

**MINUTES**  
**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**City Hall, Council Chambers**  
**Monday, December 14, 2020**

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, December 9, 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), Mike Kriz (Public Works Superintendent)

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Mayor stated the Council would enter closed session for the purpose of an annual performance evaluation of Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to enter into closed session. Motion carried unanimously. The Council entered closed session at 6:32 pm. Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley left the room.

**APPOINT SECRETARY**

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

**RETURN TO OPEN MEETING**

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. The Council entered open session at 6:43 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), Troy Aanonsen, Jacob Guzik (Engineer, Bolten & Menk), Denise Martin (Chisago County Press), Greg Marsten (Inter-County Leader), Sonja Miers, Isaac Miers, Geri Aanonsen

**SUMMARY OF CLOSED MEETING**

Mayor Mike Buchite explained that the City Council evaluated the job performance of Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz during its closed meeting.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mayor Buchite moved item #2 (Consider approval of liquor and tobacco licenses) to the Consent Agenda. He also removed item #3 (Consider proposal from AEM regarding audit preparation) until more information is received. Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve the amended Agenda for the Monday, December 14, 2020 Taylors Falls City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC INPUT MEETING: TRUTH IN TAXATION**

Mayor Buchite invited anyone from the public to speak about the budget at this time. No one came forward.

**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; Approval of claims and payroll; Correspondence; Consider approval of liquor and tobacco licenses; Consider update of Personnel Policy regarding pay to the Public Works Department for city festivals; Consider payment of additional amount for repair of Fire Hall garage doors; Consider payment of additional amount for retaining wall project at the Fire Hall; Consider payment for repair of plow (field approved). Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**STAFF REQUESTS**

## **COMMISSION, BOARD, OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Consider Bolton and Menk grading plan and soliciting quotes for work**

Per the report from Zoning Administrator Heth, City Engineer Guzik was asked by the Council to prepare and produce a grading plan to improve the surface drainage of the former MN DoT property on Bench Street. Staff requests that the Council now authorize the requesting of quotes from local earthwork contractors. Quotes would include hauling and placing fill from the material already available at the City's business park, grading, pond excavation, seeding, and mulch. The cost is estimated at between \$8,000 to \$10,000 for regrading. Discussion followed.

Motion by Murphy / Rivard to approve Staff request to solicit quotes from local contractors to do grading on the former MN DoT property on Bench Street. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **Consider update of job descriptions for election duties**

Mayor Buchite explained that it was okay to have a Wisconsin resident serve as the Election Administrator and that it made sense to update the City Staff job descriptions to have Coordinator-Zoning Administrator serve in this capacity since he has completed the necessary training. Discussion followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve the request from City Staff to update the job descriptions by having the Coordinator-Zoning Administrator act as the Election Administrator and take on City election duties. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **Consider approval of liquor and tobacco licenses**

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda the issue of liquor licenses to the following businesses, contingent upon receipt of all fees and paperwork: Chisago House, The Goat Saloon, Romayne's on Main, Schoony's Malt Shop & Pizzeria, Tangled up in Blue, and Taylors Falls Scenic Boat Tours; as well as a tobacco license to Casey's General Store.

##### **Consider update of Personnel Policy regarding pay to the Public Works Department for city festivals**

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda to update the Personnel Policy regarding paying the Public Works Department at one and a half times their normal payrate for working at the Wannigan Days and Lighting festivals.

##### **Consider payment of additional amount for repair of Fire Hall garage doors**

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda the payment of \$547 to Second Generation in addition to the amount of \$5,313 that was already approved at the August 2019 Council Meeting for replacing the garage doors at the Fire Hall.

##### **Consider payment of additional amount for retaining wall project at the Fire Hall**

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda the payment of \$3,995 to Lawrence Creek Contracting for work on the retaining wall at the Fire Hall.

##### **Consider payment for repair of plow (field approved)**

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda the payment of \$1,281.39 to Crysteel Truck Equipment for repair of the snow plow, as field approved.

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL**

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda payment of payroll check numbers 7886-7895 totaling \$12,674.48; as well as check numbers 31442-31484 and electronic check numbers 6302497-6302502 totaling \$41,883.18 for the previous month's expenditures.

### **LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

#### **Mary Murphy**

- spoke about the painting of the interior of the Community Center, as well having the floors sanded.

#### **Ross Rivard**

- said that there would be a Planning Commission meeting in January, and complimented the Public Works personnel for their work at the Lighting Festival.

#### **John Tangen**

- said that there would be a HPC meeting on Wednesday.

**Larry Julik-Heine**

- said that the Parks and Recreation Commission was on a hiatus until spring. He mentioned that he had enjoyed the Lighting Festival.

**Mayor Mike Buchite**

- spoke about his experience in the Lighting Festival parade, and thanked the committee. He also explained that the City had received a letter from the Chisago County Sheriff's Office stating that a different officer would be assigned to Taylors Falls. Sgt. Shane Carroll will no longer be working here, despite the fact that the Council would like him to continue. This is because the Sheriff's Office did not listen to what Taylors Falls needed and changed his hours. Sgt. Carroll had to accept another position because of this. The Council will be updated about further options on this subject. Mayor Buchite also explained that he attended a meeting of the Safe Schools Initiative with members of the Chisago Lakes School District and the Chisago County Department of Health and Human Services. They are working together to fix problems in the community, and the Mayor commended the local school for doing a good job. The Mayor also mentioned that eight businesses had taken advantage of the CARES HRA-EDA program. He went on to mention the Covid-19 vaccine rollout, the proposed route through Angel Hill of the final leg of the Swedish Immigrant Trail, and that City Employees would work at home as much as possible as per the Governor's order but City Hall is still open and residents can call and email any questions. Lastly, he brought out that December 28 would be the last meeting for Council Member John Tangen, who declined to run for office due to his health. Mayor Buchite mentioned how much they all appreciated his work on the Taylors Falls City Council in the past years.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, December 14, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

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Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

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Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

**APPROVED**

Monday, December 28, 2020