

**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at City Hall, the Post Office and on the City's Web Site. Copies were e-mailed to residents requesting such, and the Press was notified.

The Taylors Falls City Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, October 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 637 First Street, Taylors Falls, Minnesota.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Mike Buchite.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All those present at the meeting recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

**ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Buchite, Ross Rivard, John Tangen, Larry Julik-Heine, Zara Kinnunen

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk-Treasurer Jo Everson, Dustin Swenson, Jerald Bisson, and Eric Vargo from the Chisago County Press.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was amended by removing **Consider Additional Duct Work at City Hall.**

MOTION BY RIVARD/KINNUNEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE OCTOBER 26, 2009 COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION BY TANGEN/JULIK-HEINE TO APPROVE/ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEM: CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**Dustin Swenson, 473 Folsom Street**, appeared before the Council to question the City's policy of not maintaining the alleys in the City. Swenson had recently applied for a building permit to replace a shed in his back yard that adjoins an alley but was denied the permit because it did not meet the 10' setback requirement from the alley. He has since disputed that finding, stating that he disagreed with the City's determination of the actual location of the alley. Additionally, he contends that if the City does not maintain the alleys then it should not have jurisdiction as to setback regulations. Jerald Brisson, a neighbor to Swenson, was in agreement and questioned why the City appears to selectively choose what properties and alleys that Ordinances are enforced upon.

Mayor Buchite informed the Council that he was aware of the shed issue and had consulted the City Attorney for his opinion. Swenson was given several options: 1) to move the shed (*which he just applied for a new building permit to do*); 2) consult the Planning Commission for further review; 3) apply for a variance or alley vacation. The Mayor recommended the Public Works Council Liaisons look into the noxious weed enforcement issue.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RE-CONSIDER COUNCIL ACTION ON PUMP HOUSE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

At the September 14, 2009 Council Meeting, the Taylors Falls Park & Rec Commission requested authorization to purchase playground equipment from Xccent Play for the new Pump House Playground at the intersection of West and Maple Streets. The Council authorized the purchase with the condition that the cost was not to exceed \$7,500.00. Initially it was thought that the Public Works Department could do the majority of the installation. However, their current workload does not allow it to be done in a timely manner. Therefore a new quote was obtained that included excavation and installation by Xccent Play. After some negotiation, the total cost proposed now is \$10,398.25.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/KINNUNEN TO AMEND THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 COUNCIL ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FROM XCCENT PLAY, FROM OSCEOLA, WISCONSIN, AT A NEW COST OF \$10,398.25, WHICH WILL INCLUDE EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, EXCAVATION AND INSTALLATION AT THE PUMP HOUSE PLAYGROUND, LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF WEST AND MAPLE STREET. THE SAID PURCHASE SHALL BE PAID AS FOLLOWS: \$9,681.24 FROM THE PARK FUND (403) AND \$717.01 FROM THE PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND (404). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PRC RECOMMENDATION FOR GRANT APPLICATION**

Tana Havumaki, Chair of the Park & Rec Commission, requested authorization to submit a grant application to the Polaris Foundation for the purchase of several items for certain parks in Taylors Falls. The Foundation focuses on Community Development, the environment and projects to support the youth.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/TANGEN TO AUTHORIZE TANA HAVUMAKI, CHAIR OF THE TAYLORS FALLS PARK & REC COMMISSION, TO SUBMIT AN ON-LINE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE POLARIS FOUNDATION FOR A TOTAL OF \$4,960.00 FOR A CONCRETE SLAB, AN ADA COMPLIANT PICNIC TABLE AND THREE PARK BENCHES FOR THE CHERRY HILL PARK AND THE PUMPHOUSE PLAYGROUND PARK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDER CLOSING CITY HALL ON FRIDAYS**

Personnel Liaisons Mayor Mike Buchite and Council Member John Tangen met with City Staff in August to evaluate each employee's workload in preparation for the 2010 budget workshops. As a result of those meetings, they have made several recommendations to the Council. The first was to close City Hall on Fridays effective November 6<sup>th</sup> and until further notice. A list of findings was established supporting this recommendation:

- The loss of LGA forced the City to look at ways to reduce expenses without substantial impact to services provided to the residents and taxpayers of the City.
- Staff have indicated that activity at City Hall on Fridays are less than other days of the week (phone calls, window visits, etc.)
- Current hours on Fridays are 7:30 – 1:30, which are less than other days of the week, therefore less impact to services.
- Closure of City Hall on Fridays would result in reduction of costs for electricity and heating.

