

**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at City Hall and the Post Office. 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, March 10, 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, Zara Kinnunen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Julik-Heine

OTHERS PRESENT: Zoning Administrator-Coordinator Larry Phillips, Chief Kevin Rivard from the Taylors Falls Fire Department, Scott Johnson and Heide Miller from Chisago Lakes Schools, Jim Stein from Stein Agency, and Bob Porter from the Chisago County Press.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Buchite requested the agenda be amended to approve the purchase by the Taylors Falls Fire Department.

MOTION BY RIVARD/KINNUNEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE MARCH 10, 2008 TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY TANGEN/KINNUNEN TO APPROVE/ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; STAFF REPORTS; COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS; CONSIDER DATE FOR LOCAL BOARD OF APPEALS; CONSIDER PAYMENT TO WILD RIVER CONTRACTING; CONSIDER PAYMENT NUMBER 4 TO ENCOMM MIDWEST, INC.; CONSIDER PAYMENT NUMBER 5 TO E.H. RENNER & SONS, INC.; CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE MINUTES OF THE TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON: FEBRUARY 11 AND FEBRUARY 25, 2008.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

STAFF REPORTS

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA CORPORAL SHANE CARROLL'S JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT.

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORTS/MINUTES

TAYLORS FALLS PLANNING COMMISSION

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE MINUTES OF THE TAYLORS FALLS PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2008.

STAFF REQUESTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Kevin Rivard requested authorization to purchase a 12,000-pound winch and mount that were budgeted for in 2008 and needed by the Fire Department. Council Member Tangen stated the it would be a good purchase and would also be useful for clearing down trees.

Fire Chief Rivard requested immediate reimbursement for the equipment.

MOTION BY TANGEN/KINNUNEN TO PURCHASE THE WINCH AND MOUNT FROM TELLICO AT A COST OF \$1,041.91 PLUS SHIPPING TO BE PAID FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW EQUIPMENT BUDGET (42260-580), WITH IMMEDIATE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE MEMBER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WHO ACTUALLY PAID FOR THE EQUIPMENT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE TAYORS FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Heide Miller, Director of Business Services with the Chisago Lakes Area Schools ISD #2144, presented plans for the new addition to the Taylors Falls Elementary School. Included was a site plan, parking plan, building plan, and a colored architectural elevation plan. Ms. Miller stated the addition would replace the existing portable building and would be used for six classrooms. It would be connected to the main building with a fully enclosed hallway.

Scott Johnson, ICS Consulting, stated the portable building is scheduled to be demolished for on March 24th and construction of the addition is scheduled to begin April 15, 2008.

Mayor Buchite stated the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the request on April 3, 2008, and recommended approval of the Condition Use Permit with the following findings of fact:

1. The applicant has submitted a compete application pursuant to Section 1000.018 Conditional Uses.
2. The proposed addition meets all applicable Development Code requirements.
3. The proposed addition will not require additional signage.
4. The proposed addition will provide superior facilities compared to the temporary (portable) buildings.
5. The architectural appearance of the proposed addition will be similar to the existing building

The Planning Commission also recommended a condition of the approval to include any changes in the grading and erosion control plan are contingent upon approval of the City Engineer. Larry Phillips, the City's Zoning Administrator-Coordinator, reported that the proposal meets all applicable Development Code regulations.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/RIVARD TO APPROVE THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITION TO THE TAYLORS FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LOCATED AT 648 WEST STREET IN TAYLORS FALLS, WITH THE CONDITION THAT ANY CHANGES IN THE GRADING AND EROSION CONTROL PLAN BE CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE CITY ENGINEER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2008 INSURANCE PRESENTATION

Jim Stein, Stein Agency, presented the 2008 insurance plan for the City of Taylors Falls. Mr. Stein stated the replacement cost for the play equipment at the Lion's Parks was not included as insured, and would need to be added. Mr. Stein stated the City's insurance would not cover the Lion's tug-of-war across the St. Croix River during Wannigan Days. The Lion's Club insurance would need to cover that event.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/RIVARD TO DIRECT PUBLIC WORKS STREET WORKER ERIC GARNER TO ASSESS THE REPLACEMENT VALUE OF THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT THE NORTH AND SOUTH LION'S PARKS AND TO RELAY THE INFORMATION TO LARRY PHILLIPS SO THAT IT CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO THE CITY'S INSURANCE PLAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER USE OF CHISAGO PROJECT MITIGATION FUNDS

Mayor Buchite reported the mitigation funds resulting from the September 2002 settlement between Xcel Energy, Dairyland Power Company, the Cities of St. Croix Falls and Taylors Falls, may be released soon; the City of Taylors Falls would receive \$150,000.00 and the City of St. Croix Falls would receive \$250,000.00. Buchite stated the Council should discuss how these funds should be allocated when they are released.

