

**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, May 6, 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, May 11, 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, Tana Havaumaki, Joe Stein, and Bob Porter of the Chisago County Press

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION BY RIVARD/JULIK-HEINE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED, FOR THE MAY 11, 2009 TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/TANGEN TO APPROVE/ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS; STAFF REPORTS; CONSIDER PURCHASE OF DECORATIVE STREET LIGHT; CONSIDER CLERK-TREASURER VACATION REQUESTS; CONSIDER AUTHORIZING MERIT PAY PAYMENT; 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 APRIL 13, APRIL 21, APRIL 22 BOARD OF APPEALS, APRIL 27, AND APRIL 30, 2009.

COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

LIBRARY BOARD

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE MINUTES OF THE TAYLORS FALLS LIBRARY BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 29, 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.

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA LARRY PHILLIPS' APRIL 2009 ZONING

ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR'S REPORT.

CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

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

STAFF REQUESTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Consider Purchase of Aries Seeker Video Inspection System. The Public Works Department is requesting permission to purchase a sewer camera from Flexible Pipe under the Minnesota State Purchasing Contract. Council Member Ross Rivard recommended the purchase since the cost of rental with travel time is nearly \$1,500.00 per day. It could take five to six days to video the City's sewer mains, which would nearly cost the purchase price of the camera. Council Member John Tangen questioned if the camera (with Operator) could be rented to other cities if requested, which would be a means to recoup some of the expense. The Council agreed to consider this possibility if the need would arise in the future.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/KINNUNEN TO APPROVE THE \$11,386.98 PURCHASE FROM FLEXIBLE PIPE TOOL COMPANY, FOR AN ARIES SEEKER VIDEO INSPECTION SYSTEM, INCLUDING SK3100 FRAME, LED DISPLAY, 300' PUSH CABLE, SELF LEVELING COLOR CAMERA, 512 Hz LOCATING TRANSMITTER, WITH ON-SCREEN FOOTAGE DISPLAY, INTERNAL 12V RECHARGEABLE BATTERY, PVR RECORDER, AND 36 MONTHS OF WARRANTY COVERAGE, TO BE PAID FROM THE SEWER FUND NEW EQUIPMENT BUDGET ACCOUNT (602-580). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT TO PUC PERMIT FOR CHISAGO TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

The City Council met in Closed Session on April 30, 2009 to discuss what avenues are available to contest Xcel Energy's Route Permit granted by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for the Chisago Transmission Project, substation upgrades and the new Lawrence Creek Substation. The Permit does not abide by several provisions of the mediated 2000 Settlement Agreement between the Cities of Taylors Falls, St. Croix Falls, WI, Northern States Power Company – Minnesota, Northern States Power Company – Wisconsin, and Dairyland Power Cooperative. The City Attorney recommended that Taylors Falls file an Amendment to the Route Permit with explanation as to what provisions Xcel Energy has not complied with.

Council Member Larry Julik-Heine stated that the proposed amendment, as drafted by Staff, appropriately states the City's case. Council Member John Tangen stated that the amendment effectively defines the City's agenda. Council Member Ross Rivard supported the amendment recommending that Xcel Energy adhere to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/TANGEN TO AUTHORIZE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR LARRY PHILLIPS TO SUBMIT THE PROPOSED ROUTE PERMIT AMENDMENT, AS DRAFTED, TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION FOR THE XCEL ENERGY CHISAGO TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. There will be a ten-day public comment period before the Public Utilities Commission will respond to the Amendment Proposal.

CONSIDER 2009 ARCHERY DEER HUNT

The City recently met with Ron Erickson, Manager of the Interstate State Park, and Dave Pauly and

Scott Noland of the Minnesota Department of National Resources, to discuss the muzzleloader hunt in the State Park and the City's continued efforts for deer herd management hunts. Representatives from the State have decided that the Park would not be conducting the muzzleloader hunt in 2009 due to low kill numbers relative to the amount of work required to administer the hunt. This would allow time for the DNR to obtain aerial herd numbers.

Recommended changes to the City's Archery Deer Herd Management Hunt Guidelines include charging a \$5.00 administrative fee for issued permits, and references to the Minnesota Department of Resources 2009 Hunting Regulations.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL TAYLORS FALLS ARCHERY DEER HERD MANAGEMENT HUNT FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2009 – DECEMBER 31, 2009; TO APPROVE THE \$5.00 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE FOR EVERY PERMIT ISSUED; TO APPROVE THE LANGUAGE CHANGES IN THE GUIDELINES AS PROPOSED (attached); AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPUTY CLERK'S SIGNATURE ON THE 2009 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIAL DEER HUNT RECOMMENDATION FORM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATION OF PRC GOALS BY CHAIR TANA HAVAUMAKI

Tana Havaumaki, Chair of the Taylors Falls Park & Recreation Commission, submitted the short term and long term goals established by the Commission. They include:

Short Term: 1-2 years

1. Complete construction of Cherry Hill Park pavillion. Purchase and plant trees and shrubs.
2. Conduct several fundraisers for Cherry Hill Park (\$1,000 raised thus far in 2009).
3. Continue efforts to obtain play equipment for Pump House Playground.
4. Work cooperatively with other groups and agencies on the Swedish Trail project.
5. Finalize planning for initial recreation programs for youth and adults.
6. Ongoing-continue exploring grant opportunities.
7. Raise \$2,000 - \$5,000 annually for PRC projects.
8. Conduct annual "Clean-Up Day" (first one held May 2, 2009).
9. Continue efforts to bring artwork into the parks.

