

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes

For

April 16, 2013

Attendance: Attending the meeting was Mayor Michael Talley, Vice Mayor Becky Headrick, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Commissioner Ron Palewski, City Recorder Shelia Moss, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Fire Chief Don Stallions, Blount County Commissioner Gordon Wright, Charles King, Pat Jenkins, and Debbie Baum. Commissioner David Wietlisbach was absent.

Pledge: Mayor Talley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 pm.

Mayor Talley made a motion to amend the agenda by adding County Commissioner Gordon Wright. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with 4 yea votes. Mayor Talley then introduced Mr. Wright and explained that he is heading the Laurel Lake project and is requesting support from the City of Townsend. Mr. Wright mentioned that a lot of people contacted him with an interest of re-establishing Laurel Lake. He also reported that the State of Tennessee had turned Laurel Lake over to Blount County. Mr. Wright said that with the restrictions the only thing that can be done is re-establish the lake. He mentioned uses such as educational classrooms and other recreational activities. Mr. Wright stated that he has tremendous support from the private sector and that he, Doug Overby, Art Swann, and Bob Ramsey are on the committee. Mr. Wright explained that if the City wants this to happen he needs support from the City of Townsend. Mr. Wright spoke about funding (pledges, donations, and grants) and educational field trips to the lake. Mr. Wright asked the Commission to send a letter of support to the County Commission and request a copy be put in each packet for the May County Commission. There was some discussion about the project. Mayor Talley mentioned that he has attended the meetings and understands that one of the goals for this project is for it to have no reoccurring cost to the County. Mayor Talley also mentioned that there are no definitive plans yet. Mr. Wright mentioned that he would like to see revenue producing phases implemented so there will be funds to cover maintenance. Mayor Talley made a motion to support the Laurel Lake Program and send a letter to the County Commission highlighting the benefits such as education, recreation, and health of the Community and request the Blount County Commission support the Laurel Lake Committee. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with 4 yea votes. Mr. Jenkins mentioned that the letter might have more impact if Mayor Talley went to the May County Commission meeting and spoke to them about the letter in their packets. Mr. Wright agreed with Mr. Jenkins. Mayor Talley told Mr. Wright that if there is ever anything that the City of Townsend can do to help to let them know. He also thanked Mr. Wright for his support for the City of Townsend and for attending the meeting.

Minutes: A motion to approve the March 19, 2013 minutes was made by Vice Mayor Headrick. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the March 19, 2013 minutes passed with 4 yea votes.

Finance Report: Recorder Moss introduced the information provided by the Mary E Tippitt Library and a copy of Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 6-54-111. There was some discussion about the donation request from the library and the TCA 6-54-111. Vice Mayor Headrick requested more information about the patron count (current users vs. dormant), the schedule of events with attendance counts for each event, and number of patrons/walk in's per month over a one year period. Mayor Talley would like them to specifically state what they will spend the \$15,000 donation on/for if it were to be granted. Recorder Moss agreed to contact the Library and request the information and report back next month.

Recorder Moss then handed out copies of TCA 6-56-106 titled Authorized Investments, a list of banks in the Collateral Pool, and information about the Local Government Investment Pool

(LGIP). Recorder Moss explained that she contacted MTAS to determine if investing our excess fund balance had to be bid out. She stated that it was her understanding that it would have to be bid out. There was some discussion. Mayor Talley made a motion to publish a notice for bids on liquid interest bearing accounts. Vice Mayor Headrick seconded and the motion passed with 4 yeas.

Recorder Moss then handed out a final version of the Fiscal Year 2014 proposed budget to the Commission. She explained that the top line in the revenue section (the beginning balance of the general fund) was left blank. The Commission agreed on Recorder Moss's total of \$20,500.

Recorder Moss then gave the finance reports for March 2013. There was some discussion about various line items including the tubing permit revenue line item. There was also some discussion about the City's tube permitting process and regulations. Recorder Moss informed the Commission that she sent an email to Mayor Talley explaining that she did not defer the Tube Permit renewal's due to the ordinance calling for the Recorder to issue the permits and the ordinance stated nothing about ingress/egress requirements to obtain a permit. Mayor Talley requested that Recorder Moss begin working on a tubing permit ordinance revision to include Andy as the tube permit issuing authority. Commissioner Palewski made a motion to approve the March 2013 finance reports. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with 4 yeas.

