

**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at City Hall, the Post Office, and on the City's website. 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, September 14, 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, PRC Chair Tana Havumaki

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was amended to include under New Business: **Consider Payment of Wild River Contracting Invoice.**

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/RIVARD TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 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 ACCEPTING MN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT; CONSIDER ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR'S VACATION REQUEST; CONSIDER CLERK-TREASURER'S MEDICAL LEAVE; CONSIDER PAYMENT OF INVOICE FROM WILD RIVER CONTRACTING; APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND PAYROLL; 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 JULY 23, JULY 28, AUGUST 5, AUGUST 10, AUGUST 24, 2009, BUDGET WORKSHOPS HELD ON AUGUST 5, AUGUST 12, AUGUST 19, AUGUST 26, AND SEPTEMBER 9, 2009.

COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

PLANNING COMMISSION

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE MINUTES OF THE TAYLORS FALLS PLANNING COMMISSION HELD ON AUGUST 3, 2009.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS

CITY ATTORNEY

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLING STATEMENT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF KELLY AND LEMMONS, P.A.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE AUGUST 2009 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT PRESENTED BY PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT MIKE KRIZ.

ZONING & PLANNING DEPARTMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE AUGUST 2009 ZONING REPORT PRESENTED BY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR LARRY PHILLIPS.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE AUGUST 2009 FINANCIAL REPORTS PRESENTED BY CLERK-TREASURER JO EVERSON.

CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA CORPORAL SHANE CARROLL'S AUGUST 2009 CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER PRC RECOMMENDATION FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FROM XCCENT PLAY

Tana Havumaki, the Chair of the Taylors Falls Park & Rec Commission, appeared before the Council to request authorization to purchase equipment for a toddler playground at the West Street Pump House property. The "Pump House Playground" will include five pieces of children's play equipment manufactured by Xccent Play, a company from Osceola, Wisconsin, at a cost of \$5,648.25 (which includes a 15% discount if purchased in September). There would be an additional cost of \$1,250.00 for the 9" of engineered fiber that must be placed under the equipment for safety purposes. Fencing would be installed along the two street sides, which the City already owns.

Council Member Larry Julik-Heine voiced his support of the project, stating that its construction would be a definite benefit to the Community and would show progress by the PRC.

Council Member John Tangen questioned if completion of the Cherry Hill Park would be put on the back burner if the PRC takes on another project. Julik-Heine assured the Council that both projects are doable at the same time.

Council Member Ross Rivard stated that the equipment must not be located too close to the pump house in the event work would need to be done on the well. A minimum of 20' should be reserved on the north side of the building for truck access.

Havumaki explained that they intend to begin construction yet this fall. An engineer from Xccent will establish the perimeter of the playground prior to the Public Works Department installing the ground cover and the equipment. She also explained that the PRC has submitted a donation request to Wal*Mart to purchase one of the pieces, but have not received their response yet.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/KINNUNEN TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FROM XCCENT PLAY, FROM OSCEOLA, WISCONSIN, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$7,500.00 TO BE INSTALLED IN THE PUMP HOUSE PLAYGROUND, LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF WEST AND MAPLE STREET. THE SAID PURCHASE SHALL BE PAID FROM THE PARK FUND (403). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Havumaki updated the Council on the goals set by the PRC for 2009. The Friends of Cherry Hill Park and Friends of Taylors Falls Parks have nearly met their fundraising goal. The PRC will be reviewing a grant possibility from Polaris at the next Commission Meeting.

APPROVE 2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET & CERTIFY PROPOSED 2009 LEVY

The final figures for the proposed 2010 preliminary budget include:

\$380,693.00 General Fund Property Tax Levy down 3.51% (from the amended 2009 budget)

\$243,897.00 Debt Service & Other Levies down 10.73%

\$624,590.00 Total Levy up \$3,965.00 from 2009, overall decrease of 5.30%

Under MN tax law, the City's tax rate is determined by the value of Tax Capacity, which is calculated using a formula and the assessed values of property within the City. The Tax Capacity in Taylors Falls dropped nearly \$100,000.00 this year, which means property values are lowering. For a property owner in Taylors Falls, this is good news. If every property's values dropped accordingly, theoretically the property taxes would also drop. However, not all values dropped. Despite the difficult 2010 budget year with the extenuating circumstances that include loss of State Aid Revenue, the loss of property values, no payment for Emergency Services, no PILT revenue, and other issues that have contributed, the proposed tax rate for Taylors Falls is estimated to drop .31%. (From 81.832 to 81.541).

