

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes

For

March 19, 2013

Attendance: Attending the meeting was Mayor Michael Talley, Vice Mayor Becky Headrick, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner David Wietlisbach, City Recorder Shelia Moss, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Will McCampbell, Code Enforcement Official Andy Morton, Charles King and another member of the community.

Pledge: Mayor Talley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:02 pm.

Minutes: A motion to approve the February 19, 2013 minutes (pending one spelling correction) was made by Commissioner Palewski. Vice Mayor Headrick seconded and the February 19, 2013 minutes passed with 5 yea votes..

Finance Report: Recorder Moss gave handouts to the Commission which consisted of a Library Report, information about rates and services from First State Bank, and a Municipal Building Proposal (finance perspective). Recorder Moss walked the Commission through the Municipal Building proposal that she had drafted. There was some discussion regarding the proposal however no action was taken. There was also some discussion regarding the banking information. Mayor Talley asked Recorder Moss to come back with more detailed information about the law pertaining to banking. Recorder Moss agreed and then gave the finance reports for February 2013. Commissioner Wietlisbach made a motion to approve the February 2013 finance reports. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with 5 yea votes.

Police Report: Chief Suttles reported that everything was calm and that the department helped the Park Service a couple of times. He also reported that there had been one break in. Mayor Talley asked if any other vending machines had been broken into besides his. Chief Suttles responded by saying no. He reported that he had to take the old radios down to the County.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported that a hose on the Backhoe had to be repaired and that mowing season was about to get started. Chief Suttles mentioned that he is offering the wood from the poplar tree that was going to be cut down to the Citizens for firewood. Chief Suttles asked for permission to use left over budget dollars to purchase bulbs for the traffic light. Mayor Talley said that Commissioner Palewski is nodding his head and he doesn't think formal action needs to be taken.

Fire: Will McCampbell informed the Commission that Chief Don Stallions was in training. Mr. McCampbell reported that several fire department volunteers were enrolled for one hundred hour class training. He spoke about the fire on Boat Gunnell road and reported that all Fire Department members were ok. Mr. McCampbell also spoke about a swift water rescue, a wild land fire, and the Wears Valley Fire that happened on the same day. Commissioner Palewski asked how many members were in the Fire Department. Mr. McCampbell stated thirty with twenty that are really active. Mayor Talley mentioned that he really appreciates them and says they do a great job.

Recreation: Commissioner Suttles stated that she and Chief Stallions will schedule a meeting soon. There was some discussion about the Fireworks. Mayor Talley mentioned that there is some concern as to whether or not US Bank will sponsor the fireworks again this year. There was also some discussion about Child Safety Day. No action was taken.

Old Business

Tammi Ford, Chamber of Commerce: Mayor Talley mentioned that he spoke with Ms. Ford and that the member fee could not be waived. He stated that the base level is \$350 and that there is a lot of benefits to being a member such as marketing. He also mentioned that this could show a participation value involved in tourism with the Blount Partnership. Vice Mayor Headrick mentioned that the Commission should consider what you get back. Commissioner Wietlisbach mentioned that it was a small investment for a return. There was some further discussion. A motion to join the Blount County Chamber of Commerce was made by Commissioner Wietlisbach. Vice Mayor Headrick seconded and the motion passed with 5 yeas.

New Business

Andy Morton, Code Enforcement: Mayor Talley explained to the Commission that there has been a delay in Mr. Morton becoming certified. He reported that the City Commission took official action on hiring Mr. Morton and has requested that Mr. Morton explain this situation to the Commission. Mr. Morton explained that he is the only caregiver for his grandson and that the exams are only offered four times per year. He mentioned that he is required to take six different exams. Mr. Morton also explained that he will be drafting a Plan of Corrective Action (POCA) and sending it to the State of Tennessee as required by the State. Mr. Morton stated that Mr. Derrick Weichmann has agreed to do the building inspections for the City of Townsend at no charge. Mr. Morton explained that Mr. Weichmann lives in Greenback or Maryville and is a Deputy Inspector. Mr. Morton mentioned that Mr. Weichmann recognized that he was a certified architect. Mr. Morton stated that the POCA will ask for an extension since his "one year" expires on March 28, 2013. Vice Mayor Headrick asked about when the exams were offered. Mr. Morton explained the dates and mentioned that he is trying to determine if taking the 2012 online exams will be faster. He mentioned that the exams for the 2006 codes are pencil and paper. There was some discussion about best and worst case scenarios. Mr. Morton mentioned that Mr. Weichmann told him that he realizes that testing has more to do with revenue sometimes and that he is willing to allow Mr. Morton to do the inspections and he will sign off on them. Mr. Morton informed the Commission that prior to his employment with the City he was called out to other areas to make inspections for other municipal building inspectors. Mayor Talley made a motion to approve Mr. Morton's POCA until he is certified. Commissioner Wietlisbach seconded and the motion passed With 5 yeas votes.

Personnel Policy, First Draft: Recorder Moss explained that Bonnie Jones of the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) has reviewed the old draft she prepared years ago and made necessary updates and amendments. Recorder Moss explained that in the past the Commission held workshops to go through the new policy but, it was never adopted. There was some discussion about the adopted policy and the new draft policy. Mayor Talley asked each Commissioner to start going through the policy and be prepared to discuss it at the end of the next meeting if time allows.

*Mayor Talley reported that Mr. Rick Russell contacted him. He reported that Mr. Russell is looking into restrooms for the Right of Way (ROW). Mayor Talley mentioned that he may ask to be put on the April 2013 agenda. Mayor Talley reported that he and Vice Mayor Headrick set down with TDOT and went over ideas for the City of Townsend. The TDOT Representatives agreed to take the ideas back to the TDOT offices.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Shelia Moss

Approve: _____

date

Title: _____