

**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, June 8, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, June 3, 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, Mary Jo Murphy, Larry Julik-Heine

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Tangen

OTHERS PRESENT: Adam Berklund – Coordinator/ZA, Paul Ringnell – Chisago County Press, Greg Marsten – Inter County Leader, Joe Thimm – Chisago Lakes School Superintendent, Barbara Nelson – EDC Chair, Wade Vitalis – EDC, Christina Gottlieb, Tyler Mckenzie – 361 Plateau Street, Tami Holmes, Mary McGover, Ron Youngman, Catherine Veith-Bruno – Falls Chamber Director.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was amended to remove item #7. Consider Hiring Public Works Part Timer.

MOTION BY RIVARD/JULIK-HEINE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE JUNE 8, 2015 TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/RIVARD TO APPROVE/ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON MAY 11, 2015; STAFF REPORTS; COMMISSION/BOARD OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/ REPORTS; CONSIDER APPROVING RESOLUTION 15-06-01 ACKNOWLEDGING AUGUST 4, 2015 AS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT; APPROVING VACATION REQUEST BY COORDINATOR – ZONING ADMINISTRATOR; CONSIDER PAYMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, RE: BOOK BINDING; APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL; AND CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2015 TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

PUBLIC FORUM

Joe Thimm – Administrator Chisago Lakes School District

Chisago Lakes School District Administrator Joe Thimm was present to give Council an annual update about what has been taking place within the district. He commented that it had been an all-around good year. They will be continuously trying to improve communication with all 12,000 households within the district via: email, newsletters, Facebook page.

The recently passed referendum has allowed for more Spanish courses and also a 6th grade STEM program. STEM is now available in 6-8th grades with courses in automation, design, modeling and a 3d printer was recently purchased for the elementary.

In 2014 CLSD was 7th in the state for MCA math scores. Minnesota Dept. of Education is pushing to have all schools at a 90% test scores, where CLSD in 2014 was at 93.7%. The last five years have averaged 91%.

In 2015/16 their goal is to make available 90 college credits, with a bigger goal of possibly receiving an associate's degree when they receive their diploma, saving about 1 ½ years of college tuition. Part of this will be work-based education placing students into the workforce preparing them with real life experience. It will introduce them to insurances, credit scores. In 2016 they plan to hire another teacher designated to be liaison between employers and students.

Administrator Thimm thanked the Council and opened it up for Questions.

Mayor Buchite thanked him and acknowledged the district for making the right choice with Administrator Thimm.

STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE JUNE 2015 FINANCIAL REPORTS PRESENTED BY COORDINATOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR ADAM BERKLUND.

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE JUNE REPORT PRESENTED BY COORDINATOR-ZONING ADMINISTRATOR ADAM BERKLUND.

CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA SERGEANT SHANE CARROLL'S JUNE 2015 CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT MIKE KRIZ'S JUNE 2015 PUBLIC WORKS REPORT.

CITY ATTORNEY

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE JUNE 2015 BILLING STATEMENTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF KELLY AND LEMMONS, P.A.

COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS
TAYLORS FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE MINUTES OF THE TAYLORS FALLS PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON MAY 27, 2015.

PLANNING COMMISSION

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCPETED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE MINUTES OF THE TAYLORS FALLS PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD ON APRIL 6, 2015, AND MAY 4, 2015.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSIDER BUSINESS PARK BILLBOARD

At the May 11th meeting Council tabled negotiations with Hoey Outdoor Advertising for a billboard advertising the business park, suggesting the EDC research the topic further, stating that a better location would far outweigh the extra cost.

EDC member Wade Vitalis explained that a subcommittee had been appointed and he had conversations with Hoey and five locations were discussed (Shafer, MN; St. Croix Falls, WI; Wyoming, MN; Balsam Lake, WI; and Dresser, WI). Kelly Jorgensen was tasked to design a couple options, three were presented to the Council (Uncle Sam, Taylors Falls Wants You; River Valley, Why Leave; and Come to the Valley Stay in the Valley). Wade also discussed the possibility of an extension on the City's phone tree provided with a script discussing the business park, and rack cards to be displayed at places throughout the County.

Mayor Buchite reported the costs we are looking at would be about \$300/month plus a one-time production cost of \$1,200, and could ask for up to six months. Buchite explained that there is language in the State's Omnibus Bill that could benefit the City allowing for certain tax breaks, but we will not know until later in the week. He also asked the commission to bring more information on the phone script and rack cards to the next meeting.

