

**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, December 23, 2015 at City Hall, the Post Office and on the City's Web Site. Copies were e-mailed to residents requesting such, and the Press was notified.

**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, Mary Jo Murphy, Larry Julik-Heine

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Tomnitz – Clerk/Treasurer, Adam Berklund – Coordinator/ZA, Greg Marsten – Inter County Leader, Reid Gacke – Ledger Press, Troy Annsen.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was amended to move item #5 to Consent. Consider.

MOTION BY MURPHY/JULIK-HEINE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE DECEMBER 28, 2015 TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION BY RIVARD/TANGEN TO APPROVE/ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES; NOVEMBER 17, 2015 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES; APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL; AND CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS**

**COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE MINUTES OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2015.

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCPETED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE MINUTES OF THE TAYLORS FALLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2015.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 15-12-02 APPROVING THE FINAL 2016 BUDGET AND 2015 LEVY**

The City must certify its final levy to the County on or before December 29<sup>th</sup>. The total levy for 2015, payable in 2016, will be \$625,417.33, which is a slight decrease of 2.04%, with the final 2015 tax rate (payable 2016) is 71.07%, down 4.14% from 75.21% (payable 2015).

MOTION BY MURPHY/JULIK-HEINE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 15-12-02, AS PRESENTED, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL 2016 BUDGET AND TAX LEVY 2015, COLLECTIBLE IN 2016, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$625,417.33. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (attached)

**CONSIDER TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT**

For the past year or so Council Member Julik-Heine, City Staff, and Wade Vitalis have been attending meetings put on by the East Central Regional Development Commission. There was one in Taylors Falls, Marine on St. Croix, and Bayport to discuss potential projects along the St. Croix Scenic Byway. These projects and many others would be eligible for grant dollars from the Transportation Alternatives Program.

At the previous meeting Staff was directed to remove certain projects proposed and pursue others that have potential. Two new projects were a tin ceiling at the Taylors Falls Memorial Community Center and bathrooms at the City's Heritage Park. Both projects fit in with the grant criteria. Projects removed were a Scenic Byway monument sign and railings between Highway 8 and Interstate State Park.

Projects and costs discussed to pursue are as follows:

Community Center Ceiling: \$30,000 total; \$6,000 match.

Retaining Wall & Sidewalk: \$73,000 total; \$14,600 match.

Heritage Park Bathrooms (2): \$82,000 total; \$16,400 match.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/MURPHY TO AUTHORIZE CITY STAFF TO PURSUE THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT FOR PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY REQUESTING A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000 PUTTING A MAXIMUM CITY MATCH NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.

FURTHER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE SIGNATURES AND FINAL APPLICATION SUBMITTAL ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 8, 2016 WITH FINAL REVIEW BY MAYOR BUCHITE AND CLERK/TREASURER TOMNITZ. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 15-12-03 AGREEING TO BE SPONSORING AGENCY FOR THE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECT**

Resolution 15-12-03 agrees that Taylors Falls will act as the sponsoring agency for a "Transportation Alternatives" project. Sponsorship includes willingness to secure and guarantee the local share of costs associated with the project and responsibility for seeing the project through to its completion.

MOTION BY TANGEN/RIVARD TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 15-12-03 AGREEING TO BE THE SPONSORING AGENCY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (attached)

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 15-12-04 AGREEING TO MAINTAIN FACILITY**

Resolution 15-12-04 is an agreement that the City will maintain any facility/improvement created in the Transportation Alternative Program grant. Taylors Falls agrees to assume full responsibility for the operation and maintenance of property and facilities for its useful life.

MOTION BY RIVARD/JULIK-HEINE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 15-12-4 AGREEING TO MAINTAIN ANY FACILITY/IMPROVEMENT CREATED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT

APPLICATION FOR THE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (attached)

**CONSIDER PRC REQUEST TO REPAIR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT THE PUMP HOUSE PLAYGROUND**

Council Member Larry Julik-Heine reported that at the last Parks & Recreation meeting it was decided to recommend to the City Council to approve the quote from Xccent to replace nine blue flower seats at the City's "Tot Lot" or "Pump House Playground". Julik-Heine inquired about a warranty and was told the seats only have three years, but they would be able to give a 50% discount.

