The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at City Hall. The agenda was also posted at 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, December 8, 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.

ROLL CALL
MEMBERS PRESENT:  Mike Buchite, Ross Rivard, John Tangen, Zara Kinnunen, Larry Julik-Heine
MEMBERS ABSENT:  None
OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk-Treasurer Jo Everson, Theresa Malon, Gerald LaBarre, Gary Swanson, Andy & Geri Swenson, and Eric Garner.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/KINNUNEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED, FOR THE DECEMBER 8, 2008 TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA
MOTION BY TANGEN/RIVARD TO APPROVE/ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS; STAFF REPORTS; CONSIDER RESOLUTION 08-12-01 AUTHORIZING INTER-FUND LOAN PAYMENT; CONSIDER RESOLUTION 08-12-02 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF TIF MONIES; CONSIDER RESOLUTION 08-12-03 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF MONIES TO REPAY INTER-FUND LOAN; CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SALT/SAND AGREEMENTS; CONSIDER CERTIFYING DELINQUENT SPECIAL CHARGES; CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURSUE PSIC GRANT; APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL; CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

PUBLIC HEARING
TRUTH & TAXATION HEARING
The Mayor opened the Truth & Taxation Hearing at 7:05 p.m. The Clerk read the Public Notice into the record:

Notice of Proposed Property Taxes
City of Taylors Falls

The Taylors Falls City Council will hold a public hearing on its budget and on the amount of property taxes it is proposing to collect to pay for the costs of services the City will provide in 2009.

Monday, December 8, 2008, 7:05 p.m.
Taylors Falls City Hall

All City residents are invited to attend the public hearing of the City Council to express their opinions on the budget and on the proposed amount of 2009
property taxes.
The Mayor continued by explaining the Public Hearing process and the truth and taxation process. The following information was provided to the public in a packet complete with budget information and information regarding Minnesota’s taxation system. He noted that the City’s tax rate declined by .99%, and while it remains the highest in the County, it has steadily decreased over the past eight years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Change from 2008 – 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Tax Levy</td>
<td>$688,835.00</td>
<td>$692,800.00</td>
<td>.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund Levy</td>
<td>$418,462.00</td>
<td>$412,838.00</td>
<td>-1.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Tax Rate</td>
<td>81.944</td>
<td>81.132</td>
<td>- .99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Mayor asked for public comment regarding the proposed 2009 budget and the property taxes the City proposes to collect to pay for the costs of services it will provide.

Comments IN FAVOR of the proposed budget were:

Gerald LaBarre stated he would support increases on one condition, and that would be if the Council carefully consider its impact on the property taxes. One of his parcels increased by 2,500%, and the second parcel increased 25%. He implied that government entities work together to pass the buck on addressing property tax increases.

There were no comments OPPOSED to the proposed budget.

Comments NEUTRAL to the proposed budget were:

Gary Swanson questioned his 538% property tax increase, and how the market value could increase following the 2008 Board of Appeals meeting.

Hearing no further comments, MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/KINNUNEN TO CLOSE THE 2008 TRUTH & TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIOMOUSLY.

The Mayor announced that the Council would take final action on the 2008 Property Tax Levy, Payable in 2009 and the 2009 Budget at the December 29, 2008 City Council Meeting, to be held at 7:00 p.m. (date and time approved later at this meeting). The Public Hearing closed at 7:13 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM
None.

REPORT ON PREVIOUS PUBLIC FORUM REQUESTS
None.

STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS

CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT
THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA CORPORAL SHANE CARROLL’S NOVEMBER 2008 CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT REPORT.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT
THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008 FINANCIAL REPORTS PRESENTED BY CLERK-TREASURER JO EVERSON.

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT
THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR LARRY PHILLIP'S NOVEMBER 2008 PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT.

COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS
LIBRARY

PARK & REC COMMISSION

PLANNING COMMISSION

STAFF REQUESTS
None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER CHANGES TO POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR
The position of Zoning Administrator-Coordinator became full-time in January 2008, at which time the duties have expanded into other areas. The Personnel Liaisons and City Staff have reviewed the Position Description and recommended needed changes.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO APPROVE THE AMENDED POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE CITY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (attached).

CONSIDER DATE FOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR
Larry Phillips’ 2nd anniversary working with the City as Zoning Administrator-Coordinator was November 2nd. The City Personnel Policy requires an annual Performance Evaluation to be completed by the Council.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO SET THE DATE OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2008 AT 6:30 P.M. AS THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF LARRY PHILLIPS, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR. THE MEETING WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS REQUESTED TO BE AN OPEN MEETING BY THE EMPLOYEE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 08-12-04 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF MONIES TO BALANCE COMMUNITY CENTER FUND
Project Manager Ross Rivard reported that phase I of the Memorial Community Center project is nearing completion, and at this time is approximately $11,000.00 over-budget due to the unexpected excavation of large rocks, the expanded size of the basement under the deck area, extra drainage issues, and other project costs that needed to be done for a quality job. Clerk-Treasurer Jo Everson recommended the Council transfer monies from the General Fund and use cash reserves from the Community Center Fund to balance the deficit budget balances.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/JULIK-HEINE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 08-12-04, AS AMENDED, AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MONIES TO THE TAYLORS FALLS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER FUND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (attached)

SET DATE FOR FINAL 2008 COUNCIL MEETING
CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2009 RURAL FIRE DEPT VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT
Fire Chief Kevin Rivard explained that the Department had submitted the paperwork for this annual grant assuming that they had received Council approval to do so on an on-going basis. *(Grants must be approved by Council on an individual basis).* Chief Rivard indicated that they intend to purchase a hose reel, Scotty foam system and 100’ of ¾” 300 psi hose for unit #6.

