

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes

For

August 19, 2014

Attendance: Present for the meeting was Mayor Michael Talley, Vice Mayor Becky Headrick, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Kenny Myers, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Recorder Danny Williamson, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Fire Chief Don Stallions, Janis Foreman, Marcia Jaranowski, Doug Ridley, and Charles Tippitt.

Pledge: Mayor Talley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

Minutes: Commissioner Kenny Myers made a motion to approve the July 15, 2014 minutes. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with 4 yea votes. Commissioner Jackie Suttles abstained

Finance Report: Recorder Williamson reported discovering that the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget had not been entered into the Quickbooks reporting system by the former Recorder. Recorder Williamson then gave the finance report for the month of August, 2014. Commissioner Kenny Myers made a motion to approve the August, 2014 finance report. Mayor Talley seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

Police Report: Chief Suttles reported that it had been another busy month, including two break-ins, one residential and one commercial. Other than that, it has been quieter than last month. He reported that he had Butler's Wrecker bring us the last two seized vehicles they had been storing, one for 12-months and one for 16-months, at a cost of \$175.00 each. Chief Suttles suggested keeping the newer four-wheel-drive truck for City use. He also suggested using the proceeds from the sale of the other seized vehicles, combined with the drug fund balance, to purchase a new vehicle for the Townsend Police Department at a future date. Several minutes of discussion took place on the matter.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported that the Lost Island swinging bridge repairs are completed and the bridge has been reopened. Two-thousand Christmas light bulbs have been ordered and received. There was some discussion about switching to LED. Five replacement bulbs have been ordered for the Bike Trail. The backhoe continues to have problems; had to redo one cylinder, the kingpin needs work, and replace a hydraulic hose. Mower had to have the main belt and two tires, and then sheared a bolt. The State Highway department has brought several loads of dirt to us. Chief Suttles made the request that if anyone knows the contractor moving the dirt for the museum near the Heritage Center, to please tell them that we have a place for them to dump it. Some discussion ensued about the sinkhole on Smoky Drive and its need for concrete.

Fire Report: Chief Stallions reported that everything was going well, with an average amount of calls coming in. He stated that on Thursday, August 21, 2014, Blount County Commission plans to recognize a ranger and one of their firefighters with a proclamation. Some discussion took place about the swift-water rescues that occurred recently.

Recreation: No Report

Old Business

Mountain Avenue Water Tank Access: Commissioner Myers conveyed that Mr. Morton has chosen to continue allowing access as is currently in effect. With that said, Mayor Talley stated there would be no need to put the access road in at this time.

Old Highway 73: Vice-Mayor Headrick went over the information received from Mr. Bill Dunlap of Blount County Highway Department and some discussion followed. Mayor Talley made a motion to engage Blount County

Highway Department to start work on the project as soon as possible. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion. It passed with four yea votes. Commissioner Myers abstained.

New Business

Amendment to FY 2014-15 Budget Ordinance: Recorder Williamson informed City Council that the current budget had been rejected by the State Comptroller’s office due to the fact that the State Street fund projections were out of balance. After minimal discussion, Commissioner Myers made a motion to lower Street Fund spending to \$32,501.00. Mayor Talley seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

Special Event Approval Request, Knoxville Track Club – Townsend 15K: Recorder Williamson presented information packets about the event and noted that if approved, event director would be instructed to coordinate with Chief Suttles. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the event. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion. It passed with five yea votes.

Special Event Approval Request, Townsend 10K and One Mile Walk/Fun Run: Recorder Williamson presented information packets about the event and noted that if approved, event director would be instructed to coordinate with Chief Suttles. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the event. Commissioner Suttles seconded the motion. It passed with five yea votes.

Other Business

Special Beer Permit for Festivals: Mayor Talley reported that he has started work with Margaret Norris of MTAS on a beer permit that would accommodate special events. Some discussion took place and the Mayor will be presenting more information at a later date.

New Building: Commissioner Myers stated that with the City’s loan payoff coming up in August, 2015, we should be ready to go with new building plans as soon as that happens. Some discussion followed.

School Aid: Commissioner Palewski stated that he would like see the City help the local elementary school. Some discussion followed.

There being no further business, Mayor Talley made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 P.M. Commissioner Myers seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

City Recorder

Approved: _____ date _____
Title: _____