

MINUTES
TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
City Hall, Council Chambers
Monday, January 11, 2021

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, January 6, 2021 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 Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mike Buchite, Larry Julik-Heine, and Troy Aanonsen took the Oath of Office. Mike Buchite was elected as Mayor, and has served in this position since 2003. Larry Julik-Heine was elected to the City Council, and has served in this position since 2005. Troy Aanonsen was elected to the City Council in 2020.

Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley turned the meeting over to Mayor Mike Buchite.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag was recited.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Mike Buchite, Larry Julik-Heine, Mary Murphy, Troy Aanonsen

Members Absent: Ross Rivard

Others Present: Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley, Fire Chief Jacob Vodenka-Reed, Sheriff Brandon Thyen (Chisago County Sheriff's Office), Sergeant Cliff Sheppeck (Chisago County Sheriff's Office), Denise Martin (Chisago County Press), Kevin and Carol Schumann, Geri Aanonsen, Ned and Connie Souder

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Buchite added a 4th New Business item: Consider request from Public Works department regarding skidsteer trade-in. He also decided to hold the Public Forum before the Organizational Meeting. Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the amended Agenda for the Monday, January 11, 2021 Taylors Falls City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Election of Vice-Mayor

Motion by Murphy / Aanonsen to elect Ross Rivard as Vice-Mayor. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Resolution 21-01-01: 2021 Organization

The City Council discussed City designations for 2021, and made the following changes from 2020: Troy Aanonsen as Fire Department Liaison as well as one of the Civil Defense Directors, Mary Murphy as Police Liaison, Mary Murphy as Personnel and Administrative Liaison, Troy Aanonsen to the Economic Development Commission, Mary Murphy to the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve Resolution 21-01-01: 2021 Organization with the above listed changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Resolution 21-01-02: 2021 Fee Schedule

The following changes were made to the 2021 fee schedule: Annual State Water Fee was changed from \$6.36 (\$1.06 per bi-monthly billing cycle) to \$9.72 (\$1.62 per bi-monthly billing cycle).

Motion by Julik-Heine / Aanonsen to approve Resolution 21-01-02: 2021 Fee Schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Resolution 21-01-03: 2021 Employee Compensation and Benefits

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve Resolution 21-01-03: 2021 Employee Compensation and Benefits. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Resolution 21-01-04: 2021 Reimbursement Rates

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve Resolution 21-01-04: 2021 Reimbursement Rates. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Resolution 21-01-05: 2021 Quarterly Transfers

Motion by Julik-Heine / Aanonsen to approve Resolution 21-01-05: 2021 Quarterly Transfers. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Goals and Directives for 2021

The City Council discussed the Goals and Directives list from 2020, and what could be updated for 2021. Mayor Buchite explained that the downtown railings had been replaced. He suggested that Bench Street streetlights be added to the list. Discussion followed.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Aanonsen / Julik-Heine to approve/accept the following Consent Agenda items: Minutes from previous meetings; Staff reports; Commission, Board, or Committee minutes/reports; Correspondence; as well as the following items:

Claims & payroll

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda payment of payroll check numbers 7896-7934 totaling \$32,826.53; as well as check numbers 31503-31524 and electronic check numbers 6302503-6302511 totaling \$177,582.47 for the previous month's expenditures.

Consider payment to Olson's Excavating Svc for work on 11/11/20 water main break on West St

Public Works requested approval by Consent Agenda for payment of \$6,932.48 to Olson's Excavating Service for work on the 11/11/20 water main break on West Street.

Consider payment to Grainger for supplied air manifold for Fire Department

The Fire Department requested approval by Consent Agenda for payment of \$3,107.23 to Grainger for a supplied air manifold.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Sheriff Brandon Thyen of the Chisago County Sheriff's Office asked to speak to the City Council. He discussed the contract with the City, the hours that the City would be provided service, and crime statistics. He introduced the officer now assigned to Taylors Falls - Sergeant Cliff Sheppeck. Sergeant Sheppeck gave a brief history of his time working investigations and on the drug task force. He said that he loves working with people and wanted to assist Taylors Falls. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Law Enforcement Exploration with Lakes Area Police Department (LAPD)

Council Member Murphy said that the City had met with the Lakes Area Police Department to get information about what services they could provide. She emphasized that this was just a matter of research - no commitment had been made. She said that the Sheriff's Office had made large increases in their recent contracts. She explained that the statistics from the Sheriff's Office don't include the many calls made directly to the officer who had formerly served the area, and that this affected the hours the Sheriff's Office assigned an officer to Taylors Falls for 2021. Mayor Buchite explained that they were just looking at options, not stopping relations with the Sheriff's Office, and that they had a good relationship with them. He mentioned that the City is not allowed to contract police services from nearby St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. He also mentioned that the LAPD had not reached out to Taylors Falls - the City had reached out to them. Discussion followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Aanonsen to authorize Council Member Murphy as the police liaison to continue exploration with the Lakes Area Police Department on the possibility of providing service to the City of Taylors Falls. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from the Fire Department to join the PAR360 Mental Health program

Fire Chief Vodenka-Reed explained that this is a training program for dealing with PTSD. An MBFTE grant will partially reimburse the City for this training. Discussion followed.

Motion by Aanonsen / Murphy to approve the request from the Fire Department to join the PAR360 Mental Health program with the cost to be paid from the general fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider adoption of Resolution 21-01-06 accepting funds from Oneok Foundation for the Fire Department

This will be used to pay for the supplied air manifold invoice from Grainger that was approved in the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the adoption of Resolution 21-01-06 accepting funds from Oneok Foundation for the Fire Department in the amount of \$4,627.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from Public Works regarding skidsteer trade-in

Council Member Julik-Heine explained that every year the City trades in the skidsteer for a new model, at an average annual cost of \$1,500.00. This year the cost has gone up to \$5,000.00. If the City chooses to drop out of this program, the yearly cost would be even more. It is expected that the cost should go back to \$1,500.00 in the upcoming years.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to to approve the request from Superintendent Mike Kriz for an additional \$3,500.00 to be added to the \$1,500.00 that was already budgeted, for a total of \$5,000.00 to be paid to Baribeau Implement Company, to ensure that the City can continue with the skidsteer buy-back program in future years. Motion carried unanimously.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mayor Mike Buchite

- commended the Fire Chief. He explained the Conflict of Interest statement and the Code of Ethics that had been distributed to the City Council members.

Council Member Larry Julik-Heine

- said that the Park and Recreation Commission was quiet. He mentioned that Public Works was busy with plowing and removing decorations.

Council Member Mary Murphy

- said that she would be working with Council Member Aanonsen on the Shafer Township Fire Contract, and commended the Fire Chief.

Council Member Troy Aanonsen

- thanked the visitors and City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Julik-Heine / Aanonsen to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, January 11, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

Monday, March 8, 2021