MOTION BY MURPHY/TANGEN TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM THE TAYLORS FALLS PRC TO REPLACE THE BLUE FLOWER SEATS AT THE PUMP HOUSE PLAYGROUND FROM XCCENT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1,200 TO BE PAID FROM PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND (404). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CONSIDER HPC RECOMMENDATION TO AMMEND BYLAWS**

The Taylors Falls Historic Preservation Commission is proposing to amend their bylaws in order to promote new membership. Bylaws currently read that the Chisago County Historical Society shall appoint a member to the Commission and other uses of the word "shall" meaning that you will have members from different History backgrounds. Changing shall to should, would allow flexibility in this requirement allowing new members.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION BY THE TAYLORS FALLS HPC TO AMMEND BY-LAWS FOR MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 255.03; SUBD. 1. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (attached)

**CONSIDER HPC RECOMMENDATION FOR GARAGE AND OUTBUILDING GUIDELINES**

The Taylors Falls Historic Preservation Commission has recently been approached by residents regarding garages in historic sites/districts. Currently anything allowed in "Small Town" would be allowed to be built in a historic district/site. Guidelines proposed come directly from the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties. Recommendations in the handout will be for historic location, design, scale and materials. HPC members will receive this document in their membership handout.

Planning Commission members will look to implement some guidelines from this recommendation in to the Official Zoning Ordinance early 2016.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/MURPHY TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION BY THE TAYLORS FALLS HPC TO IMPLEMENT THE "NEW GARAGE AND OUTBUILDING STANDARDS FOR HISTORICALLY DESIGNATED SITES" DOCUMENT INTO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION HANDBOOK.

**CONSIDER LONG TERM COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL TO THE FESTIVAL THEATRE**

City Staff was approached by the Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls Wisconsin inquiring about a long term rental at the Taylors Falls Community Center. Rental would be from June 12, to August 14, 2016, which is the majority of the summer. Taylors Falls currently has three regular weekly renters (Log Jam Jammers, Clogging Classes, and Yoga) who have used the facility for several years.

City Council members had concerns regarding the regular renters, potential wedding rental revenue, and the increase in operating expenses for the center. Council directed staff to check on flexibility for whether or not the regular renters would be allowed. Staff will report back to Council at the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2016.

NO ACTION TAKEN

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL**

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE PAYMENT OF CHECK NUMBERS 9005 – 9016 TOTTALLING \$7,221.26 IN FINAL 2015 EXPENDITURES.

**LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

**John Tangen** – Stated the HPC had re-elected Susan Heaven to another term, but Cynthia Holmberg would not be returning. HPC is also working with City Staff to find grants for City Record Retention.

**Larry Julik-Heine** – Stated the PRC re-elected both Leo Nelson and Rick Stafford to another term. Has been working with Xcent to replace worn out playground equipment.

**Ross Rivard** – Stated the Planning Commission has not met, will meet in January. There was a water main break on Christmas Day, that Public Works had been called out to.

**Mary Murphy** – Stated she had still been working with Shafer Township to finalize their 2016 fire contract. She will meet with them again in a few weeks.

**Mayor Mike Buchite** – Stated the negotiations with Community Green Energy are proceeding, but have many more steps. Also there was an article in the Star Tribune about the number of Solar Farms that are planned for Chisago County, and that Staff recently received two applications for sites within City limits.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

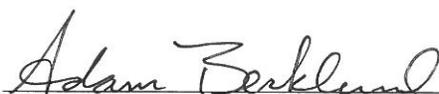
THE CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED AT REQUEST FOR THE DECEMBER 28, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/MURPHY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL HELD THIS DECEMBER 28, 2015. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

  
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Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

  
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Adam Berklund, Coordinator-ZA

**APPROVED: JANUARY 11, 2015**