

**City of Townsend**  
**Called Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**For**  
**September 18, 2012**

**Attendance:** Attending the meeting was Mayor Michael Talley, Vice Mayor Becky Headrick, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Commissioner David Wietlisbach, City Recorder Shelia Moss, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Officer Tony Rayburn, Fire Chief Don Stallions, Pat Jenkins, Charles King, Iva Butler, Mary Jon Morgan, Don and Sandy Headrick.

**Pledge:** Mayor Talley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:03 pm.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the August 21, 2012 minutes was made by Commissioner Palewski. Vice Mayor Headrick seconded and the August 21, 2012 minutes passed with 4 yeas votes. Commissioner Suttles abstained. A motion to approve the September 1, 2012 minutes was made by Vice Mayor Headrick. Commissioner Wietlisbach seconded and the September 1, 2012 minutes passed with 5 yeas votes.

**Finance Report:** Recorder Moss gave the finance reports for the month of August. Commissioner Wietlisbach made a motion to approve the August finance reports. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with 5 yeas votes. The Commission unanimously agreed that commission packets should be made available by the Tuesday prior to the meeting and should be in each Commissioner's box in the Municipal Office. There was some discussion about having candy and water for the meetings.

**Police Report:** Chief Suttles reported that there is nothing major to report. He mentioned that there were car shows on the weekends in Pigeon Forge and that the department responded to a three car accident. He reported that the lady in the hit and run accident involving a bicyclist was found guilty on several charges. He reported that he is looking for a cruiser now and that the Fall Festival is coming up. Chief Suttles stated that the fence at the Visitor Center had been moved 50-75 feet to allow more vendor space.

**Maintenance:** Mayor Talley spoke about the Myers Road paving bid. He stated the names of the four organizations bidding on the project. He stated that Charles Ingle Paving did not include a bid bond. He stated that Duracap Asphalt quoted per ton pricing but, the math did not equal the total they listed. Mayor Talley then reported that the Greenback Asphalt and APAC bids were the only ones eligible. Ms. Butler stated that Blount County used Greenback for asphalt when APAC was closed periodically. There was discussion about the eligible bids. Mayor Talley stated that even in all four bids were complete and correct; Greenback Asphalt was still the lowest bidder. Recorder Moss reminded the Commission that they had only budgeted \$35,000 for paving. There was further discussion regarding the project. Commissioner Wietlisbach made a motion to award the 2012 Myers Road Paving Project which includes repair, surface and overlay, to Greenback Asphalt at a bid of \$105.54 per ton. Vice Mayor Headrick seconded and the motion passed with 5 yeas votes.

**Fire:** Chief Stallions spoke about the fires at Richmond Inn and the house on top of the mountain in Dry Valley. He also mentioned swift water training at the Pigeon River. He stated that a retired Deputy Chief Ranger teaches Rescue III which the curriculum comes from California. He mentioned that Rope I and Rope II classes will be held in November. Chief Stallions mentioned the new truck and stated that it was the first new truck in sixteen years and that they could not get all their necessary gear in the old unit. He also mentioned that they still need a brush truck. He reported that the chassis was purchased from a Lenoir City utility. Chief Stallions stated that he does not anticipate

asking the City for more money but, wanted the Commission to know how they spend their funds. Chief Stallions then gave a report listing gear, classes, and vehicles with pricing for each.

**Recreation:** Recorder Moss explained the Casting for Recovery event request and stated that this event has taken place the past two years. Recorder Moss stated that the event holder has submitted all the appropriate paperwork and is now awaiting Commission approval. Mr. Jenkins stated that the event is actually called Turning Leaf and that they have three routes. He mentioned that the only issue he saw last year was traffic and he stated that he had to stop traffic so the participants could cross the highway. There was some discussion about the event scheduled for October 21, 2012. Commissioner Palewski made a motion to approve the October 21, 2012 event pending they coordinate with the Police Department. Commissioner Wietlisbach seconded and the motion passed with 5 yea votes. There was some discussion regarding the Christmas Parade. A suggestion submitted as a possible theme was "A Vintage Christmas".

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

1. City Municipal Court, Judge Chris Ralls: Deferred
2. City Business Recommendations, Pat Jenkins: Mr. Jenkins stated that there are things he learned as Mayor. He mentioned that Townsend is organized like the sixties with no day to day oversight, personnel issues, and missed opportunities (referring to grants). He stated that he would like to urge the Commission to appoint a City Manager to do the City's bidding. Mayor Talley mentioned that he thinks most others have had the same idea relating to a city manager.
3. City Planning Commission, Mayor Talley: Mayor Talley mentioned that he still has two seats that need to be filled. He mentioned that he is still looking for people and wants to have a full board by the October meeting.
4. City Board of Zoning Appeals, Mayor Talley: Mayor Talley stated that he needs recommendations. He mentioned that he has spoken with Lisa Stewart and Mark Chipperfield and both are willing to serve. Commissioner Suttles nominated Mr. Pat Jenkins. Commissioner Palewski made a motion to appoint Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Chipperfield, and Mrs. Stewart to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with 5 yea votes.
5. TDOT Traffic Study: Mayor Talley explained the study. There was discussion about this study. Commissioner Wietlisbach stated that East Lamar Alexander is a highway and that the intent of a highway is to expedite traffic and commerce. He also mentioned that the speed limit should be based on safety and there is no other reason to impede flow except safety. Commissioner Palewski stated that he could see changing the speed limit from Wears Valley to the National Park. Mr. Jenkins mentioned that he had discussed the Land Use Plan with TDOT which talked about speed calming. Vice Mayor Headrick stated that if the speed limit is changed it would have to be enforced otherwise there will be a false sense of security. Mayor Talley asked Vice Mayor Headrick to contact TDOT. There was further discussion regarding the study and how other municipalities are currently dealing with traffic calming.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelia Moss

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

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