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 09-09-01 ADOPTING THE PRELIMINARY 2010 BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVY 2009, COLLECTIBLE IN 2010. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (attached)

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPERTY TAXES 2010

The State is no longer requiring City's to conduct a Truth & Taxation Hearing. However, the Council must hold a general public hearing to allow the public to speak when the budget and levy is discussed at a meeting that must be held after November 25th and before December 26th. This date is historically the first meeting in December.

MOTION BY TANGEN/JULIK-HEINE TO SET THE DATE OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009 BEGINNING AT 7:05 P.M., AS THE COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED PROPERTY TAXES PAYABLE YEAR 2010. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SOIL BORINGS AT MNDOT PROPERTY

The Mayor updated the Council on the progress of the MnDOT Project. The City and the Chisago County HRA/EDA are financial partners in this project, which will include the acquisition of the MnDOT property currently located on Bench Street in exchange for an extended lease for use of a Public Works building yet to be constructed. Five soil borings were taken near the street on the property where the current Public Works building is located. The site was determined to have a large amount of peat and would need to be de-watered before any true site preparation could begin by a developer. This preliminary site work could exceed \$170,000.00. The HRA/EDA would not agree to proceed with the project under these circumstances. An alternative was to conduct additional borings near the actual building site, as there is no evidence of that structure sinking due to poor soil conditions.

Rivard commented that when MnDOT reconstructed Bench Street in 1994, they were forced to dig out 10-12' of muck on the north end of town and had to refill it with sand. If the new borings prove that only a few feet of peat must be dug out, this may save a substantial amount of money thus making the project doable now. The HRA/EDA is willing to support the project if the costs for site work by the developer were under \$100,000.00.

Tangen commented that the City's Comprehensive Plan supported a set back from the street with green space anyhow, so this option would be the most beneficial in the long run.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/TANGEN TO AUTHORIZE TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC., FROM ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, TO CONDUCT FIVE ADDITIONAL SOIL BORINGS AT THE MNDOT PROPERTY LOCATED ON BENCH STREET. THE \$2,180.00 COST SHALL BE PAID FROM THE TIF REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FUND (401). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER PUBLIC WORKS TRAINING REQUEST

MOTION BY RIVARD/JULIK-HEINE TO AUTHORIZE PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT MIKE KRIZ AND PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE WORKER BILL NESKA TO ATTEND THE 2009 MINNESOTA FALL MAINTENANCE EXPO ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, AT THE ST. CLOUD PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY, AT A COST OF \$25.00 PER PERSON, TO BE PAID FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS TRAINING BUDGET (43100-208). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER CLERK-TREASURER'S ON-LINE TRAINING REQUEST

The League of MN Cities is offering a new 3-course online training service that is designed specifically for Minnesota cities entitled City Learning Point:

- Role of a Supervisor: Leading in Local Government
- Driving Employee Performance: A Roadmap for Results
- Select for Success: Effective Interviewing & Hiring

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/KINNUNEN TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE CLERK-TEASURER TO ATTEND THE ON-LINE TRAINING FROM THE LEAGUE OF MN CITIES ENTITLED HUMAN RESOURCES BASICS FOR MANAGERS SERIES, AT A COST OF \$30.00 FOR EACH COURSE, TO BE PAID FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING BUDGET (41400-208). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES FOR MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER

Work continues to progress on the renovations to the Memorial Community Center. Several items came in over budget and over the \$1,000.00 spending limit without prior Council authorization, so Council must formally approve their payment.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/JULIK-HEINE TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF \$1,211.11 TO LAMPERTS FOR CARPENTRY MATERIALS FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER TO BE PAID FROM THE MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER FUND (350). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/TANGEN TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF \$1,522.63 TO WILD RIVER ELECTRIC FOR PLUMBING MATERIAL FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER TO BE PAID FROM THE MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER FUND (350). MOTION CARRIED WITH RIVARD ABSTAINING SINCE HE IS THE OWNER OF THE COMPANY. Wild River Electric was able to purchase the plumbing material at wholesale saving the City a substantial amount of money.

