

**Taylor Borough
Council Meeting Minutes
October 09, 2024**

The Taylor Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 09, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the Taylor Municipal Building, 122 Union Street, Taylor, Pennsylvania.

President Mickavicz chaired the meeting.

President Mickavicz opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Roll Call: Councilman Fox, Yes; Councilman Maldonato, absent; Councilman McKeel, Yes; Councilman Nezlo, Yes; Councilman Digwood, Yes; Councilman DeAngelo, Yes; President Mickavicz, Yes; Mayor Kavulich, absent.

President Mickavicz asked if anyone from the public had any comment or input on any agenda item, if none, you will always be given the opportunity at the conclusion to state any matters pertaining to Taylor Borough.

President Mickavicz asked if Council read the minutes. Councilman McKeel made a motion. Seconded by Councilman Fox. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item A is to consider a motion to approve the Feral Cat Ordinance #2 of 2024, regulation & enforcement of feeding the Feral cats. Councilman McKeel made a motion. Seconded by Councilman Fox. Madame Secretary, will you call the roll please. Councilman Fox, Yes; Councilman McKeel, Yes; Councilman Nezlo, Yes; Councilman Digwood, Yes; Councilman DeAngelo, Yes; President Mickavicz, Yes. After receiving a unanimous vote, Ordinance #2 of 2024, is hereby legally adopted.

Item B is to consider a motion for Solicitor to advertise on Solar Ordinance #3 of 2024. Councilman McKeel made a motion, and second by Councilman DeAngelo. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item C is to consider a motion to approve to remit \$157,288.88 in State Aid to Nationwide the Police Pension Plan Provider. Can I get a motion to adopt Item C. Councilman Nezlo made a motion, and second by Councilman Fox. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item D is to consider a motion to approve a payment of \$37,009.41 to Taylor Fire Rescue Volunteer Fire Relief Association payment from State Aide to the Borough. This is a reimbursement from the State, we get the money from the State under the Fireman's Relief Act, and if approved we will give it to Taylor Fire and Rescue. Councilman McKeel made a motion, and second by Councilman Nezlo. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item E is to consider a motion to ratify payment of \$880.00 for the intake of 8 animals in 2024 and to approve an increase per animal from the amount of \$110.00 each up to \$120.00 to Griffin Pond Animal. Councilman Fox made a motion, and second by Councilman DeAngelo. A voice vote was called, all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item F is to consider a motion to ratify a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TPOA amending the current bargaining agreement providing for light duty. As discussed previously, there was no light duty for Police Officers, this would put a provision in place as long as the Officer can do light duty such as paperwork, answering phones, filing, storage of evidence, there is a list of tasks. However, they would not be assigned to any Police activity. Councilman DeAngelo made a motion and seconded by Councilman Nezlo. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item G is to consider a motion to authorize the solicitor to research and prepare any necessary documentation to establish "No Trespassing After Dark" for the Taylor Memorial Cemetery, this would mirror all the parks in the Borough. Councilman McKeel made a motion and seconded by Councilman Fox. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item H is to consider a motion to accept a Municipal Grant donation of \$30,000.00 from LLVSA to be designated to the Center St./Clair Drive Stormwater Project. We did receive a State Grant for \$167,000.00 to put a storm system on Clair Drive where it has been flooding out quite frequently over the past couple of years. We did work there; however, this would put a dedicated line into the area. This money would be put towards that. The Chairman would like to make a motion to adopt item H. Councilman McKeel made a motion and seconded by Councilman DeAngelo. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item I is to consider a motion to accept the lowest bid for the Center St./Clair Drive Stormwater Project. With Councils permission, I'm going to take Item I and Item J together. Item J is to consider a motion to accept the lowest bid for HVAC System Project for the Borough Building. The bid opening is going to be the 15th of October so with the timing issue we are instead of adjourning tonight's meeting, we are going to recess to Wednesday, October 16th at 7:00 pm. This will give the Solicitor and the Engineer time to review. With that being said, Chairman Mickavicz is going to make a motion to table Item I and Item J further in the meeting. Councilman Digwood made a motion and seconded by Councilman McKeel. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item K is to consider a motion to pay \$24,195.88 to Multiscape Inc. for final payment for the Derenick Park Phase I Project. As discussed, this is the final payment, this closes out Phase 1 completely and we are still waiting for approval on Phase II. Councilman DeAngelo made a motion and seconded by Councilman Fox. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion accepted.

