack sealing. Allied Blacktop had the lowest bid. A resident in the audience spoke out of turn and attempted to derail the discussion. Council Member Tangen brought out that Superintendent Kriz is fully aware of the status and needs of all the City Streets. Discussion amongst the City Council Members followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Rivard to approve the bid from SealTech for crack sealing at a cost of \$28,798.40, and to approve the bid from Allied Blacktop for chip sealing at a cost of \$26,605.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from Clerk-Treasurer for temporary part-time office worker

Mayor Buchite explained the request from City Staff for a temporary part-time office worker to work approximately 8 hours per week through the end of 2020. The employee would help in such areas as sorting, filing, and data entry. Pay would be between \$15.00 to \$18.00 per hour (from \$2,400.00 to \$2,880.00 for the year). The Mayor explained that this would be similar to the hiring of the Public Works temporary workers. This would alleviate much of the filing and sorting of documents that was not completed prior to 2018 by the previous Clerk-Treasurer.

Motion by Murphy / Rivard to approve the request from City Staff for a temporary part-time office worker to work approximately 8 hours per week through the end of 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00, to be hired by the personnel liaisons. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda payment of payroll check numbers 7821-7836 totaling \$15,996.54; as well as check numbers 31228-31229 and electronic check numbers 6302458-6302463 totaling \$14,603.00 for the previous month's expenditures.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mary Murphy

- said that she will be meeting with the Sheriff to negotiate the contract.

Ross Rivard

- said that the Planning Commission had no business, and mentioned that Public Works had issues with the mower.

John Tangen

- said that the Heritage Preservation Commission would be meeting. He explained that the City is the administrator of the grant that the HPC is working on.

- explained that due to his health, he would not be filing to run for another term on the City Council.

Larry Julik-Heine

- commended the part-time workers, and spoke about Swedish Immigrant Trail - there will be a ribbon cutting around leaf season, a new bridge was installed, the pavilion was under construction, and he planned to talk with Barbara Young about making sure some Swedish heritage info would be included.

Mayor Mike Buchite

- spoke about the downtown commercial property, the plan for bathrooms at Heritage Park, and the work to be done on the Community Center ceiling. He discussed the current covid situation. He also spoke about the new signs to be put up along the newly designated Walter F. Mondale segment of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. He described how he had helped keep the state from changing the name of Interstate State Park back in 2019. Lastly, discussion followed regarding covid supplies with Fire Chief Vodenka-Reed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, August 10, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

Monday, December 28, 2020