

MINUTES
TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
City Hall, Council Chambers
Monday, October 12, 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: Jacob Vodenka-Reed (Fire Chief), Jacob Guzik (Engineer, Bolton & Menk), Dan Boyer (Assistant Fire Chief), Denise Martin (Chisago County Press), Juli Hobson, Troy Aanonsen, Geri Aanonsen, Nina McDowell, Hayley Hoefler, Hannah Edblad, and possibly one other unrecognized resident who refused to sign in

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Buchite added a 10th New Business item: Additional Purchases using Covid CARES Act dollars, as well as an 11th New Business item: Design grading plan from Bolton & Menk. Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the amended Agenda for the Monday, October 12, 2020 Taylors Falls City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The agenda items were followed in this order: 4 - Lighting Festival Committee ice rink, 1 - Current and updated amounts of Covid CARES Act allocation expenditures, 2 - Update of City website using Covid CARES Act allocation, 10 - Additional purchases using Covid CARES Act dollars, 11 - Design grading plan from Bolton & Menk, 3 - Fire Department to join PERA, and then from item 6 to the end in order.

APPROVAL 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; Approval of claims and payroll; Correspondence; as well as the following Agenda items:

Consider donation from the City to the Lighting Festival

The Lighting Festival Committee requested approval by Consent Agenda the normal yearly donation from the City of Taylors Falls of \$1,500.00 which is included in the annual budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Geri Aanonsen had turned in a Public Forum card regarding the subject of the Lighting Festival. Mayor Buchite said that there was an item on the Agenda regarding the Lighting Festival and that he would have the resident speak at that time instead.

Troy Aanonsen had turned in a Public Forum card before the meeting regarding his candidacy for the Taylors Falls City Council. He spoke for a few minutes about the subject.

Council Member Larry Julik-Heine had turned in a Public Forum card before the meeting regarding his candidacy for the Taylors Falls City Council. He spoke for a few minutes about the subject.

STAFF REQUESTS

COMMISSION, BOARD, OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Consider current and updated amounts of Covid CARES Act allocation expenditures

A report was provided from Clerk-Treasurer Nealley showing current and updated amounts of Covid CARES Act allocation expenditures. Discussion followed. No action was requested on this.

Consider update of City website using Covid CARES Act allocation

Mayor Buchite explained the request from City Staff to update the City website using the Covid CARES Act allocation. The website is an effective tool for communication during emergency situations, but the current site is disorganized and hard for residents to navigate. Two proposals were presented, one of which is from the company the City currently uses. Discussion followed.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the request from City Staff to update the City website using the Covid CARES Act allocation at a cost of \$6,700.00 by the company the City currently uses, GovOffice Web Solutions. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution 20-10-01 Opting for the Fire Department to join the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan administered by PERA

The Fire Department would like to join the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan administered by PERA. Discussion followed.

Motion by Rivard / Julik-Heine to approve resolution 20-10-01 regarding the request from the Fire Department to join the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan administered by PERA. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from Lighting Festival Committee to flood the MNDot lot for an ice rink

The Lighting Festival Committee is requesting to flood the former MN DoT lot on Bench Street to form an ice skating rink, weather dependent. Side boards would be paid for by the Lighting Festival.

Mayor Buchite asked Geri Aanonsen for an update about Lighting Festival events. Discussion followed regarding: snow sculptures, an outdoor movie, firepits, and the third grade exhibit at the Chisago House Restaurant.