Secondly, the Personnel Liaisons made a recommendation to the Council as to the hours each employee should be working based upon the amount of workload discussed at the August meeting.

Council Members Ross Rivard, Larry Julik-Heine, and Zara Kinnunen were supportive of the recommendations given that the initial discussion on it's possibility had occurred during the budget workshop meetings.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/JULIK-HEINE TO AUTHORIZE THE CLOSURE OF CITY HALL ON FRIDAYS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BASED UPON THE ABOVE MENTIONED FINDINGS OF FACT.

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED TO DIRECT CITY STAFF TO POST THE CLOSURE NOTICE AT CITY HALL AND THE POST OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING STAFF HOURS:

- TO REDUCE THE DEPUTY CLERK'S HOURS TO 32 HOURS PER WEEK (FOUR 8-HOUR DAYS).
- TO LEAVE THE CITY CLERK'S HOURS AT 32 HOURS PER WEEK.
- TO LEAVE THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR'S HOURS AT 40 HOURS PER WEEK (FOUR 10 HOUR DAYS, OR ADJUSTED WHEN NEEDED FOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS). THIS IS DUE TO HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH COORDINATING VARIOUS PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE MNDOT PROJECT, THE COMMUNITY CENTER REMODELING PROJECT, AND THE XCEL ENERGY PROJECT, AS WELL AS THE INVOLVEMENT IN CITY COMMISSION ACTIVITIES.
- TO LEAVE THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AT 40 HOURS PER WEEK, AS THEIR WORKLOAD WARRANTS THESE HOURS AND THEY HAVE NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC AT CITY HALL.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

**Larry Julik-Heine** reported that the Park & Rec Commission had been very busy over the past ten days. The plantings were completed at the Cherry Hill Park and there was a gigantic step forward on the pavilion construction in the Park over the past weekend. Heritage Park has a new sign that was recently erected. The City also was the beneficiary of \$645.00 from Amy Frischmon of Wild Mountain as a donation to the Friends of Taylors Falls Park fund-raising event.

**John Tangen** reported that the Heritage Preservation Commission is exploring the designation of other motivated homeowner's properties, including one commercial property on Bench Street.

**Ross Rivard** reported that the Public Works Department continues to prepare for the winter season. They have been working with Knife River on the County's street project by resetting manhole covers and water main caps. Also, new LED Christmas lights have been installed on the Memorial Community Center which are 99% more efficient than those that were removed.

**Zara Kinnunen** reported that the Economic Development Commission had recently met to discuss options with regard to the paved pedestrian walk for the Riverwalk Trail project in 2010. They are also looking at grants to assist in the financing of this phase of the project.

**Mayor Mike Buchite** reported that the soil borings are completed at the MnDOT truck station property. The City is waiting for the results and review by the City Engineer before moving forward on the project.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

THE CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED IN THE OCTOBER 26, 2009 CITY COUNCIL MEETING PACKET:

1. INFORMATION ON LS POWER, SUNRISE RIVER ENERGY STATION
2. FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWSLETTER
3. WORKSHOP NOTICE FROM ECRDC
4. SCHOOL TALK NEWSLETTER
5. CORRESPONDENCE FROM TOWN OF AMADOR, RE: TOWNSHIP'S FACILITY PLAN APPROVAL
6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE & EMAIL'S

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/JULIK-HEINE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2009. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

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Jo Everson, Clerk-Treasurer

**APPROVED: NOVEMBER 9, 2009**