

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes

For

November 18, 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, Janis Foreman, Marcia Jaranowski, 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 September 16, 2014 minutes. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

Finance Report: Recorder Williamson gave the finance report first for the month of September, 2014, as the October City Commission meeting was cancelled. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the September, 2014 finance report. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes. Recorder Williamson then gave the finance report for October, 2014. Vice-Mayor Headrick made a motion to approve the October, 2014 finance report. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

Police Report: Chief Suttles reported that all seized vehicles that had been sold on GovDeals were picked up and gone. Discussion took place as to how much was received, and Commissioners reiterated that when the checks came they would be deposited in the drug fund to go toward the purchase of a new vehicle. Conversation took place regarding how much longer the Lexus could be used. Dialogue then occurred concerning the status of seized cash and jewelry being held from an older case, with the Chief reporting that he was waiting on Judge Headrick before proceeding. Mayor Talley commented we were fortunate the vending machine bandits never came back during this fall break. Chief Suttles reported the only recurring problem site had been the old Family Inn, and that he had given the owners tips and advice but they would not listen. Chief Suttles also reported of an issue with trash and other problems from permanent residents living at one hotel in town and that he plan to discuss the matter with Codes Enforcement official Andy Morton. Chief Suttles was then asked about an arrest made the prior week and he gave a brief update on that.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported that the bike trail needs to have only three more bulbs replaced. Mayor Talley made a motion to set trail lights to the winter hours schedule, 9 AM-6 PM, Commissioner Myers seconded the motion, and it passed with five yea votes. As of this meeting date, all but four snowflakes have been mounted. Chief Suttles informed everyone that thirty-four (34) traffic signs had been replaced; this includes all stop signs and speed limit signs. He then reported the City of Townsend is going to need about twenty-one (21) street signs and brackets costing roughly \$65.00/each. Green was chosen as the color for the signs, with the lettering to be in upper and lower case. Discussion took place as to the matter of the ownership of the streets at the IGA and the Post Office, with the Mayor concluding that he was going to have Codes Enforcement write a letter to Mike Hooker regarding the need for better marking of those streets. In another maintenance item, a shaft is being put in the backhoe. There was some discussion as to the TN. State Highway Dept. refusal to mow the right-of-way within the city limits of Townsend. Chief Suttles gave prices that had been gathered on several models of mowers, and dialogue took place regarding the matter.

Fire Report: Chief Suttles reported that Chief Stallions had called to him and said the Fire Department would be ready for the Christmas Parade.

Recreation: Commissioner Myers made a motion to issue a check to Commissioner Suttles for \$500.00 for the purchase of candy for the 2014 Townsend Christmas, Mayor Talley seconded the motion and it passed with five yea votes. Commissioner Suttles confirmed that Chris Scarbrough will be Grand Marshall and the theme is Hometown Heroes. There was some general discussion as to some potential changes to the form for next year.

Old Business

Old Highway 73: Mayor Talley reported that no word had come back from Bill Dunlap of Blount County Highway Department regarding the inter-local agreement needed from the County Commission, but that he had indicated the work would go fast once they were able to start.

New Business

Sevier County Electric In-lieu of Property Tax Contract for FY-2015 - Mayor Talley described the basic details and amount of the contract and Recorder Williamson reported how close it was to the budgeted amount. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve, Commissioner Palewski seconded, and the motion passed with five yea votes.

Breakout Networks Contract – Mayor Talley outlined the details of the current contract for the website host and pointed out the fact that he is now located in Chattanooga. Reporter Williamson then discussed recent issues with Breakout Networks and also reported the results of meeting with a potential replacement website host.

After hearing the options, Mayor Talley made a motion to not renew the contract with Breakout Networks, Commissioner Myers seconded, and it passed with five yea votes.

Friends of Mary Tippitt Library 5K Run/Walk, Spring-2015 – Commissioners were given documentation to review for the race. Commission Myers made a motion to allow the run/walk, Commissioner Palewski seconded, and it passed with five yea votes.

Townsend Street Map Review – All Commissioners and Chief Suttles reviewed the map sent for review by Tennessee Department of Transportation, and the following streets were noted as being 'Private': (1) Big Valley Blvd (2) Spring Beauty Ln (3) Town Square Dr (4) unnamed street between Asher Howard Rd & Town Square Dr.

Other Business

Commissioner Myers stated that he would like to see a committee formed for the development of a new City Hall, and that he would volunteer to chair that committee. He indicated that Andy Morton would be willing to serve on it, and possibly Paul Reynolds. With no objections otherwise, Mayor Talley gave Commissioner Myers permission to form the committee.

There being no further business, Commissioner Palewski made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 P.M. Vice-Mayor Headrick seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

City Recorder

Approved: _____ date

Title: _____