

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes

For

January 20, 2015

Attendance: Present for the meeting was Mayor Michael Talley, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Kenny Myers, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Recorder Danny Williamson, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Assistant Fire Chief Keith Shepherd, Ernest Lancaster, Judy Lancaster, Fran Ripley, Doug Ripley, Nancy Scates, Sue Lindbloom, Janis Foreman, and Marcia Jaranowski, Charles Tippett, Sandy Headrick.

Pledge: Mayor Talley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

Minutes: Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the December 16, 2014 minutes. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with four yeas votes.

Finance Report: Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of December, 2014. Commissioner Palewski made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion and the report was approved with four yeas votes.

Police Report: Chief Suttles reported that the department weekday activity had been basically fairly quiet but that weekends were still pretty heavy. He stated that the tires for the police vehicle driven by Officer Frank Shearl should be here today, and he also informed the Commissioners that Officer Bill Allen's knee surgery was set for February 4, 2015. Chief Suttles reported that as soon as all signs were ordered, he would then get back to checking getting a new vehicle for the department. Mayor Talley asked about the types being looked at and some discussion followed.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles began the maintenance report by first introducing Keith Shepherd who was recently elected to the newly created position of Assistant Chief of Operations for the Townsend Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Suttles then reported that a new eXmark brand lawnmower with a mulching kit had been purchased and delivered. He then gave an update on the grading and filling around the City Hall property. Chief Suttles gave an account of maintenance worker Glenn McCampbell's finger injury received while off duty. Chief Suttles then explained there were nineteen street signs and brackets to be ordered, plus a few other signs such as city limits, at an estimated cost of \$1500.00. Commissioner Myers asked if this needed to be voted on and Mayor Talley stated it was included as a budgeted item. Chief Suttles' final item of discussion was to inform that the salt spreader motor was locked and that a new one had been ordered and should arrive in a day or two. In fielding questions, Commissioner Suttles asked if anything could be done about some of the deeper potholes in the city streets. Chief Suttles said cold patch is the only fix until warmer weather gets here.

Fire Report: Assistant Chief Shepherd first clarified that Stan Cotton was also still an Assistant Fire Chief with the Department but that Stan was assuming more administrative duties. Shepherd then reported that call volume was steady, with most being medical calls while fire calls were down. He stated it was time for all department recertification. He informed the gathering that 'first responders' were being renamed to emergency medical responders and that a class will start soon for that, yielding ten more qualified as such in the community. Commissioner Myers asked how well the Department is manned on a daily average and Assistant Chief Shepherd replied that it varied but it was usually at least 3-5 people.

Recreation: Nothing to report this month

Old Business

Old Highway 73: Mayor Talley reported that Bill Dunlap had nothing more on the inter-local agreement, but did tell him that Blount County Commission had approved the project.

New Business

Proposed Townsend Municipal Code from MTAS - Workshop dates with Margaret Norris of MTAS were set for 01/17/15, 2/3/15, and 2/10/15.

Townsend City Hall Building Committee – Commissioner Myers reported that Rick Russell had agreed to be on the committee. The first meeting date was set for February 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

FY-2014 Audit Draft – Recorder Williamson distributed copies of the FY-2014 Audit draft as received from the outside audit firm of Ingram, Overholt, and Bean. He then reviewed and discussed various points of the audit and financial statements and fielded questions. Commissioner Myers made a motion to accept the FY-2014 Audit draft. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion and it passed with four yeas. Audience member Doug Ridley also requested and was allowed review of the audit draft.

Municipal Court Judge – Mayor Talley gave background on actions by Judge Chris Ralls over the past few years. Recorder Williamson reiterated the amount the Judge Ralls was charging. Chief Suttles reported that recently-retired Blount County Judge Terry Denton had stated he would be willing to hold court monthly in Townsend Municipal Court for \$200.00 per session. Commissioner Myers made a motion to release Judge Ralls and hire Judge Denton. Mayor Talley seconded the motion and it passed with four yeas.

Other Business

More discussion took place involving The Great Smoky Mountain National Park Superintendent reception scheduled to be held in Townsend on February 19, 2015, for Cassius Cash. Mayor Talley asked for suggestions for preparation of a banner.

There being no further business, Commissioner Palewski made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 P.M. Commissioner Myers seconded and the motion passed with four yeas.

City Recorder

Approved: _____
Title: _____ date