Item L is to consider a motion to appoint George P. Aulisio to the Planning Commission for a vacancy left by Louis Stefanelli with a term expiring 12/31/2025. Madame Secretary, let the minutes reflect that President Mickavicz will be abstaining from this vote. Mr. Aulisio is a direct relative of mine, however, speaking with the Solicitor due to this not being in a paid position would not matter. Councilman McKeel made a motion and seconded by Councilman DeAngelo. Madame Secretary, will you call the roll please. Councilman Fox, Yes; Councilman

McKeel, Yes; Councilman Nezlo, Yes; Councilman Digwood, Yes; Councilman DeAngelo, Yes; President Mickavicz, abstain. After receiving a majority vote, Mr. George Aulisio will be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Item M is to consider a motion to update Street Signs between Oak Street and Prince Street to clarify block numbers. Councilman Fox made and seconded by Councilman McKeel. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion accepted.

Item N is to consider a motion to approve the payment of \$1,237,699.70 to H & K Group Inc. for the 2024 paving project. Councilman Digwood made a motion and seconded by Councilman McKeel. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion accepted.

Item O is to consider adopting Resolution #12 of 2024 amending Resolution #11 of 2024 for the Taylor Memorial Cemetery Improvement Grant from \$100,000.00 up to \$130,000.00 for replacing sections and painting of the fence. This will include the Engineering cost, because it is an Historical Fence, it's a Memorial Cemetery, it will have to be done properly, when they sandblast it, the type of paint that they use and replace some of the sections that are missing. Councilman McKeel made a motion and seconded by Councilman DeAngelo. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion accepted.

Approval of Bills

September Payroll	\$164,761.51
September General Fund Open Invoices	\$1,331,494.62
September Paid Invoices	\$151,153.05
September Liquid Fuels Paid Invoices	\$ 180.86
Total Expenditures	\$1,647,589.90

**Treasurer's Report
September 2024**

Local Services Tax	\$1,879.02
Earned Income Tax	\$14,916.21
RE Transfer Tax – Sept	\$8,604.44
Miscellaneous	\$627.44
Tax Duplicates	\$335.00
RE Tax Delinquent	\$5,249.38
State Aid Vol Fire Relief	\$37,009.41
State Aid Pension(s)	\$157,288.88
Court Fees/Police Fines	\$6,044.53
LLVSA Municipal Grant	\$30,000.00
TCC	\$1,359.00
UCC Permits	\$6,017.62
2024 RE Taxes	\$33,029.21
Interest	\$1,253.71
 <u>Total Revenue :</u>	 \$303,613.85

**Financial Report
September 30, 2024**

General Account	\$	1,941,769.80
Real Estate Tax Account	\$	1,000.51
Liquid Fuels Account Balance	\$	85,459.45
Veteran's Memorial Account	\$	1,306.81
Hero's Banner Account	\$	8,663.93

Open Purchase Orders (PO's)	\$	(153,982.55)
10 Year General Obligation Note	\$	(94,549.64)
Lease Obligations	\$	(398,480.43)

2023 Police Comp/OT Obligations	\$	(45,691.55)
Other Police Comp/OT Obligations	\$	(32,332.35)
Escrow Funds (Taylor Commons)	\$	60,302.14
Escrow Account (General)	\$	18,156.90
Police Pension Fund	\$	3,571,781.04
ESL, Inc. Escrow Account	\$	532,896.05
Fire Insurance Escrow	\$	60,360.87
Taylor Police K-9 Fund	\$	8,296.97
Government Money Market Fund	\$	501,333.76

