

**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, November 18, 2009 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 23, 2009 at 6:30 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 6:32 p.m. by Mayor Mike Buchite.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Buchite, Ross Rivard, John Tangen, Larry Julik-Heine, Zara Kinnunen

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Zoning Administrator-Coordinator Larry Phillips

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor stated the Council would enter into closed session for the purpose of an annual performance review of Larry Phillips, Zoning Administrator-Coordinator.

CLOSED MEETING

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/KINNUNEN TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO CONDUCT THE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR LARRY PHILLIPS. AYES: ALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Council entered closed session at 6:33 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

The Mayor declared that the Council ended its closed meeting at 6:50 p.m.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/JULIK-HEINE TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. AYES: ALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PERSONS PRESENT AT RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Buchite, Ross Rivard, John Tangen, Larry Julik-Heine, Zara Kinnunen

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Zoning Administrator-Coordinator Larry Phillips

SUMMARY OF CLOSED MEETING

The Mayor declared the Council evaluated the job performance of Zoning Administrator-Coordinator Larry Phillips in its closed meeting. The closed meeting tape was sealed by the Mayor and placed in the locked employee file cabinet.

REGULAR OPEN MEETING CALL TO ORDER

The Taylors Falls City Council continued their regular meeting on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 6:50 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 637 First Street, Taylors Falls, Minnesota.

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: Zoning Administrator-Coordinator Larry Phillips, Blake Wheatley from LS Power, Tammie Milberg from the Inter-County Leader, Eric Vargo from the Chisago County Press, and Garth Olson from the Standard Press.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was amended to include under New Business: **Consider Merit Pay for Zoning Administrator-Coordinator.**

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/JULIK-HEINE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE NOVEMBER 23, 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: CONSIDER ADDITIONAL EXPENSE FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER; CONSIDER REVISION OF LANGUAGE TO A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE TAYLORS FALLS DEVELOPMENT CODE; CONSIDER ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR'S VACATION REQUEST; CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

STAFF REQUESTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER 2010 LIQUOR LICENSES

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL LIQUOR LICENSES CONTINGENT UPON RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS, CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE, AND FEES:

LARRY SCHMIDT

DBA/ BORDER BAR & 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 AT 341 Bench Street

OFF-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE

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

PRESENTATION ON LS POWER ELECTRIC STATION PROJECT

Blake Wheatley, LS Power, gave a presentation on the proposed 726 MW Natural gas-fired electric generating facility in Lent Township.

Mayor Mike Buchite questioned if there would be a need for a well at the plant in the future and if there is potential that Xcel Energy would build additional power lines.

Wheatley explained the only well on site would be for the administrative building. They would be getting water from the Chisago Lakes Treatment Plant, if there was increased need for water in the future LS Power could get it from the City of North Branch. While the generating plant will be fully integrated into the electrical grid, it is possible that Xcel Energy could build additional power lines.

Ross Rivard stated that currently Taylors Falls and the City of St. Croix Falls discharge their treated waste water into the St. Croix River and questioned if it would be possible for LS power to utilize Taylors Falls, St. Croix Falls, and Shafer's discharge.

Wheatley stated that if the three cities could pipe their wastewater to the Chisago Lakes plant, LS Power would probably design the plant to use more water.

Larry Julik-Heine asked if the zero liquid discharge technology was new, what type of emissions would come out of the chimney, and if the new plant would help reduce electrical rates.

Wheatley explained the zero liquid discharge was used in other parts of the country and this configuration is the best fit for the operation. Natural gas is one of the cleanest fossil fuels and they would be obtaining air permits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Finally, the new plant would help keep rates from increasing.

John Tangen questioned if construction of the plant would be bid, and if so, is there any guarantee local contractors would be used.

Wheatley stated only a few companies in the country can take on a project like this. The general contractor would likely subcontract jobs to local contractors.

No action was taken.

CONSIDER MERIT PAY FOR ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR.

