

**MINUTES**  
**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**City Hall, Council Chambers**  
**Monday, May 10, 2021**

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, May 5, 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 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, Troy Aanonsen

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley; Fire Chief Jake Vodenka-Reed; Sheriff Brandon Thyen, Sgt. Cliff Sheppeck, Chief Deputy Justin Wood, Deputy Alexis Gardner (Chisago County Sheriff's Office); John Tangen; Bill and Danette McCarthy; Sandra Berg; Katherine Johnson; Don Lawrence; Carol Lenhart; Nick Arens

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Item #2 was added to the consent agenda: Request from Public Works to pay invoice from Andrie Electric for \$2,183.87. Heritage Park Overlook prairie restoration project was added as item #7 to New Business. Motion by Julik-Heine / Aanonsen to approve the amended Agenda for the Monday, May 10, 2021 Taylors Falls City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Murphy / Rivard 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 7978-7988 totaling \$11,858.08; as well as check numbers 31669-31699 and electronic check numbers 6302542-6302547 totaling \$92,701.05 for the previous month's expenditures.

**Request from Fire Department to pay invoice from MacQueen Emergency for \$2,242.47**

Invoice P00241 for Fire Department supplies.

**Request from Public Works to pay invoice from Andrie Electric for \$2,183.87**

Invoice 9607 for lift station #1.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Katherine Johnson asked to speak about mask wearing in Taylors Falls. Discussion followed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review/update of law enforcement contract; Resolution 21-05-01 - Amendment to Law Enforcement Contract**

Councilmember Murphy explained that the decision was to amend the current contract hours and associated costs with the Chisago County Sheriff's Office. They considered all options, but CCSO provides a service we can't get anywhere else with resources when we need them. They negotiated a specific person, a dedicated partner along with Sgt. Cliff Sheppeck. On May 15, going forward it will be 40 hours per week - an additional \$8,083.63 for the year. Sheriff Thyen spoke and said they mutually agree, thanked the City and introduced Deputy Alexis Gardner. Deputy Gardner said that she started in 2019 bailiff Ing in courts and moved to full time patrol duty in 2020. She is excited and grateful to serve the community.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Aanonsen to approve Resolution 21-05-01 Amendment to Law Enforcement Contract with Chisago County Sheriff's Office, changing to 40 hours per week for an additional amount of \$8,083.63 to be paid from the general fund. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Conditional use permit for 467 River Street**

The Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding 467 Bench Street for a conditional use permit to allow the address to be used as a short term rental. Councilmember Rivard explained the findings of fact and that the Planning Commission recommended approval. No one was opposed but there were concerns about parking. The owners, Bill and Danette McCarthy rented the home, loved it, and ended up buying it. It previously had been an air B and B for 9 years.

Findings of Fact:

1. The conditional use permit is consistent with the comprehensive plan and development policies of the City.
2. The use will not create an excessive demand on existing parks, schools, streets, and other public facilities and utilities which serve or are proposed to serve the area.
3. The use will be sufficiently compatible or separated by distance or screening from adjacent development or land so that existing development will not be depreciated in value and there will not be deterrence to development of vacant land.
4. The structure and site shall have an appearance that will not have an adverse effect upon adjacent properties.
5. The use in the opinion of the City is reasonably related to the overall needs of the City and to the existing land use.
6. The use is consistent with the purposes of the zoning ordinance and the purposes of the zoning district in which the applicant intends to locate the proposed use.
7. The use will not cause traffic hazard or congestion.

Motion by Murphy / Rivard to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve the proposed conditional use permit at 467 River Street. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Request from the CERT for purchase of new radios**

Councilmember Murphy explained that this was tabled because she had not received information from the CERT yet.

Motion by Aanonsen / Julik-Heine to table the request from the CERT for the purchase of new radios until more information could be provided. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Request from Fire Department for purchase/installation of lockboxes at City buildings**

These high security locked key boxes can only be opened by the Fire Department, so that they can get into the building in an emergency. They would be installed at City Hall, the City maintenance building, the Community Center, and the Library.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Rivard to approve the request from the Fire Department for purchase/installation of lockboxes at City buildings from Knox Box at a cost of \$939.00, from the general fund. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Request from Clerk-Treasurer for training from AEM**

Clerk-Treasurer Nealley is requesting training by the auditing firm Abdo Eick and Meyers as previously recommended by the Council in December of 2020 to reduce paying them for audit preparation services. This would be a two part training with June focusing on the Budget and December focusing on audit preparation. Nealley brought out that there was training money available because the 2020 MMCI Clerk Institute was cancelled, and the 2021 one was virtual with no travel costs. Mayor Buchite said that it would reduce future cost to the City. Councilmember Aanonsen was opposed, but when asked why said: "No comment."

Motion by Murphy / Rivard to approve training for Clerk-Treasurer Nealley by Abdo Eick and Meyer in June and December of 2021 in the areas of the budget and audit preparation, not to exceed \$3,300.00. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Aanonsen voting nay.

### **2021 seal coating quotations**

Councilmembers Julik-Heine and Rivard explained. The quotes obtained were for chip seal and fog seal. This would be for sections of the following streets: Center, Folsum, Gable, Grove, Hilltop, Linden, Maple, Oak, Pine, River, Second, Walnut, and West.

Motion by Aanonsen / Julik-Heine to approve Public Works request to hire Pearson Bros at a cost of \$51,677.10 to complete chip seal and fog seal on streets and to be paid from the paving fund. Motion carried unanimously.

### **(Amended Item) Heritage Park Overlook prairie restoration project**

Councilmember Julik-Heine explained that resident Nick Arens had suggested planting prairie grass at Heritage Park. There will need to be a controlled burn, and Chief Vodenka-Reed will look into it. Nick Arens said that there are grant opportunities for this project at the Chisago County Natural Heritage Fund, with Soil and Water.

Motion by Murphy / Aanonsen to approve moving forward with the Heritage Park prairie restoration project at a cost of \$4,524.02, to be paid to Prairie Restorations. Motion carried unanimously.

**LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

**Council Member Troy Aanonsen (Economic Development Commission liaison)**

- said he met with Chief Vodenka-Reed. We didn't get the Firehouse Subs grant. The Smelt Fry sold out in 1 hour and 45 minutes. There is a new member in the EDC. They are discussing food trucks and a trolley for Wannigan Days.

**Council Member Ross Rivard (Planning Commission liaison)**

- said that Public Works would be very busy sealing roads.

**Council Member Larry Julik-Heine (Parks & Recreation Commission liaison)**

- said that Public Works had been using the new street sweeper.

**Council Member Mary Murphy (Heritage Preservation Commission liaison)**

- said that the website was in the process of being updated. She spoke about the HPC meeting.

**Mayor Mike Buchite**

- said that Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz had received a Wastewater Award. He said the downtown commercial property would be usable for Wannigan Days.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, May 10, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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Ross Rivard, Vice-Mayor

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Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

**APPROVED**

Monday, December 13, 2021