**Recycling Report
September – 2024**

	Pounds	Tons
Commingle	22,060	11.03
Cardboard/Paper	27,860	13.93
Grass / Brush	69,140	34.57
Totaling	119,060	59.53

The Chair will make a motion to approve the bills, Councilman McKeel made a motion and seconded by Councilman Fox. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

The Chair will make a motion to approve the Treasure's Report, Councilman McKeel made a motion and seconded by Councilman Digwood. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Mayor's Report

During the month of September 2024, the Police Department responded to 657 incidents. There were 12 traffic crashes investigated; 187 Traffic Stops were made; and 69 traffic citations were also issued 1 non-traffic citation. Officers made 21 criminal arrests. Arrest Report's — Officer Boback - 4 arrest; Officer Graham - 2 arrest; Officer Kowanick – 1 arrest; Sergeant Snyder - 5 arrests; Officer McDonald - 4 arrests; Officer Moran – 1 arrest; Officer Palauskas – 1 arrest; Officer Grasso – 3 arrests: Total 21

Revenues received for the month of August 2024, Parking Tickets: \$195.00, Police Reports: \$210.00, Magistrate Fines \$2,171.46, Judicial Fines \$66.05., Lackawanna County Aggressive Driving: \$3,083.40 - Total \$8,215.55.

Next, President Mickavicz asked that the Mayor's Report for the month of September 2024 be placed on file.

Then President Mickavicz asked if the public had anything to say.

Councilman McKeel wanted to thank everyone, Chief Holland, Mayor and all the volunteers involved with the National Night Out. It was a good night and successful for Taylor Borough and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I would like to put that on the minutes.

President Mickavicz asked if anyone from the public would like to add anything? Peg Derenick, we are here, a few concerned citizens from Atherton Street. We are here again regarding our complaint from last month regarding the dog. We have not heard anything about the dog, the house or anything what is going on. We would like to know what progress has been made if any. Solicitor stated, the Warden or the local police will have to file. In this case it looks like our local Police Department will need to follow. Because there is a lawyer involved, the Solicitor wants to be involved. As a criminal matter, someone will subpoena these tapes. That's under investigation by our Police Officers and what they will

do is assemble all the information. In some instances, people don't like to testify, we will need to know their availability so we can subpoena them to testify. The Chief and Officers are working diligently on this. I'm not blaming anybody, but there was a lapse in time from the incident until you came last month, according to the State Game Official, they were requesting the records, and I don't think the victim really wanted to have anything done. And we can all understand that if sometimes people don't really want to get involved. But I think that issue has been resolved and you would know better than I. The records since the last meeting we requested were turned over both from yourself as the dog owner of the dog that was involved in the attack as well as the victim who turned his records over. I know a video surveillance was also turned over that was obtained. So, this is an active investigation and there was just a little delay in getting some of the information and you helped with that since the last meeting. Peg Derenick stated this attack happened back on July 24th and its now October. The Police were there, they were summoned the day of the attack. Solicitor, in a case like that, we will put the Police Officer on, and we would ask, you were there, and they would state, yes, I was there.

President Mickavicz, Peg, I think you are aware, I don't even want to be discussing this, it's an ongoing investigation. But from what I inquired, the State Game Officer was contacting the victim several times and had requested the medical records because the medical records now prove on top of everything else will be all part of the charges and any type of damages and reimbursements. There was a long delay in getting that. Once all the records were obtained, then the investigation continues. I think you know some of the information we are talking about.

What I can tell you is it's an active investigation and they are working diligently on it. The Borough had authorized the Solicitor to get involved if the State Game Official doesn't feel whatever he wants to or not wants to. Then our Police will become the lead on doing the charges with the assistance of our Solicitor as well as the District Attorney.

Peg Derenick, while John is still walking around and terrorizing the neighborhood.

President Mickavicz, was he walking around? Because I know he has been incarcerated for the last two weeks.

Lady from audience, yes, I saw him walk twice today with that dog.

Peg Derenick, yes, he is everywhere, there is nowhere to walk that makes you feel safe anymore, because he is walking all over the place with that dog.

