

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes

For

March 17, 2015

Attendance: Present for the meeting was Mayor Michael Talley, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Kenny Myers, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Recorder Danny Williamson, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Sue Lindbloom, Janis Foreman, Marcia Jaranowski, Kirby Davis, Donna Davis, Pete Girard, Gayle Girard, Tabitha Damron, Gail Root, Karen Beale, Chris Brimley, Blake Smith, Ryan Desmond, Lisa Williams. Vice-Mayor Becky Headrick was absent.

Pledge: Mayor Talley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:04 pm.

Minutes: Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the January 20, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

Finance Report: Recorder Williamson first gave the finance report for the month of January, 2015, as the February, 2015 Commission meeting was cancelled due to weather. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the January, 2015 finance report. Commissioner Suttles seconded the motion and the report was approved with four yea votes. Recorder Williamson then gave the finance report for the month of February, 2015. Commissioner Palewski made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Suttles seconded the motion and the February, 2015 report was approved with four yea votes.

Police Report: Chief Suttles began his report by talking of how busy the department had been working the homicide that had occurred. He reported that Blount County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) had been heavily involved in the case, as well. He was asked about the mutual aid agreement with BCSO and there was some discussion about that. Chief Suttles conveyed that there were several other things going on, one of which was the need to get with Recorder Williamson and report the accident between the Townsend Police vehicle and City snow plow, and that would be taken care of by the next meeting. .

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported his goal to send the original mower in for maintenance and get it completely overhauled now that we have the new mower for use. Chief Suttles then posed the question to City Commission about bringing the seasonal worker on board earlier than last year. After some discussion, it was a unanimous decision by City Commission that the same employee from last year could be hired to begin in April, 2015. There was then some discussion about street patching, and the condition of underpasses and ditch drainage. Mayor Talley asked about the City's salt usage for the year and Chief Suttles reported usage of two and one-half pallets, with one-half of a pallet remaining.

Fire Report: Nothing to report this month.

Recreation: Nothing to report this month

Unfinished Business

Old Highway 73: Mayor Talley reported that he had tried to contact Bill Dunlap but had not heard back from him. The Mayor then asked Recorder Williamson to check with Blount County Commission and get verification of the inter-local agreement and project approval.

Townsend City Hall Building Committee – Commissioner Myers reported that two meetings had taken place so far. The first meeting date was February 12, 2015 and was mostly general discussion as to what each person would like to see in a city hall. The second meeting was Wednesday, March 11, 2015, with good representation, and had in attendance besides the committee members, Fire Chief Don Stallions, Police Chief

Ron Suttles, and City Recorder Danny Williamson. Each of these three, as well as City Codes Officer Andy Morton, outlined their needs for office space and other work areas. Commissioner Myers indicated that committee member Rick Russell believes there is a good bit of grant money available, and that more likely grant money would be available for fire and maintenance building efforts. Commissioner Myers then briefly summarized some of the points and requests indicated, such as a police interrogation room and evidence room, a community room with capacity for 100-125 people, a day room, a smaller conference room, etc. There was some discussion on the current building and the challenges involved with it. The next step will be to check on the topographical survey and for Mr. Morton to make preliminary drawings,

New Business

City of Townsend Charter Update – Mayor Talley gave a quick background as to how this project began nearly two years ago when the City Commission started working with Margaret Norris of MTAS to update the language of the City Charter. The primary purpose was to eliminate redundancy and attune the City Charter language to that of Tennessee state code and MTAS guidelines. Public hearing was opened at 7:46 PM. The question was asked by the audience if copies were available upon request and the answer was explained. The Public Meeting was closed at 7:49 PM. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the updated City of Townsend Charter. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion and the report was approved with four yea votes.

Seasonal employee for maintenance- This item was discussed and settled during the maintenance department report.

Budget Workshop Dates – After brief discussion, it was decided unanimously to set the first two budget workshops for 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 and Tuesday, April 14, 2014.

Other Business

Lisa Williams, from the Board of Directors with the Kiwanis, appeared before the City Commission with a request to put up signs. It was a unanimous decision by City Commission that the Kiwanis Club be allowed to erect the signs, but that the signs must be pre-approved by a Commissioner.

Mayor Talley extended thanks to his Leadership Blount classmates that were in attendance.

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 four yea votes.

City Recorder

Approved: _____ date _____
Title: _____