

**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at City Hall, the Post Office and 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, November 24, 2008 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, Fire Chief Kevin Rivard, Ron Erickson, Angela Moulten from the Ledger Newspaper, Tammie Milberg from the Inter-County Leader, and Bob Porter from the Chisago County Press.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was amended to include under New Business: **Consider Appointment of PRC Member.**

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/KINNUNEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE NOVEMBER 24, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**STAFF REQUESTS**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Consider Training Request.** MOTION BY KINNUNEN/JULIK-HEINE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT FOR CLERK-TREASURER JO EVERSON AND DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER JAYNA YESKE TO ATTEND THE ALCOHOL & GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT TRAINING SESSION ON JANUARY 15, 2009, FROM 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM AT THE ROSEMOUNT COMMUNITY CENTER. STAFF IS TO UTILIZE CITY VEHICLES FOR TRANSPORTATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER REVISED DRAFT OF INTERSTATE STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Council continued discussion on the new draft of the Interstate State Park Management Plan with Ron Erickson, Manager of Interstate State Park, The initial discussion was held at the last Council Meeting, which was tabled until tonight (more details regarding the Plan are included in the November 10, 2008 Minutes).

The Plan's proposal to acquire +/- 100 acres of property for Park expansion in "Area 3" was discussed at length. The MnDNR's rationale for including these areas is to protect basalt rock outcrops and to provide a trail connection from the existing Park to the Bryant Woods Environmental Learning Area. The City's stand pipe and water reservoir, as well as several platted streets and alleys were among the properties included in the mapped "Area 3". The Council did not agree that the entire area needed to be acquired by the State in order to accomplish their goals. They were in agreement that the common goal was to connect the existing Park to Bryant Woods, therefore enhancing the entire trail system in Taylors Falls. This partnership would benefit both parties, and is further supported by the City's Comprehensive Plan and Master Parks & Trails Plan. Additionally, the Taylors Falls Comprehensive Plan and Development Code strive to protect and preserve natural features (including basalt outcroppings) if the area were to ever be developed, therefore accomplishing that goal.

Another reason the Council opposed the proposed Park expansion in "Area 3" is because Park property ownership would cut the City in half, and would not be a natural fit as compared to property located adjacent to the Park. Concern was also expressed that if City utilities were expanded the Park would not be required to pay frontage like a private property owner. Ultimately the City would need to assume that cost.

Discussion turned to the proposed Park Plan for the +/- 40 acres expansion in "Area 5", which is property that abuts the State Park and not separated by a road or any other boundary. With the exception of the house, the property is wooded with a ravine begins on this property that eventually becomes Curtain Falls. Council supported the proposed Park expansion in this area since it would be its location adjacent to the Park would make it an expected addition.

To summarize:

- » In general, the Council supports the Interstate State Park Management Plan with certain exceptions.
- » The Council supports a partnership with the Park to create a trail system from the existing Park property to the Bryant Woods Environmental School Laboratory property, which in turn would connect to other City Parks, such as Cherry Hill.
- » The Council supports a trail system using a combination of trail easements, on-street trails (Chestnut Street), or the use of platted but unimproved rights-of-way within a portion of Area 3.
- » The Council does not support the Park Management Plan proposal to expand into all the land mapped in Area 3, specifically properties owned by the City along with City infrastructure (i.e. stand pipe, reservoir, and water mains). Park acquisition of this +/- 100 acres would create:
  - a significant loss of tax revenue
  - a division of private property through a central portion of Taylors Falls, creating an irregular Park boundary design
  - a loss of revenue due to uncollected water/sewer area fees paid by a private property owner
  - a hardship for the City to expand utility services across State owned property to a private property owner, since the State would not pay frontage costs to do this
- » The Council supports the Plan's priority to develop new pedestrian and bicycle trails (as appropriate) including the Swedish Immigrant Trail and Gateway Trail proposed by Chisago County.
- » The Council supports the Park Management Plan proposal to expand the State Park into "Area 5" which is property immediately adjacent to the existing Park.
- » The Council recommends that on Page 19 the Park Management Plan should reference the Taylors Falls Comprehensive Plan rather than the Strategic Guide.