President Mickavicz, I will say this personally, we all share the same concerns, I'm a resident in that area. It's unfortunate, it's like everybody, they have rights. Sometimes we don't agree with the process, but the problem is, to get a conviction, taking someone to trial is one thing, but what our Police do with conjunction with the State Game Officer is they want to make sure they have everything that needs to try a person and get a conviction. To go in with anything less, your chances of winning are a lot less and we are all back here in three months or so because he was found not guilty, that there wasn't enough evidence to convict him or whatever that may be. I know it is painful, but as Mrs. Derenick, I know there is a lot more information and I spoke to her personally that we are not going to talk about it here. But there was information they needed to put everything together. I know the police have obtained additional information within the past week that may have been video surveillance from a neighbor's house so again, I'm going to stop talking about it what I can say, is everybody has the same concern and on a personal note I have it just as much as anybody because I'm your neighbor.

Many people talking, one mentioned a German Shepard left in a car for hours, another mentioned the traffic in the alley.

President Mickavicz stated, if you know someone is locking a dog in a car for hours to call him and he will call the police. Unidentified female stated she didn't call the police because she didn't think anything would be done.

President Mickavicz said, you cannot leave a dog unattended in a car like that.

Peg Derenick stated, everyone lives in fear of that house and the people in it and the dog. "I cannot express this enough" to let you know.

President Mickavicz said, I'm going to dispute one thing here. You can't say it doesn't affect me. I'm a neighbor in that neighborhood, I see what goes on, more than anybody knows, I come and go 24/7 because of my employment. I've seen a million different things and called the police on or ended up on somebody's website because they taped me. Long story short, everybody takes this seriously. Let the Police, the District Attorney and the Dog Warden do what they need to do. You don't want a not guilty verdict.

Ray Molinaro, I was the one that was attacked by the dog. So, you're saying the Game Commission has been reaching out to me?

President Mickavicz said, they sent emails. Here's what I can say: the Chief of Police is sitting in the back of the room and you are the victim, would you be so kind to speak to him, because there was a breakdown with communication. Please discuss that with the Chief.

Ray Molinaro said the only thing they asked me is if I was willing to go to court and I said absolutely.

President Mickavicz, Chief Holland, can he come speak to you after?

Chief Holland, absolutely

President Mickavicz, we can answer all the questions when this is over, but to answer these questions now would serve no purpose for what we are trying to accomplish.

The meeting is in recess until Wednesday, October 16 at 7:00 pm. Councilman Digwood made a motion and seconded by Councilman DeAngelo. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

The Taylor Borough Council reconvened its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the Taylor Municipal Building, 122 Union Street, Taylor, Pennsylvania.

President Mickavicz chaired the meeting.

President Mickavicz opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Roll Call: Councilman Fox, Yes; Councilman Maldonato, Yes; Councilman McKeel, Yes; Councilman Nezlo, Yes; Councilman Digwood, Yes; Councilman DeAngelo, absent; President Mickavicz, Yes; Mayor Kavulich, Yes.

We are called back to session as you can recall earlier, I asked that I and J be tabled because those bids were not in. After the meeting I spoke to Solicitor, when we put the ad in for the bids, at least the HVAC system the public advertisement said that this would be a special meeting. Other business came up in the meantime, so a Special Meeting is called with everything properly posted.

So, at this time, President Mickavicz is going to ask for a motion to consider I & J to a Special Meeting immediately following this meeting.

Councilman Digwood made a motion and seconded by Councilman Maldonato. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

And speaking to the Solicitor, he suggested we re-ratify item A, the Feral Cat Ordinance, and why we are here, the Chair is going to ask for a motion to re-ratify Ordinance #2 of 2024. Councilman McKeel made a motion and seconded by Councilman Nezlo. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

I hereby declare this meeting adjourned.

Kenneth F. Mickavicz, President

LuAnn Krenitsky, Secretary

**Taylor Borough
Special Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2024**

The Taylor Borough Council held a special meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the Taylor Municipal Building, 122 Union Street, Taylor, Pennsylvania.