Police Report: Chief Suttles reported that in-service begins next week. He reported that two officers will go next week and the other two will go the following week. He also reported that the new Tahoe has been ordered and is working on all the necessary equipment for the vehicle. Mayor Talley asked Chief Suttles about the old equipment from retired vehicles. Chief Suttles stated that the equipment is outdated. He reported that Officer Rayburn and Recorder Moss are working on setting up a Govdeals account for the City. He also reported that he got the seized 2009 Mustang convertible Colt 45. Mayor Talley asked what the seizure was that resulted in the forfeiture of the Mustang. Chief Suttles responded by saying DUI. He reported that he has seven vehicles to auction. He stated that the City has an agreement with Butlers for storage of seized vehicle which he reported comes out of the Drug fund since that is where the proceeds from the sale of the vehicles is deposited. He explained that some proceeds go back to the general fund, such as the retired police cruisers which, are purchased out of the general fund. Mayor Talley asked Chief Suttles who will be issued the Tahoe. Chief Suttles responded by stating Officer Frank Shearl will be issued the Tahoe, Officer Tony Rayburn will get Officer Shearl's old car, and Officer Bill Allen will get Officer Rayburn's old car. There was some discussion about the Tahoe and potential future Townsend fleet. Chief Suttles reported that the Spring Heritage Festival and Child Safety Day is coming up. He mentioned that traffic is picking up. Mayor Talley stated that he has asked the Commission to consider the proposal of lowering the speed limit from the traffic light to the National Park Line and wants to officially ask the Police Chief on record his opinion. Chief Suttles stated that he will go along with a speed limit reduction from the traffic light at Wears Valley/State Highway 73 to the National Park line. Chief Suttles then spoke about medium speed vehicles that can travel on roads with posted speed limits of 40 miles per hour or less.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles mentioned that the tree trimming company in the area was going to cut the dead Walnut trees at the corner will be cut due to safety reasons. He reported that a belt on the backhoe broke and it took two and one half days to repair. Chief Suttles informed the Commission that the lawn mower is starting to rattle. Mayor Talley stated that he thinks the City needs to go ahead and get a new mower. There was some discussion about mowing and City equipment. There was also some discussion about street signs and speed limit signs.

*Fire was deferred until Chief Stallions arrived.

Recreation: Commissioner Suttles mentioned that she had requested and received copies of the zoning regulations that pertain to special event signage. There was some discussion however no action was taken.

Fire: Chief Stallions reported that six members were scheduled for the State mandated sixty four hour class. He reported that Alcoa has been approved by the State to conduct live burn training which is an alternative to live burn training in Bell Buckle. There was some discussion about budgeting for the fire subscription dues for the City. Mayor Talley stated that the City will draft a Resolution for this year and would like to work with the water department relating to the ISO rating.

Old Business

There was no old business

New Business

Mayor Talley introduced a power point presentation that was sent by email from Mr. Rick Russell of Brown, Pearman, Russell for a matching grant for restrooms along the bike trail. Mayor Talley mentioned that this project would fit with the ten year land use plan, that the restrooms would be composting restrooms, and that it is an 80/20 percent grant. He mentioned that Mr. Russell is working on figures to determine what the twenty percent total would be and that the deadline to apply is May 3, 2013. Mr. Jenkins asked if this was an annual grant and whether or not some of the hotel/motel tax could be used for the matching portion. Mayor Talley stated that he will take this idea to the tourism authority. There was some discussion about this grant and restrooms. Mr. Jenkins stated that in the past he had no luck with restrooms on the highway right of way (ROW).

Mayor Talley stated that he would like to move forward with the speed limit reduction beginning at the traffic light to the National Park line. There was some discussion about a recent traffic study conducted by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) for the Safe Routes to School application and procedures. The Commission requested that Recorder Moss determine the appropriate steps to proceed. Mayor Talley stated he would like to make this an official action of the board. He then made a motion to pursue lowering the speed limit on State Highway 73 at the traffic light to the park line from 45 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with 3 yea votes. Vice Mayor Headrick voted nay. Commissioner Headrick stated that she doesn't think it can be enforced.

Recorder Moss stated that she would like to request permission to attend a four hour class about the Affordable Care Act on May 2, 2013. She mentioned that she agreed to ask for permission for any classes that are not absolutely necessary. She stated that the class was four hours and cost \$50. Mayor Talley made a motion to approve Recorder Moss attending the Affordable Care Act Class on May 2, 2013. Vice Mayor Headrick seconded and the motion passed with 4 yea votes.

The Commission deferred the Personnel Policy to a workshop. The workshop is to be scheduled either April 24, May 1, or May 2 and depends on Commissioner Wietlisbach's availability. Recorder Moss agreed to email Commissioner Wietlisbach to determine the date. There was some discussion about this topic.

There being no further business, Commissioner Palewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Mayor Talley seconded and the motion passed with 4 yea votes.

Shelia Moss

Approve: _____

date

Title: _____