Long Term: Up to 5 years

1. Continue grant opportunities exploration.
2. Continue annual "Clean-Up Day".
3. Complete all phases of Cherry Hill Park, including all structures, concrete pads, trails, benches, tables and plantings.
4. Obtain play equipment for Pump House Playground.
5. Conduct summer recreation programs for youth.
6. Offer year-round recreation programs for youth and adults.

Julik-Heine commended Havaumaki for the energy she brings to the PRC. No action was requested or taken by the Council.

CONSIDER INITIATIVE FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTION REQUEST

The Initiative Foundation's mission is to work through and alongside Central Minnesota citizens to create healthy and sustainable communities. Taylors Falls has received \$34,500 in grants from the Foundation in the past. Each year it requests a nominal contribution from the City. Historically the contribution has been paid from the Charitable Gambling Fund (803), although there will be limited funding available in 2009. Consequently the Council must carefully consider all donation requests.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/JULIK-HEINE TO AUTHORIZE A \$300.00 CONTRIBUTION TO THE INITIATIVE FOUNDATION, TO BE PAID FROM THE CHARITABLE GAMBLING FUND (803). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER DONATION REQUEST FROM ST. CROIX REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

The City received a \$500 donation request from the St. Croix Regional Medical Center Volunteer Partners to help fund their annual Fund Raiser Salad Luncheon.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO DENY THE DONATION REQUEST FROM THE ST. CROIX REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER VOLUNTEER PARTNERS DUE TO THE LACK OF FUNDING IN THE CHARITABLE GAMBLING FUND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF DECORATIVE STREET LIGHT

A street light was damaged in a hit and run accident on February 5, 2009. The cost to replace it will be \$3,398.63, less \$250 insurance deductible. Because it exceeds the \$1,000 spending limit, the Council must authorize it's purchase.

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE PURCHASE OF A LUMEC DECORATIVE STREET LIGHT FROM WERNER ELECTRIC SUPPLY AT A COST OF \$2,818.63, PLUS FREIGHT COST OF \$300.00, AND THE INSTALLATION OF SAID LIGHT BY ANDRIE ELECTRIC AT A COST OF \$280.00, TO BE REIMBURSED BY THE CITY'S INSURANCE COMPANY LESS THE \$250.00 DEDICTIBLE.

CONSIDER CLERK-TREASURER VACATION REQUEST

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE VACATION REQUESTS FROM CLERK-TREASURER JO EVERSON FOR ONE WEEK (40 HOURS) SOMETIME BETWEEN JUNE 15 AND JULY 13, 2009, AND ONE WEEK (40 HOURS) AUGUST 10 – AUGUST 18, 2009.

CONSIDER MERIT PAY PAYMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT AGENDA A \$250.00 LUMP SUM MERIT PAY PAYMENT TO CITY CLERK-TREASURER JO EVERSON, FOR "RECOGNITION AND REWARD FOR HER PERFORMANCE OVER THE PAST YEAR WHO ACHIEVED MORE THAN WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF HER AND WHO PUT IN CONSISTENTLY GREATER EFFORT."

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE PAYMENT OF CHECK NUMBERS 22431 - 22470 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$51,868.31 FOR CLAIMS AND CHECK NUMBERS 5493 - 5506 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,944.94 FOR APRIL PAYROLL.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Ross Rivard reported the walls are nearly studded at the Community Center and is 80% wired. A plumber is needed next to keep the project moving forward. The sidewalk has been poured with some landscaping started.

Larry Julik-Heine reported that the contract mowing has begun, and the City has had one full day of contracted street sweeping.

Mayor Mike Buchite called attention to a letter in the correspondence section from a concerned resident questioning the City's Nuisance Ordinance. The Mayor requested Rivard take the issue to the Planning Commission for review, and directed Staff to respond to the letter.

Buchite also updated the Council on status of the MnDOT project. Phase I of the Environmental Study has been completed on the property on Bench Street, which was favorable. The Phase II Study should be completed in May. Additonal soil borings must be conducted to establish the soil condition. Once the property has been determined to be a marketable lot, the final agreements and land transfers will occur, with construction to begin shortly thereafter.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED THE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE MAY 11, 2009 COUNCIL PACKET:

1. LMC FRIDAY FAXES

2. SWINE FLUE UPDATE
3. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE & EMAIL'S

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE MAY 11, 2009 TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Jo Everson, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED: JUNE 8, 2009