

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes
For
May 17, 2016

Attendance: Those present for the meeting were, Vice-Mayor Becky Headrick, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Commissioner Kenny Myers, Recorder Danny Williamson, and Police Chief Ron Suttles. Audience members attending were Fred McArthur, Pat Jenkins. Mary Jenkins, and Mark Oldham. Mayor Michael Talley was absent.

Pledge: Vice-Mayor Becky Headrick opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:02 pm.

Minutes: Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the April 19, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

Finance Report: Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of April, 2016. Commissioner Suttles made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion and the report was approved with four yea votes.

Police Report: Chief Suttles reported that the dump truck and 2008 Ford Crown Victoria police cruiser had been sold on GovDeals, leaving no vehicles to be disposed of. Chief Suttles voiced his concerns over the race information included in the current packet, and wants Recorder Williamson to contact the applicants and ask them to change their route so that it does not cross two major highways.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported that all that the damaged/missing replacement bike trail poles and fixtures had been replaced. Discussion ensued as to the feasibility of replacing all bike trail lights with LED bulbs. After a few minutes of comments, questions, and answers, Commissioner Palewski made a motion to replace all bike trail light bulbs with LED fixtures at a cost of roughly \$2400. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes. Chief Suttles informed all that two tires for the back hoe had been ordered at a cost of \$513 each. When asked about edging of the sidewalks, he conveyed that he had done some checking on prices of commercial edging machines, as that would be the only practical way to get such a large amount of edging done. Commercial units cost approximately \$3,600.00.

Fire Report: No one was present to report.

Recreation: Recreation commissioner had nothing new to report.

Townsend Together – Mark Oldham gave everyone present a handout that recapped the group's meeting that was held on April 27th at the Dancing Bear Lodge. He expressed his thanks that Commissioner Palewski and Mayor Talley were in attendance. He brought up several points that had been made by Kim Mitchell of the Blount County Partnership, including demographic and budget information., and indicated how impressed folks were upon learning of the all the Partnership's work. The next meeting is set for 2:00 PM on June 8, with Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell scheduled as a guest. Efforts are to begin to 're-skin' the 'peaceful side of the Smokies' app. Oldham gave out flyers for a music festival called "Sweethearts of the Smokies" to be held starting at 4:00 PM on June 4, 2016 at the Dancing Bear Lodge.

Unfinished Business

Update on lease of river-access property- Recorder Williamson reported that he had checked with the insurance carrier and was told there would be no additional costs added for leasing the property. He also said the attorney was now awaiting the go-ahead' to prepare the lease. A brief discussion period took place in which it was reported that both positive and negative feedback had been received regarding the project.

New Business

Fiscal Year 2017 budget ordinance – First reading. Vice-Mayor Headrick read the heading for ordinance 286-16-1C, the City of Townsend Fiscal Year 2017 budget ordinance, and the revenues, appropriations, and projected ending balance figures for each fund. Commissioner Myers made a motion to pass the ordinance. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed unanimously with four yea votes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Comcast cable franchise – Fred McArthur, owner of Cades Cove Landing condominiums told City Council of the problems he had encountered over the past few weeks dealing with Comcast and trying to get cable service provided for the new buyers of his properties. Recorder Williamson read certain sections from the Comcast contract that seemed to address many points that Mr. McArthur brought up. After some discussion, City Council asked Recorder Williamson to prepare a letter on behalf of the City of Townsend and let Comcast know of the citizen complaint.

Blount Partnership 5-K race – Race information was included in commissioner's packets. As mentioned earlier in this meeting's minutes, Police Chief Suttles expressed concern over the fact that the race route crosses two major highways. City Council asked Recorder Williamson to contact Blount Partnership and request that the route for the race be changed.

There being no further business, Commissioner Suttles made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 P.M. Commissioner Myers seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

City Recorder

Approved: _____ date _____
Title: _____