

**TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.

THE CITY COUNCIL WILL BEGIN THEIR MEETING AT 6:30 PM IN CLOSED SESSION IN ORDER TO CONDUCT AN EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT MIKE KRIZ. COUNCIL WILL MOVE INTO OPEN SESSION AT ITS CONCLUSION, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE AT EXACTLY 7:00 PM

MINUTES

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, September 9, 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.

The Taylors Falls City Council began its regular meeting on Monday, September 14, 2015 in closed session at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 637 First Street, Taylors Falls, Minnesota.

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 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

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Tangen, Larry Julik-Heine

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Tomnitz – Clerk/Treasurer

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor stated the Council would enter closed session for the purpose of a performance evaluation of Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz.

MOTION BY MURPHY/RIVARD TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION. AYES: ALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The Council entered closed session at 6:33 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION BY MURPHY/RIVARD TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED, FOR THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY RIVARD/MURPHY TO APPROVE/ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: STAFF REPORTS; COMMISSION/BOARD OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS; CONSIDER SIGNATURES ON MN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT CONTRACT; CONSIDER TEMP WINE/BEER LICENSE FOR TF HISTORICAL SOCIETY/TF LIONS CLUB; CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH TO SELL MAPLE SYRUP AS FUND RAISER IN THE MARMON PARKWAY; CONSIDER RESOLUTION 15-09-02 ACCEPTING A DONATION FROM THE FALLS CHAMBER; CONSIDER PUBLIC WORKS REQUEST TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE EXPO; CONSIDER VACATION REQUEST BY COORDINATOR – ZONING ADMINISTRATOR; APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL; AND CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NONE

PUBLIC FORUM

NONE

STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE JUNE 2015 FINANCIAL REPORTS 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

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RE-CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2015 DEER HERD MANAGEMENT HUNT

In an email from DNR Deer Project leader, his experience with Taylors Falls is that it has some of the most productive deer populations in the north metro area. Minnesota DNR area wildlife managers commonly receive complaints of nuisance deer in Taylors Falls. Deer Permit Areas 225 and 236, which include Taylors Falls, will have some of the most liberal management designations for the 2015 deer season. Hunters may harvest two deer each in Deer Permit Area 236, and hunters can choose to harvest a doe or a buck in Deer Permit Area 225.

Deer management in urban areas helps to minimize risks to human health and safety, and damage to private property and natural habitats. Deer damage to landscape plants, ornamental trees, and gardens can cost individual homeowners thousands of dollars. At higher densities, only fencing secured to the ground and 10 feet in height will be effective at reducing deer damage. However, fencing can be expensive and unsightly. Management of deer in urban areas through harvest is critical. Deer can also have a major impact on the natural habitats they use. Deer feeding habits and their preferences for certain plants change the structure and composition of plant communities over time. These changes can be especially profound in urban areas where natural areas are limited. Deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs) are also a major concern, accounting for human injury and death, damage to vehicles, and waste of deer as a wildlife resource. According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, DVCs resulted in 5 fatalities and 342 reported injuries in Minnesota during 2012 alone.

In urban habitats, access for hunting is limited, especially firearms hunting. Deer populations can grow rapidly where they are left unmanaged. Therefore, it is important to facilitate access for hunters wherever safe and feasible within and around cities to maintain lowered deer densities. To be most effective, it should be expected that urban deer management programs will be conducted annually and in perpetuity. I applaud Taylors Falls for helping to manage deer densities in the past, and I encourage you to continue to expand hunting opportunities wherever possible.

MOTION BY RIVARD/MURPHY TO AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL TAYLORS FALLS ARCHERY DEER HERD MANAGEMENT HUNT FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 – DECEMBER 31, 2015.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 15-09-01, APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET AND 2015 PROPOSED LEVY PAYABLE IN 2016

City Staff and Council met in six workshops over the past month to work on the 2016 budget. The final draft of the preliminary 2016 budget was presented at this meeting, and Council was once again pleased that they were successful in reducing (or maintaining) the City's tax rate for the past thirteen years. The City's tax rate for 2016 will be 71.70% down from 2015's 75.21%, leaving a decrease of 4.89%. General fund levy decreased a whopping 3.48%, and levies needed other than the General fund increased 2.64%.