The Council acknowledged the fact that the renovations have exceeded the 2009 budget, but expressed support in continuing the project until it is complete. They agreed to review cost estimates on a case-by-case basis for any additional work here-in-after. Rivard will bring options to the Council at their meeting on September 28th.

CONSIDER ACCEPTING MN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

Barb Nelson, Chair of the Taylors Falls Heritage Preservation Commission, submitted a scholarship application to the MN Historical Society for the Preservation Conference to be held September 17th & 18th. The City was awarded the "grant", which essentially pays for attendance and mileage since their "volunteer" hours count towards the City's match portion.

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE TAYLORS FALLS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION'S SUBMISSION OF THE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND FURTHER APPROVED TO ACCEPT THE SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE MN HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR'S & CLERK-TREASURER'S SIGNATURES ON THE SAID SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT.

CONSIDER ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR'S VACATION REQUEST

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE VACATION REQUEST FROM LARRY PHILLIPS, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR FOR OCTOBER 6TH AND 7TH, AND NOVEMBER 9TH THROUGH NOVEMBER 12TH.

CONSIDER CLERK-TREASURER'S MEDICAL LEAVE

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE MEDICAL LEAVE REQUEST FROM JO EVERSON, CLERK-TREASURER, FROM SEPTEMBER 16TH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE (BETWEEN OCTOBER 16TH – NOVEMBER 16TH).

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF WILD RIVER CONTRACTING INVOICE

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA, PAYMENT OF \$1,700.00 TO WILD RIVER CONTRACTING, FOR EMERGENCY WATER MAIN AND HYDRANT REPAIRS ON HAZEL ALLEY AND LINDEN STREET, TO BE PAID FROM THE WATER FUND (601)

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE PAYMENT OF CHECK NUMBERS 22687 - 22747 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$97,754.99 FOR CLAIMS AND CHECK NUMBERS 5563 - 5576 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,926.83 FOR AUGUST PAYROLL.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Zara Kinnunen reported that the EDC continues to meet at times and dates that she is unable to attend due to her work schedule.

Larry Julik-Heine reported that work continues at Cherry Hill Park, with shrubbery purchased and ready to be installed by the volunteers.

John Tangen reported that the Fire Department is looking for grant dollars to buy an airboat.

Ross Rivard reported that the Public Works Department is in the process of rodding sewers and is using the new video camera with much success. Compliments were extended to Mike Kriz, the new Public Works Superintendent for his efforts.

Rivard also reported to the Council that the Planning Commission met to discuss language changes in the Zoning Ordinance for the St. Croix River District. A Public Hearing will be held Monday, September 21st to consider these changes.

And finally, Rivard updated the Council on the status of the Xcel Energy/Chisago Project. Borings have been made to cross County Road 20, and conduit will be installed east to State Highway 95 before the end of this year. They will not cross the highway at this time. The site work is nearly complete for the Lawrence Creek Substation. The power line construction is currently in Lindstrom and will make its way to Taylors Falls, but is not expected to reach TF until summer 2010. The line will not be up and running until spring 2011.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED THE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 COUNCIL PACKET:

1. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, RE: WASHINGTON COUNTY SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS ORDINANCE
2. INFORMATION FROM ADMIN STATE OF MINNESOTA, RE: PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLANNING
3. LETTER FROM EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, RE: QUARTERLY LUNCHEON MEETING
4. LETTER TO COUNCIL FROM TF HISTORICAL SOCIETY, RE: LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING
5. THANK YOU LETTER TO CITY, RE: COMMUNITY CENTER USE
6. LETTER FROM BUILDING INSPECTOR, RE: VACATION & SUBSTITUTE INSPECTOR
7. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE & EMAIL'S

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/KINNUNEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Jo Everson, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED: OCTOBER 12, 2009