

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes

For

December 16, 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, and Marcia Jaranowski.

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

Minutes: Commissioner Palewski made a motion to approve the November 18, 2014 minutes. Vice-Mayor Headrick seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

Finance Report: Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of November, 2014. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion and the report was approved with five yea votes.

Police Report: Chief Suttles stated that the department was getting all 2014 vacation time used. He reported that the police vehicle driven by Officer Frank Shearl was about ready for tires, and that the cruiser driven by Officer Bill Allen had 139,000 miles. Chief Suttles then made a few comments about the 2014 Townsend Christmas Parade on 12/7/14, remarking that it went very well, that even though there was a lot of people, it was a quiet crowd.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported that the drive shaft came in for the back-hoe, and that it still needs a cylinder packed but it is now running good. Chief Suttles gave an update on the ditch for the two catch basins on City of Townsend property, informing everyone that the Dollar Store donated used brick that were utilized in making an access, and that we should be getting more fill-dirt soon. Chief Suttles expressed that he would like to connect with Vice-Mayor Headrick to go see Sevierville's street signs before making the purchase of Townsend's signs. Mayor Talley asked Chief Suttles about putting up more Townsend City Limit signs and the Chief will follow up.

Chief Suttles reported that an eXmark brand lawnmower will be purchased within the next few weeks. Mayor Talley stated that he had called Maryville Mayor Tom Taylor and then talked to Maryville City Manager Greg McClain, who was to send a copy of Maryville's contract with TDOT. To date, Mayor Talley still has not received the specifics of Maryville's mowing agreement with TDOT. Recorder Williamson stated that he had mentioned the issue to MTAS and they might be a possible source of assistance. Mayor Talley stated he would contact Margaret Norris.

Chief Suttles asked the Mayor and City Commission for permission to ask Blount County Road Superintendent Bill Dunlap for the County's help in repairing Tiger Drive. Permission was granted.

Fire Report: Chief Stallions reported that the Fire Department has some training coming up, including a first-responders class that they are trying to have held in Townsend. He gladly reported no mishaps for the Christmas Parade.

Recreation: Commissioner Suttles reported on how great the 2014 Christmas Parade was, with a record number of participants. Commissioner Palewski asked about the possibility of getting it filmed and/or photographed next year. Mayor Talley asked Commissioner Palewski and Recorder Williamson to check into possible options well in advance of next year's parade and report their findings.

Old Business

Old Highway 73: Mayor Talley indicated his intent to reach out again to Bill Dunlap to check the progress on the inter-local agreement, and to see if any work could be done during the winter.

New Business

Proposed Townsend Municipal Code from MTAS - Recorder Williamson distributed copies to all five Commissioners and the Police Chief of the Townsend Municipal Code draft received from MTAS. Mayor Talley and Recorder Williamson explained the basics of how/what MTAS did to get to the draft, such as the removal of all zoning ordinances and/or redundant ordinances. Recipients were assigned to begin reading right away. Recorder Williamson will set workshop dates with Margaret Norris of MTAS.

Townsend City Hall Building Committee – Commissioner Myers reported that Paul Reynolds, Don Stallions, and Andy Morton have agreed to serve on the committee. They plan to approach Rick Russell to see if he will be on the committee. So far, they are in the preliminary stages of just analyzing the different wants and needs involved in the project. Some discussion followed regarding the various grants and building uses.

Other Business

Doug Ridley’s letter was discussed item by item, for several minutes. There were numerous points and comments from all Commissioners and the Police Chief. Mayor Talley asked when the lease was up on City Hall. He then asked Recorder Williamson to provide him with a copy of the building lease before the next Commission meeting. General consensus seemed to be that Mr. Ridley made good points. There was also mention that the City of Townsend needs a more reliable revenue base, such as a property tax. This created a lengthy dialogue between all Commissioners, as well as public attendees.

The Great Smoky Mountain National Park Superintendent reception is scheduled to be held in Townsend on February 19,2015, Mayor Talley asked for suggestions as to best locations to hold it and asked for approval of funds to cater it. After some discussion, he made a motion to get a check for \$200.00 to be used for the reception. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion and it passed with five yea votes.

TML Certificate of Participation was presented by Recorder Williamson.

Recorder Williamson asked Commission about taking four vacation days between 12/22/14 and the end of the year and all five Commissioners approved.

There being no further business, Commissioner Palewski made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 P.M. Commissioner Myers seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

City Recorder

Approved: _____

date

Title: _____