

TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
City Hall, Council Chambers  
Monday, April 10, 2023

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Thursday, April 5, 2023 at City Hall, the Post Office. Copies were emailed to residents requesting such, and the Press was notified.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm by Mayor Brandon Weiberg.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Brandon Weiberg, Vice Mayor Lee Samuelson, Tim Grote, Larry Julik-Heine, Troy Aanonsen. Others Present: Clerk Clerk-Treasurer Mary Tomnitz, Legal Counsel Knaak, Fay Caneday, Darrel Caneday, Becky Caneday, Sandra Berg, Brian Berg, Julie Samuelson, Jim Stein, Rich Smith, Deb Julik-Heine, Sheryl Grote, JoAnn Kuntemeier, Denise Martin

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

*Moved by Council Member Grote, second by Council Member Julik-Heine, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.*

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Aanonsen had questions about the payroll liabilities on the check register.

*Moved by Council Member Julik-Heine, second by Council member Aanonsen, to approve the April 10, 2023 Consent Agenda with the condition Clerk/Treasurer Tomnitz will explain the payroll liabilities. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Moved by Council Member Julik-Heine, second by Council Member Aanonsen, to approve the Consent Agenda for the March 27, 2023 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

*Moved by Council Member Julik-Heine, second by Council Member Aanonsen, to approve minutes of the March 27, 2023 Council meeting. Council Member Grote abstained. Aye - Weiberg, Samuelson, Julik-Heine, Aanonsen.*

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Deb Julik-Heine - Thanked the Council for continuing the practice of Open Forum at every Council meeting. She presented each Council Member a sheet with four questions.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Shafer Fire Contract Update  
Council Member Aanonsen reported the drafted contract is still with Shafer Township clerk. She will report back after their next meeting.
2. City Coordinator/Zoning Administrator Update  
Julik-Heine and Mayor Weiberg interviewed an applicant last week, a great potential candidate from Wisconsin. Another application was received over the weekend.
3. Website Update  
Mayor Weiberg said City has received three quotes to build the website. a) Bolton and Menk, to work with current website or create a new site. They have never built a new site for any City before. b) AE2S Communications to create a new website. c) Well Optimized Web, owned by Becky Caneday, for a complete new build. The least expensive quote was about \$4,200.

***Motion by Council Member Aanonsen, second by Council Member Grote, to hire Well Optimized Web to build the website and maintain it going forward at the initial cost of \$4,180 with annual hosting and basic monthly maintenance. Motion unanimously passed.***

4. Community Garden

Mayor Weiberg explained a private citizen group has proposed a community garden near the holding ponds that are not fenced. He asked Jim Stein to explain what that means in terms of insurance liability. Jim responded that insurance will take care of the City if sued or someone is injured over the garden. He cautioned that if the City knows something to be dangerous, then don't do it. If the City decides to put a garden there, insurance will cover the City.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Jim Stein - Insurance

Jim Stein reported the insurance up for renewal on March 1st. The quote was broken down by property, municipal liability, automobiles, workers compensation, first party cyber, breakdown and bond. Premiums for 2023-2024 totaled \$50,485.00. Policy provides full replacement cost.

Liability coverage includes public official errors and omissions. Work comp rates are based on Minnesota statutes.

The State of Minnesota has a statute that limits a City's liability in case of lawsuit to \$300,000. To purchase an additional \$1,000,000 coverage will result in additional insurance premium of \$1,569. He urged the City to not waive the statutory immunity. The insurance is set up to cover the City's responsibilities for all locations and all injuries for which the City is named in a suit. Individuals or organizations holding an event on City property are not covered under the City's insurance.

Council Member Grote mentioned improvements to the Lions Park. He wondered if those items must be added to the insurance coverage. (Yes, they should.) Council Member Grote will forward pertinent information to Stein Agency.

Jim Stein then presented Resolution 2023-04-00 where the City agrees to not waive the statutory limit.

***Moved by Council Member Julik-Heine, second by Vice Mayor Samuelson, to accept the liability coverage waiver form. Motion passed unanimously.***

Resolution 2023-04-00 is attached.