Vice Mayor Rivard explained that the two main criteria for the allocation of the funds were that it must be a benefit to the whole community and must be a benefit to the St. Croix River Valley. Rivard gave the example that the funds could not be used for Cherry Hill Park because it is not considered to be in the river valley. On the other hand, Rivard using the funds for the Community Center would be acceptable because it is in the river valley, in the downtown area, it would benefit the community as a whole. The building needs improvements and the yearly budget won't allow the City to allocate the thousands of dollars needed to make the necessary improvements. He stated improvements to the Community Center could include renovations such as new bathrooms.

Mayor Buchite stated at this time it would be helpful to discuss different projects the funds could be allocated. The Mayor stated another project idea would be to construct a façade at the City's sewer lift building near the River Walk Trail to beautify the area, and to purchase an apparatus to remove the odor from the air from the sewer lift station.

Tangen reported another project the funds could be used for was a cantilever deck at the River Walk Trail that was part of the original plan for the river walk. Tangen stated that if funds were allocated to the River Walk, they should be allocated to projects identified in phase one before any subsequent projects/phases of the River Walk Trail.

The Mayor reported that he had spoke with Council Member Julik-Heine who expressed interest in allocating some of the funds to construct an overlook deck at Heritage Park.

Kinnunen stated the kitchen equipment in the Community Center is in poor condition and suggested a portion of the funds be allocated to purchase new kitchen equipment. Kinnunen also stated she will discuss a proposed addition to the Community Center with the Heritage Preservation Commission, because it is a locally designated preservation site.

The Mayor stated that per the agreement for the mitigation funds, Xcel Energy and Dairyland Power Company, the City of St. Croix Falls, as well as the City of Taylors Falls, must approve the project and any money spent on the project. The Mayor suggested that each Council Member get rough estimated costs for the projects they discussed for further discussion when that information is brought to the table.

CONSIDER DATE FOR LOCAL BOARD OF APPEALS

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA TO SET THE DATE FOR THE LOCAL BOARD OF APPEALS FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 2, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL.

CONSIDER PAYMENT TO WILD RIVER CONTRACTING

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF \$2,900.00 TO WILD RIVER CONTRACTING FROM THE WATER FUND, ACCOUNT NUMBER 601-49400-404, FOR A WATER MAIN BREAK REPAIR ON FOLSOM STREET.

CONSIDER PAYMENT NUMBER 4 TO ENCOMM MIDWEST, INC

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF PAY REQUEST NUMBER 4 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,060.76 TO ENCOMM MIDWEST, INC, FROM THE WATER FUND, ACCOUNT NUMBER 601-49400-404 FOR WORK TO DATE ON THE WELLHOUSE #4.

CONSIDER PAYMENT NUMBER 5 TO E.H. RENNER & SONS, INC

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF FINAL PAY REQUEST NUMBER 5 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,911.90 TO E.H. RENNER & SON INC, FROM THE WATER FUND, ACCOUNT NUMBER 601-49400-590, FOR WORK COMPLETED ON WELL #4.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL

Mayor Buchite stated due to the absence of staff for medical reasons, claims and payroll were not available for Council approval. Buchite stated the Clerk-Treasurer would prepare and present claims and payroll at a later date and that he and Council member Kinnunen would review and approve payment.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED THE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE MARCH 10, 2008 COUNCIL PACKET:

1. LETTER FROM THE LION'S CLUB
2. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE AND E-MAIL'S

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

John Tangen reported the Economic Development Commission (EDC) had received an application from a member of the business community to join the EDC. The EDC is also attempting to contact the Park and Recreation Commission to discuss them taking over the River Walk project.

Zara Kinnunen stated that the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) did not meet last month and they would be meeting in March.

Ross Rivard reported he had been meeting with the Public Works Department every other week.

Mayor Mike Buchite reported the Chamber of Commerce had met last week and is currently working on a float for Wannigan Days. The Mayor also explained that Governor Pawlenty has signed the Omni Tax Bill, which means that the City will receive \$30,000 per year for emergency services provided to Interstate State Park.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/TANGEN TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 10, 2008 MEETING OF THE TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Larry Phillips, ZA - Coordinator

APPROVED: APRIL 14, 2008