President Mickavicz chaired the meeting.

President Mickavicz opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Roll Call: Councilman Fox, Yes; Councilman Maldonato, Yes; Councilman McKeel, Yes; Councilman Nezlo, Yes; Councilman Digwood, Yes; Councilman DeAngelo, absent; President Mickavicz, Yes; Mayor Kavulich, Yes.

President Mickavicz asked if anyone from the public had any comment or input on any agenda item, seeing none, Madame Secretary, let the minutes reflect that there was no public input.

Item 1 to consider a motion to sell a 2018 Ford F-350 Super Duty: 6.2 liter, V8 Automatic, 4WD w/ Police upfit package, 4,146 miles, mint condition to Archbald Borough in the amount of \$50,000.00. This did go out for bid twice, the highest the first time was \$48,000.00, council rejected it and the second time the highest bid was \$43,000.00 or \$45,000.00 and we rejected it. In the meantime, we received a letter from Archbald Borough to counteroffer. For the record the Borough does not have to solicit bids or Archbald would not have to make a bid, a formal bid process because they are a Municipal Government. Councilman McKeel made a motion, and second by Councilman Fox. On the question, Councilman Digwood asked regarding the monies from the sale, are we going to use that towards the new vehicles rather than leasing? What are our plans with the money we receive? Let's make a motion on this first and go on to the others.

Madame Secretary, will you call the roll please.

Councilman Fox, Yes; Councilman Maldonato, Yes; Councilman McKeel, Yes; Councilman Nezlo, Yes; Councilman Digwood, Yes; President Mickavicz, Yes. After receiving a unanimous vote, the motion carries.

Item 2 is to consider a motion to Lease Two – 2023 Dodge Charger including upfit in the amount of \$106,064.66 Co-Star #13-E22-232 (second Charger conditional upon insurance company deemed to be a total loss). On that motion the insurance company was in touch with Cindy and the Chief. They are going to total the vehicle. However, we never even made a payment on it. Whatever monies that would come from the insurance company, we would use to pay that vehicle off. If we want to amend the motion to buy one and lease the other Dodge. Councilman Digwood wants to expend the \$50,000.00 from the sale of the Ford F-350 the best way to fit the Borough. Does not want it just to put into General Fund and sit there. I want to pay something off. Here is what we will do. We will entertain a motion to Lease one 2023 Dodge Charger and the second 2023 Dodge Charger, to lease or payoff or to apply the funds that are acquired for the sale of 2018 truck to be evaluated by the Finance Committee to apply that to maybe 2 leases to payoff. The motion is to lease one and purchase the second one or apply the monies from the sale of the Ford F-350 truck to pay off 100% of the monies from the sale will be expended on other leases that may have a higher rate. Councilman Digwood made a motion. Seconded by Councilman Maldonato. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item 3 consider a motion to accept the lowest bid for the Center St./Clair Drive Stormwater Project. The bids were opened, and the low bid was Leeward, 239 Golf Hill Rd., Honesdale PA 18434. The Chair would like to make a motion to accept the low bid from Leeward Construction, in the amount of \$148,760.00. Councilman McKeel made a motion. Seconded by Councilman Fox. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Item 4 is to consider a motion to accept the lowest bid for the HVAC System Project for the Borough Building. There were 4 bids for that, and they all met the requirements. The lowest bid was from Scranton Electric Heating & Cooling, 800 Sanderson St., Throop, PA 18512 in the amount of \$33,854.00. The Chairman would like to accept a motion. Councilman Maldonato made a motion. Seconded by Councilman Fox. A voice vote was called, and all Council Members were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Anyone from the public? Anyone from the Council that they would like to discuss?

Councilman Maldonato brought up the streetlight that was discussed with the Committee and their recommendation is to have the streetlight put in and move forward. President Mickavicz asked if this could be put off until next meeting since this was not an emergency.

Meeting adjourned.

Kenneth F. Mickavicz, President

LuAnn Krenitsky, Secretary