MOTION BY RIVARD/JULIK-HEINE TO AUTHORIZE CITY CLERK-TREASURER JO EVERSON TO SEND A LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SUMMARIZING THE COUNCIL DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED INTERSTATE STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PRC TO SUBMIT COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION GRANT**

Council Liaison Larry Julik-Heine reported that Taylors Falls did not receive the \$2,000 grant submitted in 2007 to the Lake State Federal Credit Union Community Improvement Foundation for shrubs and trees at the Cherry Hill Park. However, they are once again requesting authorization to submit a second grant application, this one for \$1,000.00, which the City would have a much higher likelihood of receiving.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/TANGEN TO AUTHORIZE THE TAYLORS FALLS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION CHAIR TANA HAVUMAKI TO SUBMIT A \$1,000 GRANT REQUEST TO THE LAKE STATE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION, FOR SHRUBS AND TREES AT THE CHERRY HILL PARK.

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY CLERK AND MAYOR'S SIGNATURE ON SAID APPLICATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Park & Rec Commission has recommended the appointment of Mary Murphy to the Commission, filling the position vacated by Lisa Thibodeau. Also, Alternate Member John Sander submitted his resignation due to work restrictions that do not allow him to attend meetings.

MOTION BY RIVARD/TANGEN TO APPOINT MARY MURPHY TO THE TAYLORS FALLS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION, WHO'S TERM, WILL EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2012.

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED TO ACCEPT, WITH REGRETS, THE RESIGNATION OF JOHN SANDER AS THE TAYLORS FALLS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION ALTERNATE MEMBER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDER APPROVING 2009 LIQUOR LICENSES**

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING 2009 TAYLORS FALLS LIQUOR LICENSES, CONDITION UPON RECEIPT OF UPDATED INSURANCE INFORMATION:

**STACIAPINK INVESTMENTS, INC. – KEVIN IRWIN  
DBA/ SMITTY'S BORDER BAR 'N' GRILL at 367 Bench Street**

ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE  
OFF-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE  
ON-SALE SUNDAY LICENSE

**DDMCVI, LLC – DAVID MCKEAG  
DBA/ ROMAYNE'S ON MAIN at 391 Bench Street**

ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE  
OFF-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE  
ON-SALE SUNDAY LICENSE

**MARY F. KELASH ENTERPRISES, INC.  
DBA/RIVERVIEW CONOCO AT 341 Bench Street**

OFF-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE

**R.D.F.T. LLC - ROSS REED  
DBA/ TANGLED UP IN BLUE AT 425 Bench Street**

ON-SALE WINE LICENSE  
ON-SALE BEER LICENSE

MOTION CARRIED, WITH TANGEN ABSTAINING DUE TO HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH THE CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

**CONSIDER AUTHORIZING FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASES**

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF PIERCING NOZZLE AND SHUT OFF VALVE, AND A BLITZIRE MONITOR WITH MOUNTING BRACKET, MAX-MATIC SERIES TIP, AND OSCILLATING ATTACHMENT FROM INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, INC., AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$4,500.00, TO BE PAID FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW EQUIPMENT BUDGET ACCOUNT (42260-580). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

**Larry Julik-Heine** reported that progress on the Cherry Hill Park continues to inch along. The concrete slab for the picnic pavilion was poured over the weekend. He reminded the Council that Cherry Hill Park is a privately funded Park with no subsidy from property taxes.

**Mike Buchite** congratulated Council Members Larry Julik-Heine and John Tangen on their recent re-election to office. He also updated the Council on the progress of the Lease Agreement with MnDOT, acknowledging the extra work Staff has put in order to ready the document for final review. Once MnDOT has agreed to its language it will come back to the Council for approval.

Mayor Buchite also commended the Taylors Falls Elementary School and the Fire Department for their tribute to the local Veterans on Veterans Day.

And lastly, Buchite reminded Council that the next meeting of the Council would be the Truth & Taxation Hearing. This hearing is the prelude to the adoption of the final 2009 budget and levy. It is not the time to debate any increases in market values on a property. That should be done at the Board of Appeals Meeting held each year in May with the County Assessors.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

THE CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED IN THE NOVEMBER 24, 2008 CITY COUNCIL MEETING PACKET:

1. LETTER FROM CHISAGO COUNTY AUDITOR, RE: SECURITY OF ELECTION MATERIALS
2. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE & EMAIL'S

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL HELD ON NOVEMBER 24, 2008. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

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Jo Everson, Clerk-Treasurer

**APPROVED: DECEMBER 9, 2008**