

MINUTES
TAYLORS FALLS BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
City Hall, Mayor's Office
Wednesday, August 11, 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 7:30 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, Geri Aanonsen

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION - PROJECTS

Special projects fund (413)

Vice Mayor Rivard started talking about some of the uses for the Special Projects Fund (413). He brought up that airpicks will be a necessary expense; they have to be replaced every so often, and the company we bought them from went out of business. The city is trying for a grant to cover it. Council Member Aanonsen said they are still waiting on the 2020 grant and will be applying again in 2021 when the window opens. Council Member Julik-Heine brought up lawn sprinklers, the First Street railing, and mentioned that bathrooms at the crowded Heritage Park would be an improvement. Vice Mayor Rivard suggested leaving the fund at \$35,000 for now, and that it can be raised or lowered later as the budget sessions go on depending on the tax rate calculation. The other Council Members agreed.

Capital equipment fund (420)

Council Member Aanonsen brought up the need to start saving for Pumper #1 for the Fire Department. Resident Sandra Berg said she had an idea about a soda vending machine near the History Museum at the Community Center. Discussion followed about possible vandalism and the proximity to Casey's. Resident Geri Aanonsen suggested powerwashing the Community Center. The Vice Mayor said that there is enough money for powerwashing. He suggested keeping the fund at \$70,000 and revisiting it at the end of the budget sessions. Council Member Julik-Heine said it was wise to plan for the fire truck.

Street improvements fund (650)

Council Member Aanonsen asked about the streets now being sealcoated in the City. Discussion followed. He mentioned that there was a sinkhole at Basil and West Government Streets. Vice Mayor Rivard thought that it might be a culvert that needed to be replaced, and that would come out of the Storm Water Utility Fund (600). He brought up another culvert that had collapsed recently by the Drive In. The old ones are galvanized with a 30 year life, and can be replaced with concrete ones for a 100 year life. Vice Mayor Rivard went on to discuss what streets needed improvements in the next year. Discussion followed. Council Member Aanonsen asked where the budget can be cut. Vice Mayor Rivard mentioned some new homes being built and the tax revenue the City would gain from that. He suggested changing Street Improvements (650) from \$80,000 to \$90,000 for now, and then later see if Capital Equipment can be increased \$5,000 to \$10,000.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Vice Mayor Rivard said that next week would be discussions on personnel, as well as debts. The Clerk-Treasurer will provide a chart showing possible raises for all staff. Council Member Aanonsen asked for information showing City Council pay as well. It was brought up that the protocol at previous personnel sessions of the Budget Workshop meetings had been to ask City Staff to leave the open Council Meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Nealley said that it wasn't officially closing the meeting. Council Member Aanonsen asked if that meant no visitors as well. Vice Mayor Rivard thought it would be better to just allow the Council to speak alone. The Vice Mayor asked to amend the agenda and move the Sheriff's Office discussion to the meeting of August 18 from August 25.

Motion by Aanonsen / Julik-Heine to move the discussion of the Sheriff's Office from the Budget Workshop meeting on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 to Wednesday August 18, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS

Motion by Julik-Heine / Aanonsen to recess the Budget Workshop meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting recessed at 8:04 am.

Ross Rivard, Vice Mayor

Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

Monday, September 13, 2021