MOTION BY MURPHY/RIVARD TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 15-09-01 ADOPTING THE PRELIMINARY 2016 BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVY 2015, COLLECTIBLE IN 2015 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$625,417.33. (attached)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSIDER SEWER REPAIRS AT CATHOLIC CHURCH RECTORY

Paul Nordic and Marie Hinz were in attendance as representatives from St. Josephs Catholic Church to discuss the shared project to replace the problematic sewer line to the rectory. Mayor Buchite gave a breakdown of where the City and Church were at and the project looks to be 80% of the Church and 20% of the City's liability. Mike Kriz reported that the sewer line for the rectory was checked, measured and televised. This found a dip about where the City's right-of-way ends. As our Ordinance reads: we will do any of the sewer line repair in the road right-of-way. It was decided that more information was needed and the item was tabled.

MOTION BY MURPHY/RIVARD UNTIL MORE INFORMATION IS READY TO BE BROUGHT TO COUNCIL WITH A RECOMMENDATION.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSIDER SEAL COATING OF CEDAR COURT

Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz reported that there is a new alternative to seal coating called GSB-88. This is a rejuvenating sealant that penetrates the top layer of asphalt to help prevent oxidation, water penetration and aggregate loss. It has been around only a couple of years, and the roads done in these areas still look good. It has recently been done on the frontage road of Highway 8 between Lindstrom and Chisago City. Cedar Court is in need this year and would be a perfect candidate. This coating is exclusively done by Fahrner and would cost \$5,000.

MOTION BY MURPHY/RIVARD TO APPROVE THE SEAL COATING OF CEDAR COURT BY FAHRNER ASPHALT SEALERS AT A COST OF \$5,000 TO BE PAID FROM PAVING FUND (650-43000-540).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSIDER SEWER LINING

This year's lining of the sewer was purposed from River Street (by the church) to the lift station. This would include the manhole in between that could never be found. After televising the line it was found the pipe size changed at that manhole and it will have to be exposed. So now it is from River Street to Second and from Hazel Alley to River down Pine Street.

There were again three contractors contacted this year, Visu-Sewer, Veit, and Lametti. They were contacted by phone and email, with only Visu-Sewer responding at a cost of \$45,035.90. This includes the previous work and one manhole repair will be what was budgeted for the year.

MOTION BY RIVARD/MURPHY TO APPROVE THE SEWER LINING BY VISU-SEWER AT A COST OF \$45,035.90 TO BE PAID FROM SEWER IMPROVEMENT FUND (301-49450-500) TO ZERO THE FUND WITH THE REMAINDER \$30,035.90 TO BE PAID FROM SEWER FUND (602-49450-500).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSIDER MANHOLE REPAIR PROPOSAL

Every year the City budgets for the repair of a certain manhole. This year it is proposed to replace the manhole at Basil and Government Street. Thul Specialty Contracting has submitted a quote for \$2,500 that will rebuild the manhole from the inside out, which fits into the 2015 budget.

MOTION BY MURPHY/RIVARD TO APPROVE THE REPAIR OF THE MANHOLE AT THE INTERSECTION OF BASIL AND GOVERNMENT STREET BY THUL AT A COST OF \$2,500 TO BE PAID FROM SEWER FUND (404).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSIDER PROPERTY DONATION FROM LOWELL NELSON

Lowell Nelson approached the City about donating a parcel of land. This parcel is between the lift station and the gas station down by the river. With the assessed value of \$6,300, the City is looking at a cost of either \$241.00 without title insurance or \$840.00 with title insurance. City attorney Patrick Kelly recommended the City get the title insurance to guarantee the property. If approved, Casterton Title in St. Croix Falls will take care of all of the paperwork. Public Works Superintendent Mike Kriz views the parcel as a great addition to the lift station area.