Further discussion came to a consensus that the Highway 8 location in St. Croix Falls using the Uncle Sam "Taylors Falls Wants You" design would be the most visible and most beneficial.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/MURPHY TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE WITH HOEY FOR THE BILLBOARD AT THE HIGHWAY 8 ST. CROIX FALLS LOCATION USING THE UNCLE SAM TAYLORS FALLS WANTS YOU DESIGN FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00 TO BE PAID FROM CONTINGENCY FUND (900).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

EAGLE SCOUT PROPOSAL FROM TYLER MCKENZIE FOR CHERRY HILL PARK

Council Liaison to the PRC Larry Julik-Heine was approached by Tyler McKenzie with a fence proposal at Cherry Hill Park for an Eagle Scout project. At the last PRC meeting members recommended to Council: Approval of the proposal from Tyler McKenzie to build a split-rail fence at Cherry Hill Park to earn his Eagle Scout badge; money to come from Cherry Hill Park Fund, not to exceed \$400.00.

Tyler McKenzie presented his project for a 2-rail cedar fence along Maple and Chestnut Street. The project will also include fixing about 108 feet of existing fence.

CM Julik-Heine was introduced to Tyler about a year ago by Council Member John Tangen. Original plans for Cherry Hill Park included a fence.

CM Murphy thought it was an excellent idea, and would follow the "Tot Lot" type fence.

CM Rivard agreed that it would be a great learning experience.

Mayor Buchite thought it was incredible that a 14 year old was doing a project such as this, usually Eagle Scouts are in the age range of 16-17 years old. He commended Tyler and requested pulling a fence permit, with the City waiving the fee.

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/MURPHY TO AUTHORIZE PROPOSAL FROM TYLER MCKENZIE TO BUILD A SPLIT RAIL FENCE AT CHERRY HILL PARK TO EARN HIS EAGLE SCOUT BADGE AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$400 TO BE PAID FROM CHERRY HILL PARK FUND (403).

FURTHER MOVED TO REQUIRE MCKENZIE TO APPLY FOR A FENCE PERMIT FROM THE CITY WITH FEES WAIVED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER FALLS CHAMBER REQUEST FOR CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Chamber Director was in attendance to discuss a new event for Taylors Falls and St. Croix Falls called Christmas in July on the 18th. It will be an attempt to get people to go back and forth between the two Cities. They are looking to have a craft fair and a car show in Taylors Falls. Catherine asked for the City's permission to close and use the Marmon parking lot from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

MOTION BY MURPHY/RIVARD TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM THE FALLS CHAMBER TO CLOSE/USE THE CITY'S MARMON PARKING LOT FOR THEIR CHRISTMAS IN JULY CRAFT FAIR ON SATURDAY JULY 18, 2015, FROM 7:00 AM TO 8:00 PM

FURTHER MOVED TO ALLOW FOR THE USE OF THE DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT A CAR SHOW IS SCHEDULED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 15-06-02 ACKNOWLEDGING DECK AT 307 WALNUT STREET

Nicole Jack, current resident at 307 Walnut Street was in the process of selling their property and found on the previous survey indicated the deck was built (unknown date) across the property line. This situation has the potential buyers cautioning their purchase.

Discussions with the City attorney came up with three options: petition to vacate that portion of Basil Street, grant a license allowing the use to continue, or adopt a resolution acknowledging the deck is in the City's right-of-way. It was agreed upon that adopting a resolution would be the best option for the time being.

Key information from the resolution includes:

- Property owner approached the City about the issue
- Deck has encroached on City right-of-way prior to their purchase
- Title insurance will continue with the vacation process to clear up encroachment issue
- Platted but unimproved Basil street that extends south is at the edge of the bluff and is unlikely to be improved
- Taylors Falls acknowledges the deck encroachment
- Will allow deck to continue encroachment as there is no intention to improve Basil Street at this time

- Finally if the City chooses to improve Basil Street in the future, said deck will need to be removed

MOTION BY MURPHY/JULIK-HEINE WITH COUNCIL MEMBER RIVARD ABSTAINING TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 15-06-02 ACKNOWLEDGING DECK IN CITY RIGHT OF WAY AT 307 WALNUT STREET. (attached)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 15-06-03 ADOPTING INTERIM ORDINANCE 2015-06-08 PROHIBITING SOLAR FARMS

At the recommendation of the City attorney Mayor Buchite brought to Council Ordinance 2015-06-08 establishing a six month moratorium within the City on the construction of new solar energy systems, solar energy farms and for their installation and use in Taylors Falls.

