

**City of Townsend**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**

**For**

**May 26, 2015**

**Attendance:** Those present for the meeting were Mayor Michael Talley, Vice-Mayor Becky Headrick, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Recorder Danny Williamson, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Jan Foreman, Charles Tippitt, Sandy Headrick, and Don Headrick

**Pledge:** Mayor Talley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:07 pm.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Palewski made a motion to approve the April 21, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with four yeas.

**Finance Report:** Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of April, 2015. Mayor Talley made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion and the report was approved with four yeas.

**Police Report:** Chief Suttles reported that the police department vehicle on back-order would have been delayed for months had he not agreed to accept carpet rather than vinyl flooring. By doing so, it should ship in mid-June. He also stated that the damaged police vehicle was now in the body shop. Chief Suttles informed everyone weekend traffic had been very heavy, and that folks should be watching for large numbers of motorcycles to be coming to town over the next few weeks. Mayor Talley asked if there had been any more news on the homicide and Chief Suttles answered that they were still waiting on lab work and results; that it was never fast whenever evidence went to the lab.

**Maintenance:** Chief Suttles conveyed that both maintenance employees were spending most of their time mowing. Mayor Talley asked if the older X-Mark mower was being used and Chief Suttles answered that it was, since the overhaul was redone on it in April for about \$200. Audience member Sandy Headrick asked if the City of Townsend (City) was mowing all the right-of-way (ROW). Some discussion followed with the answer being that the State of Tennessee Highway Department (State) mows 'curb-to-curb' and City of Townsend does no brush work, as that is also handled by the State. Mayor Talley indicated that the State claimed it was the City's responsibility to maintain culverts. More discussion took place pertaining to ROW. Mayor Talley closed the discussion by saying he was going to request the advice and assistance of Margaret Norris of MTAS to help with the State's lack of service in street maintenance.

**Fire Report:** Mayor Talley reported that Chief Stallions had contacted him recently and wanted to meet soon to talk about the upcoming contract renewal.

**Recreation:** Nothing to report this month

**Unfinished Business**

**Old Highway 73:** Nothing to report this month

**Townsend City Hall Building Committee** – Nothing to report this month

**New Business**

**Landscaping Requirements Ordinance** – Mayor Talley recapped last month's discussion as to how Commissioner Kenny Myers had brought up some very good points and questions. Since Myers was not

present for the May meeting, the decision was made to table further action on the ordinance until the next City Council meeting. Audience member Sandy Headrick, chairperson of Townsend Planning Commission, then made the request that other commission members please invite Commissioner Myers to the Planning Commission meetings in which the ordinance will be amended.

**FY-2016 Budget Ordinance** - Mayor Talley opened the budget dialog by making a motion to keep the FY-2016 funding level the same as FY-2015, or \$4,000, for the Mary Tippitt Memorial Library. Vice-Mayor Headrick made the point that Mr. Charles Tippitt was told in FY-2014 that FY-2015 would be the last year the City of Townsend would be donating to the library. Some discussion followed. With no second or vote, the motion died on the floor. Vice-Mayor Headrick asked if the budget ordinance could or could not be amended and was told that it could be amended. Audience member Don Headrick had questions as to where allocations to street fund and building fund had come; where the revenues had come from and if they had been verified. Recorder Williamson responded to Mr. Headrick's questions, explaining that most of the FY-2015 surplus was from Hall tax. Mr. Headrick expressed concern that more should be allotted to street maintenance and less to building fund. Mayor Talley called the public hearing for the budget ordinance to order at 8:12 PM. Audience member Sandy Headrick commented that sales tax is the City's main source of revenue and expressed disappointment that no money is spent on promotion of tourism in Townsend. Audience member Jan Foreman commented that she hoped the City could find a way to continue to offer support for the library as appropriate. Audience member Charles Tippitt commented that the City of Townsend has only '400 and something' people spending money in the city limits but many more people in Laurel Valley and other nearby communities that spend their money here, too, and he feels as though those other people's wishes are not given any consideration in the City's budgeting. Audience member Sandy Headrick had a question about the tax rate section of the ordinance and Mayor Talley explained that a municipality may impose a property tax. Recorder Williamson clarified that the ordinance template had come directly from the Manager of Local Finance at State Comptroller's Office and that the tax section is supposed to be included even if the rate is zero. With no further public comment, Mayor Talley closed the public hearing at 8:18 PM. Vice-Mayor Headrick made a motion to approve the FY-2016 budget ordinance. Commissioner Palewski seconded and it passed with four yea votes.

There being no further business, Mayor Talley made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 P.M. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_