The City implemented a Merit Pay Program beginning in 2008. Compensation is based upon the Employee's Annual Performance Evaluation. The average points from that evaluation entitle lump sum merit pay bonuses.

MOTION BY KINNUNEN/JULIK-HEINE TO AWARD A \$500.00 MERIT PAY BONUS TO THE CITY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR LARRY PHILLIPS FOR RECOGNITION AND REWARD AS AN EMPLOYEE WHO ACHIEVED MORE THAN WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF HIM AND WHO HAS PUT IN CONSISTENTLY GREAT EFFORT IN HIS POSITION AS ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL EXPENSE FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER

BY CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE OF \$150 TO WATERWORKS PLUMBING AND REPAIR FOR THREE ADA GRAB BARS FOR THE THIRD BATHROOM AT THE TAYLORS FALLS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER TO BE PAID FROM THE APPROPRIATE FUND AS COUNCIL DEEMS AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

CONSIDER REVISION OF LANGUAGE TO A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE TAYLORS FALLS DEVELOPMENT CODE

BY CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION TO APPROVE THE TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE TAYLORS FALLS DEVELOPMENT CODE AS CERTIFIED BY THE DNR TO ALLOW SPECIFIED USES IN THE SCR II DISTRICT THAT WERE ALLOWED PRIOR TO MAY 1, 1974, BASED ON THE SAME FINDINGS OF FACT THAT WERE USED FOR THE TEXT AMENDMENT ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2009:

1. THERE ARE SUITABLE AREAS WITHIN THE ST. CROIX RIVER II ZONING DISTRICT FOR THE PROPOSED USES.
2. THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STATES INDUSTRIAL/EMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN THE SMALL TOWN ZONE WITH CONDITIONS.
3. FUTURE APPLICATIONS FOR ANY OF THE PROPOSED USES WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL FOR COMPATIBILITY WITH SURROUNDING LAND USE AND OTHER LAND USE FACTORS.
4. THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WILL RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR ANY OF THE PROPOSED USES AND WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON SUCH APPLICATION.

CONSIDER ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR'S VACATION REQUEST

BY CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION TO AUTHORIZE EMPLOYEE LEAVE REQUEST OF LARRY PHILLIPS, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR-COORDINATOR, FOR THE DATES OF DECEMBER 3, 10, AND 23, 2009.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Rivard reported that the Public Works Department was getting prepared for winter. The County Road 20/37/71 project was nearly complete.

Kinnunen reported that the Economic Development Commission met on November 18, and Mayor Buchite sat in on the meeting. Kinnunen will be meeting with Corporal Carroll soon.

Tangen reported that the Heritage Preservation Commission met on November 10, and a public hearing was scheduled for December 8 to consider designating the Bullard/Owens House - 537 Bench Street and the Wall/Porter House - 573 Bench Street as heritage preservation sites.

Julik-Heine reported that the pump house playground has been installed.

Mayor Mike Buchite reported that the Economic Development Commission is considering refurbishing and re-installing the archway at the River Walk Park. The responsibilities of the River Walk Park project will be transitioning from the Economic Development Commission to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mayor Buchite asked if anyone had a recommendation for a candidate for the 2009 Stewardship Award and he wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED IN THE NOVEMBER 23, 2009 CITY COUNCIL MEETING PACKET:

1. CHAMBER NEWSLETTER
2. HOLIDAY EVENT INVITE
3. LMC – SOCIAL MEDIA AND CITIES QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS
4. LMC – ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN COUNCIL MEMBERS
5. WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY OPERATOR CERTIFICATE
6. EMPLOYEE VACATION REQUEST
7. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE & EMAIL'S

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/TANGEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL HELD ON NOVEMBER 23, 2009. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Larry Phillips, Zoning Administrator-Coordinator

APPROVED: DECEMBER 14, 2009

John Tangen, Council Secretary at Closed Meeting