Mayor Buchite mentioned that he had received a call about a rumor on Facebook that the City Council was going to cancel the Lighting Festival. He explained that it is not the City's event and only the Lighting Festival Committee could cancel it. Any talk of cancelling it would never come from the City Council. He asked Geri Aanonsen about this. She said that she had received calls from businesses saying it was going to be cancelled. She said: "I've gone to several businesses and they said the parade is not happening. They are telling me that." Council Member Mary Murphy said that she sits on the Lighting Festival Committee and it did not come from the City Council that the Lighting Festival was to be cancelled. She said that the Council has no jurisdiction to cancel it. Geri Aanonsen then said: "I'm just saying that there is something going on in town, and it is underground, like last year, there was quite a bit of undertow, last year." Geri said again that she was being called by businesses wanting their money back for sponsorship because they were told the festival was cancelled. Council Member Murphy then asked her to confirm if she was telling people that it was NOT cancelled. Council Member Murphy went on to ask everyone to please continue to pass it on that the festival is not cancelled. She asked Geri which businesses were contacting her so that she could be sure to let them know the truth. Geri said that even after telling them it wasn't cancelled, they still felt it was cancelled. She did not tell the Council the names of the businesses. Council Member Julik-Heine brought out that it was part of her committee's responsibility to publicize the Lighting Festival activities. The discussion continued. Finally, Mayor Buchite summed up by asking whoever is spreading this misinformation to please stop that.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the request from the Lighting Festival to use the former MN DoT lot for an ice skating rink, to be flooded by the Fire Department if they have enough volunteers who are willing to do so. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution 20-10-02 Accepting donation from Xcel Energy for use towards the Lighting Festival

City Staff procured a \$500.00 donation to the Lighting Festival despite the obstacle of the Covid-19 situation.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to adopt resolution 20-10-02 accepting a donation of \$500.00 from Xcel Energy to be used toward the Lighting Festival. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution 20-10-03 Accepting donation from Mary Rivard on behalf of Clayton Rivard to the Fire Department

The Council expressed gratitude for the very generous donation as well the volunteer time of Clayton on the Fire Department.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to adopt resolution 20-10-03 accepting a donation of \$1,800.00 to the Fire Department from Mary Rivard in honor of Clayton Rivard. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution 20-10-04 Accepting donation from Brandon Weiberg and Jolene Zendner to the Fire Department

A donation had been made toward the Fire Department and the Council expressed gratitude.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to adopt resolution 20-10-04 accepting a donation of \$100.00 to the Fire Department from Brandon Weiberg and Jolene Zender. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution 20-10-05 Accepting donations to the Wannigan Days Committee

Donations had been given to the City for the Wannigan Days Committee.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to adopt resolution 20-10-05 accepting donations of \$100.00 as well as \$250.00 to the Wannigan Days Committee from Larry Julik-Heine and Casey's General Store. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider additional purchases using Covid CARES Act dollars

Mayor Buchite described the Fire Department's request for a lucas chest compression system. He also explained that Lakes Area EMS, an ambulance system, did not receive any CARES Act money and that this would be a good place to donate the remainder of the unspent CARES Act money to, since any unspent funds have to be returned.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the Fire Department's request to purchase the lucas chest compression system, and donate any remaining CARES Act dollars to Lakes Area EMS. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider design grading plan from Bolton & Menk

Mayor Buchite described this item that had not been turned in to the Clerk-Treasurer in time for the Agenda, but which needed to be acted on at this Council Meeting. The downtown commercial property (former MN DoT property) does not drain properly, which results in standing water. In an effort to make it more usable and marketable, City Staff contacted Bolton and Menk to provide a proposal for creating a grading plan. This will be used to solicit quotes from area contractors. Discussion with Engineer Guzik followed.

Motion by Murphy / Rivard to approve proposal from Bolton and Menk at a cost of \$3,500.00 to produce a grading plan for the downtown commercial property on Bench Street. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda payment of payroll check numbers 7856-7868 totaling \$13,286.26; as well as check numbers 31311-31361 and electronic check numbers 6302481-6302486 totaling \$58,590.90 for the previous month's expenditures.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mary Murphy

- said she had been working with the Fire Department regarding the CARES Act dollars.

Ross Rivard

- said there would be no PC meeting for a while.

John Tangen

- explained the City had received HPC grants.

Larry Julik-Heine

- mentioned the repairs to Government Street and the Community Center parking lot. He mentioned the upcoming ribbon cutting for the Swedish Immigrant Trail.

Mayor Mike Buchite

- mentioned that the downtown commercial property was now open to parking.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, October 12, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

Monday, December 28, 2020