MOTION BY MURPHY/RIVARD TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED WITH THE ACQUISITION OF PARCEL 20.00177.00 FROM LOWELL NELSON WITH TITLE INSURANCE AT A COST OF \$840.00 CONDITIONAL UPON A CLEAN TITLE TO BE PAID FROM GENERAL FUND (101-41110-900)

CONSIDER LIFE INSURANCE CHANGES FOR STAFF BENEFITS

City Council was unaware that staff was receiving two life insurance plans, one paid for by the City and one an optional. USABLE is a level-term up to 65 before it goes down, the other is another plan NCPERS plan through the state which is a decreasing plan. The second plan is only \$16.00 a month, but has an accidental death and dismemberment. Cost's are comparable. City staff is recommending to drop USABLE plan and move over to the NCPERS plan at \$16/a month paid by the City as a benefit.

MOTION BY RIVARD/MURPHY TO AUTHORIZE STAFF REQUEST FOR BENEFIT CHANGE BY REMOVING USABLE PLAN AND IMPLEMENTING NCPERS PLAN TO ALL EMPLOYEES.

CONSIDER FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE OF GAS DETECTOR

Council Member Murphy requested to purchase a new gas detector for the Fire Department. Their current detector is getting old and outdated, only detected two gases and is becoming hard to find replacement parts. The request is to purchase a detector and docking station from Industrial Safety at a discounted cost of \$2,094.00. This new detector will detect all combination of gases for LEL, O2, CO, H2S and is ready to go at any time.

MOTION BY MURPHY/RIVARD TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM THE TAYLORS FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE A PS200 FOUR GAS DETECTOR AT A COST OF \$2,094.00 TO BE PAID FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND NEW EQUIPMENT (580).

CONSIDER SIGNATURES ON MN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT CONTRACT
THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA TO ACCEPT MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP AND AUTHORIZATION OF MAYOR AND CLERK SIGNATURES ON SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT.

CONSIDER TEMPORARY WINE/BEER LICENSE FOR TAYLORS FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY/TAYLORS FALLS LIONS CLUB

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA TO AUTHORIZE A TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE TO BE ISSUED TO THE TAYLORS FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY/TAYLORS FALLS LIONS CLUB, FOR A WINE & BEER TASTING FUNDRAISER EVENT AT THE TAYLORS FALLS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER ON OCTOBER 10, 2015 WITH THE CONDITION THAT A DEPUTY MUST REMAIN ON THE PREMISES DURING THE EVENT.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH TO SELL MAPLE SYRUP AS FUND RAISER IN THE MARMON PARKWAY

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH TO USE TWO PARKING STALLS IN THE MARMON PARKWAY TO SELL MAPLE SYRUP AS A YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER DURING THE LEAF FESTIVAL.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 15-09-02 ACCEPTING A DONATION FROM THE FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 15-09-02 ACCEPTING A \$550.00 DONATION FROM THE FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

CONSIDER PUBLIC WORKS REQUEST TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE EXPO

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA TO AUTHORIZE PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE EXPO IN ST. CLOUD ON OCTOBER 8, 2015.

CONSIDER VACATION REQUEST BY COORDINATOR – ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA TO APPROVE THE VACATION REQUEST FROM COORDINATOR – ZONING ADMINISTRATOR ADAM BERKLUND FOR SEPTEMBER 21 – 28 FOR A TOTAL OF 40 HOURS, USING REMAINING BALANCE OF 16 VACATION HOURS, 24 OF WHICH WILL BE UNPAID LEAVE.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS & PAYROLL

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE PAYMENT OF CHECK NUMBERS 26499 – 26542 TOTTALLING \$54,206.75 IN EXPENDITURES, AND CHECK NUMBERS 6699 – 6704 TOTTALLING \$5,883.06 FOR AUGUST PAYROLL.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mary Murphy stated there is an EDC meeting on Tuesday the 15th that will discuss budget, rack cards and billboard for the business park.

Ross Rivard reported the maintenance department had most of their work on the agenda tonight. Stated that the Planning Commission is going over the Solar Ordinance, and are getting close to holding a public hearing and hoping the Council may be able to act on it at their November meeting.

Mayor Mike Buchite stated there was nothing new and it has been a quiet falls.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED BY CONSENT AGENDA THE CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED IN THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING PACKET.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MURPHY/RIVARD TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL HELD THIS SEPTEMBER 14, 2015. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



Michael D. Buchite, Mayor



Adam Berklund, Coordinator-ZA

APPROVED: MARCH 14, 2015