

MINUTES
TAYLORS FALLS BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
City Hall, Mayor's Office
Wednesday, August 4, 2021 7:30 am

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Thursday, July 29, 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 7:35 pm by Vice Mayor Ross Rivard.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Vice Mayor Ross Rivard, Larry Julik-Heine, Troy Aanonsen

Members Absent: Mayor Mike Buchite

Others Present: Clerk-Treasurer Elizabeth Nealley, Sandra Berg, Katherine Johnson, Becky Caneday, Kevin Schumann

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION - PRELIMINARY

Accomplishments of 2021

Vice Mayor Ross Rivard read through the Banyon Expenditure report for Funds 413 (Special Projects) and 420 (Capital Equipment) showing some of the years accomplishments: Repairing the Taylors Falls sign, seeding Heritage Park, grading the downtown commercial property, and the purchase of a used street sweeper. He then read through the Goals & Directives list from the January 2021 Organizational Meeting. Council Member Aanonsen spoke about #1 (EDC complete Phase II of the River Walk) and mentioned signs directing pedestrians away from traffic. Vice Mayor Rivard read through #2 (Improve Cherry Hill Park); #3 (Improve Heritage Park); #4 (A formal City Manual); #5 (Water main replacement); and #6 (Community Center remodeling.) Vice Mayor Rivard said that #5 was ongoing. He brought out that #7 (Swedish Immigrant Trail) had been completed up to City Hall in 2020, and mentioned that extending it to downtown was still something in discussion. He read through #8 (Highway 8 improvements) and #9 (Bench Street improvements). Vice Mayor Rivard brought out that #10 (Reduce city tax rate by increasing revenues) was always our goal. He read through #11 (New businesses in business park and downtown commercial lot) and #12 (Valley View Trail). He explained that #13 (Possible South Gateway Project) referred to a bridge across the highway to the state park. He said that #14 (Two new civil defense sirens) was important to reach the far ends of the city. He mentioned that #15 (Replace railings downtown) had been completed in 2020.

Goals for the end of 2021

Vice Mayor Rivard mentioned some goals for the end of 2021 such as sealcoating all roads before school starts and the Heritage Park restrooms. He said he would like to have sprinklers set up to water the City Hall lawn. He mentioned sidewalks - one section up First Street from downtown had been accomplished and he would like that to continue higher, as well as replacing the railings up First Street. Council Member Julik-Heine said that the prairie restoration project of Heritage Park was going to be ongoing, but for 2021 there was a plan to reseed and involve the elementary school children in the project. He mentioned the successful bingo fundraiser at Wannigan Days, and said he would like to have the big yellow chair repainted. Council Member Aanonsen mentioned some recommendations the EDC would be bringing to the City Council such as working with MNDOT regarding the traffic lights, and meeting with the state about the future Osceola bridge project that was going to affect traffic in Taylors Falls. He mentioned having QR codes set up to connect to the city website for commercial and historic areas.

Possible new revenues

Vice Mayor Rivard mentioned that there would be some new homes built in the Granite Ledge subdivision that would bring in more property taxes.

Possible new expenditures

Clerk-Treasurer Nealley mentioned the need to budget for a new meter reader, since it would be a good idea to be prepared in case the old one suddenly stopped working since it is obsolete and unfixable. She provided information from Core and Main showing that it would cost approximately \$7,000.00. Vice Mayor Rivard explained that the old one was very old and had not been working well, and he thought it might be a good idea to go ahead and purchase it this year.

Goals for 2022

Vice Mayor Rivard asked about goals for 2022. Council Member Julik-Heine mentioned improving Cherry Hill Park with new plantings, like day lilies and lilacs. He asked about the previous goal regarding a retaining wall behind the Chisago House, and Vice Mayor Rivard explained that the grant that was going to be used for that wasn't worth it because 80% of the money would be used up fulfilling the requirements. Council Member Julik-Heine said he would like to have the big yellow chair anchored to protect it from vandals, and another picnic table added. Vice Mayor Rivard agreed about the picnic tables and having more of them at Heritage Park. Council Member Aanonsen said that the EDC would like to have the City purchase the property that had been owned by Lowell Nelson. Vice Mayor Rivard explained that Mr. Nelson had previously planned to donate this land to the City of Taylors Falls. Council Member Julik-Heine mentioned the fake rock over the telecom equipment and Vice Mayor Rivard agreed about making it look nicer.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Vice Mayor Rivard said that they did not have a quorum for the August 9, 2021 City Council Meeting because Council Member Julik-Heine was going to be out of town and only himself and Council Member Aanonsen would be available. He asked what day would be best to reschedule it, and they agreed that Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm would work.

RECESS

Motion by Julik-Heine / Aanonsen to recess the Budget Workshop meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting recessed at 7:59 am.

Ross Rivard, Vice Mayor

Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

Wednesday, August 11, 2021