In the past year this topic has been briefly reviewed by the Planning Commission but no changes had taken place. Chisago County is in the process of approving the installation of two commercial solar farms adjacent or near the limits of Taylors Falls. Buchite explained the City is not opposed to solar development, but without an ordinance in place there are no regulations. Council Member Julik-Heine stated that solar energy has the potential to be the “clean energy of the future”. This moratorium could last six months, could be longer or, could be shorter, but these six months will allow the Planning Commission time to research “Solar Energy” and recommend the adoption of a Solar Ordinance tailored to the City of Taylors Falls.

MOTION BY RIVARD/JULIK-HEINE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 15-06-03 ESTABLISHING A SIX MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS, SOLAR ENERGY FARMS AND FOR THEIR INSTALLATION AND USE IN TAYLORS FALLS. (attached)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF NEW WATER METER READER

Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz reported that our current meter reader has not been working properly for the past many years costing the City time and manpower just to get meters read. On the last reading the City borrowed a reader from HD Supply which worked great with only one or two re-reads with time also greatly reduced. The cost of a similar reader is \$6,630, it will ensure accuracy in reading and save the City time and money.

MOTION BY RIVARD/MURPHY TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW HAND HELD WATER METER READER FROM HD SUPPLY AT A COST OF \$6,630 TO BE PAID FROM THE WATER FUND (601).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 15-06-01 ACKNOWLEDGING AUGUST 4, 2015 AS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTION 15-06-01 ACKNOWLEDGING AUGUST 4, 2015 AS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT. (attached)

CONSIDER VACATION REQUEST BY COORDINATOR – ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE VACATION REQUEST FROM COORDINATOR – ZONING ADMINISTRATOR ADAM BERKLUND FOR AUGUST 3 – AUGUST 10 FOR A TOTAL OF 40 HOURS.

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, RE: BOOK BINDING

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA PAYMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FOR BOOK BINDING AT A COST OF \$1,487.50 TO BE PAID FROM LIBRARY FUND (211).

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE PAYMENT OF CHECK NUMBERS 26389 – 26416 TOTTALLING \$44,012.41 IN EXPENDITURES, AND CHECK NUMBERS 6660 – 6665 TOTTALLING \$11,143.07 FOR MAY PAYROLL.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Larry Julik-Heine reported that Friends of Taylors Falls Parks will be holding Wannigan Days Bingo at 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Community Center. St. Joe's Eats will begin 11:00 a.m. Saturday until gone.

There will be a Highway 8 project meeting Wednesday the 17th which Public Works Superintendent and Coordinator – Zoning Administrator will attend. Also the Chisago County Soil Water Conservation District has approached him about another gully restoration project near West and Walnut Streets and anticipates requesting a monetary investment in this project. They have done several thousands of dollars in projects throughout the City in the past three years.

Mary Murphy stated she is excited with the work EDC members have done to begin advertising the City's business park, though their next meeting has been postponed a week. Negotiations have begun for the 2016-2017 Sheriff Department contract. The County is proposing an increase in pay and increase in hours worked.

Murphy also reported that Lindsey Clark would be organizing the Kiddie Parade for 6:00 p.m. Friday. Murphy will be requesting a donation from Walmart for cookies after.

Ross Rivard reported that flower baskets have been put up and look great. Planning Commission members are continuing their review of Chapter 2 Zoning Ordinance, but will take a break from that to discuss a Solar Ordinance.

Part Timer Dan Swanson started today and will be watering and mowing. He stated that Public Works Bill Neska does a great job training the summer help.

Mayor Mike Buchite stated that the City has received about two dozen applications for the Clerk – Treasurer position. Of these 5 – 6 look good with a few having Clerk – Treasurer experience. Applications will be received until Thursday June 18th at 4:30 p.m. Special meetings will be posted for interviews and he encouraged Council Members to come up with questions.

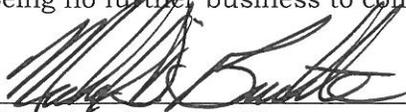
CORRESPONDENCE

THE CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED IN THE JUNE 8, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING PACKET.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY JULIK-HEINE/MURPHY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL HELD THIS JUNE 8, 2015. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Michael D. Buchite, Mayor



Adam Berklund, Coordinator-ZA

APPROVED: JULY 13, 2015