

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes

For

April 21, 2015

Attendance: Those present for the meeting were Mayor Michael Talley, Vice-Mayor Becky Headrick, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Kenny Myers, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Recorder Danny Williamson, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Assistant Fire Chief Keith Shepherd, Sue Lindbloom, Marcia Jaranowski, Charles Tippitt, Sharon O'Hern, Valerie Love, and Barbie Orr.

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

Minutes: Vice-Mayor Headrick had a question about the Kiwanis' wish to attach their signs to the City of Townsend signs and Mayor Talley summarized that discussion. Commissioner Palewski then made a motion to approve the March 17, 2015 minutes. Vice-Mayor Headrick seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

Finance Report: Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of March, 2015. Vice-Mayor Headrick made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Suttles seconded the motion and the report was approved with five yea votes.

Fire Report: Assistant Fire Chief Keith Shepherd reported that the first new training class for Emergency Medical Response (EMR) had just been completed and passed by ten members of the department. He explained this training replaces the First Responder program. He also commented on preparations for festival parking coming up at the end of April and first of May. Shepherd reported that some repair work was being done to Station #1, that the roof repair was done and they were still working on the inside. He stated that some of the firefighters had been staying at the stations on the weekends. Assistant Fire Chief Shepherd then reported that call numbers were about average, that membership was holding up well, and that the department was starting to ramp up on rope and water rescue training, with 68 water calls last year. He then fielded questions. Commissioner Palewski asked if professionals were used in cleaning and removing the mold from Station #1. Shepherd answered that their guys put on suits and masks for the job. Mayor Talley asked if the Townsend Volunteer Fire Department, TVFD, had ever calculated the cost for a rescue. Shepherd responded that Chief Stallions was going to be working with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Service about possibly preparing a cost analysis. The Mayor also asked what percentage of water related calls were primarily related to tubing versus incidental events. Shepherd's estimate was 50/50. Commissioner Myers asked what percentage of calls was outside the national park versus inside. Shepherd's estimate to that question was that 90% were outside the park.

Police Report: Chief Suttles reported that things had been about like usual for spring, and the department had a busy month coming up. He informed the commissioners that he had worked with Recorder Williamson and got the order placed for the new police vehicle, but that it would be at least another four-six weeks before delivery due to factory backlog.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported the original mower had been sent in for maintenance, was completely overhauled and just came back today with less than \$200 in repairs. A new blade had to be bought for the finish mower. Chief Suttles stated the seasonal worker is now working three 8-hour days per week as approved in last month's meeting. Suttles then reported that workers plan to open the City Park one day next week. He also reported that

the check had been received from the insurance company to repair the police vehicle involved in the accident with the city's snow plow.

Recreation: Nothing to report this month

Unfinished Business

Old Highway 73: Mayor Talley reported on the email correspondence between Recorder Williamson and others. Mayor Talley said he would call Blount County attorney Craig Garrett and asked Recorder Williamson to contact Townsend's Blount County Commissioners Brad Bowers and Grady Caskey.

Townsend City Hall Building Committee – Commissioner Myers reported that a third meeting had taken place. All in attendance went outside and walked the property and were impressed with the size and lie of the land. Mr. Andy Morton had placed potential building layouts within the property boundaries to show ample room in various scenarios. Mr. Rick Russell continues to search for grant monies and feels the potential for grant assistance is very good, at least for the Fire Department and possibly for City Hall. Process is moving, but still eight-twelve months away from presenting anything to City Council. Next meeting is set for May 6, 2015.

New Business

Landscaping Requirements Ordinance – Mayor Talley gave a quick recap as to how this ordinance was developed by the Planning Commission when a recent development in Townsend was not going to do very much landscaping outside their business. He explained how it contained a recommended plant list native to this area, and briefly outlined the general requirements defined within the ordinance. Commissioner Myers asked how long the Planning Commission had been working on the ordinance and the answer was roughly 10-12 months. Mayor Talley said the City Planner had used the state model. Commissioner Myers then had some questions regarding the forced use of trees and how they may block the view of a business. After several minutes of discussion, including a question and comment from attendee Tom Talley, the decision was made to table the vote on the ordinance until the next City Council meeting.

City Recorder/Court Clerk status to full-time position - Mayor Talley reported that this item was initiated and discussed during the budget workshop on April 14, 2015. He went on to explain that originally the position was full-time, and that City Council chose to make it 35-hours per week until they were confident they had made the right hire. The Mayor stated that he and the rest of the Commissioners were very pleased in Recorder Williamson's work performance. Mayor Talley then made a motion to make the position of City Recorder/Court Clerk a full-time position. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion and it passed with five yea votes.

City Code & Budget Workshop Dates – Recorder Williamson informed everyone that the next City Code workshop was set for Tuesday, May 5, 2015. He then told everyone that the next Budget workshop was set for May 12, 2015. After those, the next City Code meeting would be set for June 2, 2015. The Budget workshop may be set June 9, 2015 if needed.

Other Business

Heritage High School (HHS) band was represented by Sharon O'Hern, Valerie Love, Barbie Orr. They told of a painting done by Lee Roberson, who sign and donated 1,000 prints of the painting to the HHS band. The ladies were requesting the City of Townsend's help in getting the word out in helping to sell the prints for \$25 each.

Mary E. Tippitt Memorial Library information & request - The funding request and information packets submitted by Mr. Tippitt were distributed to each commissioner prior to the start of the commission meeting.

Mayor Talley reported that he had spoken with K.C. Williams, Director of the Blount County Library, about the possibility of setting up an appointment to talk with Mr. Tippitt and himself.

Commissioner Myers brought up an issue given to him by an attendee concerning the need for event permits. Myers then turned the floor over to Tom Talley. Mr. Talley spoke of an event held at his business over the past weekend that had created a mess in part of the city streets and he apologized to the City of Townsend. He had hired a contractor to clean the streets, and he went on to explain how numerous events like this take place during the year and how he feels it is unfair to put such a burden on the City's resources. Several minutes of discussion ensued. Recorder Williamson conveyed that he would try to get ordinances recently adopted by the City of Alcoa that covered this topic.

There being no further business, Commissioner Myers made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 P.M. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

City Recorder

Approved: _____ date _____
Title: _____