***Motion by Council Member Grote, second by Council Member Julik-Heine, to reject the optional million dollar liability quote for a total of \$1,569.***

***Motion by Council Member Grote, second by Council Member Julik-Heine, to approve the 2023-2024 insurance quote of \$50,485. Motion passed unanimously.***

2. Juneteenth - Paid Holiday? June 19th

The United States Federal Government has declared June 19 (Juneteenth) as a national holiday. Minnesota has approved the holiday starting in August of 2023.

***Moved by Council Member Grote, second by Council Member Aanonsen, to approve Resolution 2023-4-1 declaring June 19 as a City paid holiday, beginning June 19, 2023, and annually thereafter. Motion passed unanimously.***

Resolution 2023-4-1 attached.

3. City Hall Roof Proposal-

Mayor Weiberg reported water has been leaking through the roof into the office area, requiring buckets be strategically placed. The City staff are seeking bids to replace the roof.

4. Sewer Backup  
Vice Mayor Samuelson reported a sewer backed up with the last snow storm. It cost \$1,300 for a company to clean it out on a Saturday. Then it was discovered the City owns a sewer cleaning machine, which will be a savings to the City in the future.

Council Member Grote suggested sending out memo to residents on what can and cannot go into the sewer, such as diapers. Vice Mayor Samuelson and Council Member Julik-Heine will work with Clerk/Treasurer Tomnitz in drafting the letter.

5. Citizen - Email Policy Discussion  
Information from League of Minnesota Cities, Angie Storlie, Research Analyst

Mayor Weiberg contacted the League of Minnesota Cities about how to handle emails. The League has no best practice. But said, a) don't allow emails to be read at Council meetings and citizen must be present at meetings; b) each Council Member gives a brief summary of any emails received. He then researched what policies other cities have established. One had a deadline for emails to be received and put in packets. Another had the Clerk read the emails.

Julik-Heine stated if a Council person gets email, it should be read at a meeting, or summarized.

Attorney Knaak stated email become public data and should be reviewed to see if some data should be redacted. Council Member Aanonsen stated if citizen sends email and wants Council to address it, it should go in packet so every Council Member sees it.

Attorney Knaak stated anonymous email are public data. He raised a caution: Council should be discouraged from using personal/cell phone email for city business, and don't do city business on social media.

***Moved by Council Member Aanonsen, second by Council Member Grote, to postpone to definite date and time on making a decision on emails to be read at City Council meetings. Motion passed unanimously.***

6. Public Works - Generator Proposal  
Vice Mayor Samuelson reported one generator needs a bigger gas line. Another generator needs a new ignition control module. The Council reviewed a proposal from Allied Generators to replace a battery and the control module, Council Member Grote reported they will be getting another proposal to upsize the gas line.

***Moved by Council Member Aanonsen, second by Council Member Grote, to approve the control module and battery replacement for the lift station. Motion passed unanimously.***

7. Community Center - Update Sheriff's Contract Pricing for Police Supervision  
Mayor Weiberg reported the Sheriff's Department requested Community Center rental applicants deal directly with law enforcement if alcohol will be served at their event. Previously the applicant dealt with City staff, who contacted the Sheriff's Department. The application form is being revised to reflect this change. The law enforcement coverage rate increased to \$86/hour. Mayor Weiberg said it may be in the future when the Sheriff's Department is unable to provide an officer at the Community Center due to manpower limitations.

***Moved by Council Member Aanonsen, second by Council Member Grote, to approve the revised Taylors Falls Memorial Community Center rental application. Motion passed unanimously.***

#### **PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR NEXT SUCCEEDING MEETING**

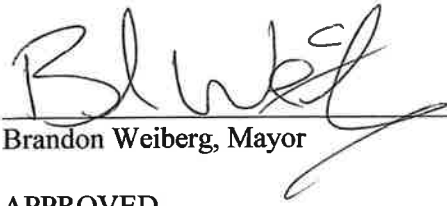
Council Member Aanonsen reminded Council the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will be meeting at 6pm Thursday, April 13. Representatives from the County Assessor's office will be in attendance.

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

There were no reports.

**ADJOURNMENT**

***Moved by Council Member Julik-Heine , second by Council Member Grote, to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council at 8:30 pm held this Monday, April 10, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.***



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Brandon Weiberg, Mayor



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Fay Caneday, Secretary Pro Tem

APPROVED  
May 8, 2023