MOTION BY TANGEN/KINNUNEN TO APPROVE THE 2009 $1,500.00 FORESTRY ASSISTANCE MATCHING GRANT FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY, RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY CLERK AND MAYOR’S SIGNATURE ON SAID GRANT CONTRACT.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF GIFT LAND AND ASSIGNMENT OF INTEREST OF THE HOGLUND PROPERTY
The City Attorney has been working on the legal process for the City to acquire the property owned by the Hoglund estate that is located next to the Riverwalk Trail on the St. Croix River. In order to complete the transaction, he has recommended the following action by the Council:

MOTION BY TANGEN/KINNUNEN TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT TO GIFT LAND AND ASSIGNMENT OF INTERESTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF TAYLORS FALLS AND BARBARA NEWBERRY AND MICHAEL NEWBERRY AND BARRY HOGLUND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (on file)

MOTION BY RIVARD/JULIK-HEINE TO AUTHORIZE CITY ATTORNEY TREVOR OLIVER TO FILE THE PETITIONS FOR DETERMINATION OF DESCENT IN ORDER TO PROPERLY PASS TITLE OF SAID PROPERTY TO THE CITY OF TAYLORS FALLS, THE COST OF APPROXIMATELY $550.00 IS TO BE PAID FROM THE LEGAL SERVICES BUDGET ACCOUNT (41600-304). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 08-12-01 AUTHORIZING AN INTER-FUND LOAN PAYMENT
THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA, RESOLUTION 08-12-01 AUTHORIZING AN INTER-FUND LOAN PAYMENT FOR THE BENCH STREET LIGHTING PROJECT. (attached)

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 08-12-02 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF TIF MONIES
THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA, RESOLUTION 08-12-02 AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MONIES TO BALANCE THE 2007 YEAR-END TAX INCREMENT FINANCING FUNDS. (attached)

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 08-12-03 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF MONIES TO REPAY AN INTER-FUND LOAN
THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTION 08-12-03 AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MONIES TO REPAY AN INTER-FUND LOAN TO THE SEWER FUND. (attached)

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SALT/SAND AGREEMENTS
THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF TAYLORS FALLS AND THE TAYLORS FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THE FIRST SW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TO PROVIDE SALT/SAND, UPON REQUEST, TO THE PARKING LOTS AND PLAYGROUND AT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED LOCATIONS, AT A COST OF $50.00 PER OCCASION, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CLERK-TREASURER’S SIGNATURES ON SAID AGREEMENTS.
CONSIDER CERTIFYING DELINQUENT CHARGES
THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA, RESOLUTION 08-12-06 ADOPTING SPECIAL CHARGES FOR THE TAX YEAR 2008 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2009. (attached)

CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURSUE PSIC GRANT
The City received notice that there is a grant opportunity from the Metropolitan Emergency Services
Board for the purchase of 800 megahertz radios, with only a 20% local match requirement. There is a deadline of Friday, December 19, 2008 to submit the application demonstrating the equipment need.

THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE TAYLORS FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURSUE THE PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GRANT PROGRAM FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL
THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA PAYMENT OF CHECK NUMBERS 22121 - 22172 IN THE AMOUNT OF $51,818.21 FOR CLAIMS AND DISBURSEMENTS; AND CHECK NUMBERS 5389 - 5403 IN THE AMOUNT OF $13,165.34 FOR NOVEMBER PAYROLL.

CORRESPONDENCE
THE CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED BY CONSENT AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE DECEMBER 8, 2008 COUNCIL PACKET:

1. NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY, RE: USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT
2. LETTER FROM REPRESENTATIVE JEREMY KALIN, RE: EMERGENCY SERVICES FUNDING
3. INFORMATION FROM LMC, RE: INSURANCE COVERAGE
4. EMPLOYEE LEAVE REQUESTS
5. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE & EMAIL’S

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS
Ross Rivard reported that the Planning Commission would be reviewing their by-laws and working on improving a communication process.

Larry Julik-Heine reported the new Plow Truck would be arriving before the end of the year.

Mayor Mike Buchite explained that information was provided by a Staff person to distribute to the Council regarding a Leadership Development Workshop that was recently attended, which included useful management techniques that could be used by the Council. He also reported that the Attorneys for MnDOT are currently reviewing the Lease Agreement, but have indicated they would be moving forward with the next phase of the project.

The Mayor also commended Staff for their work at the recent Holiday party.

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/KINNUNEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2008 TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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Michael D. Buchite, Mayor                                       Jo Everson, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED: JANUARY 12, 2009