

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes
For
June 16, 2015

Attendance: Those present for the meeting were Mayor Michael Talley, Vice-Mayor Becky Headrick, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Recorder Danny Williamson, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Fire Chief Don Stallions, Marcia Jaranowski, Suzette Lindblom, Lesli Bales-Sherrod.

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

Minutes: Commissioner Palewski made a motion to approve the May 26, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

Finance Report: Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of May, 2015. Mayor Talley made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Suttles seconded the motion and the report was approved with four yea votes.

Police Report: Chief Suttles told of receiving the F150 police department vehicle back from the body shop and said that it 'looks like new'. He stated he would not mark it heavily in order to keep it low-key in traffic. The Chief reported that traffic had been heavy, but only with a few minor incidents, nothing major. Mayor Talley asked if there had been any trespassing calls and the Chief's answer was 'no'. He then recounted one recent instance in which a tuber had rented a separate tube for his cooler. Chief Suttles then said he and his department were getting ready for court Thursday night (06/18/15). Lastly, he reported that he was still trying to make progress with the Blount County DA's office to get the seized cash and evidence processed so that it could be put into the general fund.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported that maintenance employees had been doing a lot of tree-trimming and brush work and had accumulated several loads of brush. He also stated that the City Park area had been cleaned well and was being used. Mayor Talley complimented all the trim work that been done along the bike trail.

Fire Report: Chief Stallions reported everything was going well, just very busy, especially on weekends. He then went on to report that Rural Metro was wanting to put a 24/hour manned station in Townsend. They would be willing to rent space, but it must be climate controlled due to the medications. Several minutes of questions and answer discussion took place on this matter. In summary, analysis will begin immediately to determine a solution to get a station ready for Rural Metro as soon as possible. Chief Stallions also reported that the department was ready for the 4th of July Fireworks celebration. Mayor Talley asked Chief Stallions about the paving of Old Hwy 73 by Blount County Highway Department. Chief Stallions indicated it was a somewhat complicated insurance matter that would have to go through his office and that Mayor Talley should follow up with him.

Recreation: Commissioner Suttles reported that she had gotten pricing on portable toilet rentals for the 4th of July Fireworks celebration. Tri-County Environmental offered to rent four units for that evening for approximately \$200. Mayor Talley asked Recorder Williamson about funding of the project and was told it could be charged to promotions in the FY-15 budget. Mayor Talley then made the motion to approve the expense, Commissioner Palewski seconded and it passed with four yea votes.

Unfinished Business

Old Highway 73: Mayor Talley spoke with Mayor Ed Mitchell just before the meeting and he indicated it was just a matter of getting something written up suitable to both parties.

Townsend City Hall Building Committee – Chairman Myers being absent, Mayor Talley gave a very brief synopsis of the June committee meeting, saying no actions had been taken, just discussions and the setting of the next meeting for July 1, 2015.

New Business

Landscaping Requirements Ordinance –Tabled until July meeting

Knoxville Track Club Event Request- For Sunday, September 13, 2015, the 15K race has occurred for several years. After some discussion and verification that all necessary paperwork had been submitted, motion for approval was made by Mayor Talley. Vice Mayor Headrick seconded the motion and it passed with four yea votes.

FY-2016 Budget Ordinance 282-15-1C Second Reading - Mayor Talley read the title and opened the floor for public comment at 7:45 PM. Vice-Mayor Headrick asked about the progress of the Mary E. Tippitt library becoming part of the same system as the Blount county library and Mayor Talley gave an update. Mayor Talley again expressed his wish to see a new City Hall that could possibly house the library and be a true community center. Audience member Marcia Jaranowski stated that a new librarian had just been hired and the hours for the other two people had been cut. She also commented about the severe moisture problems at the current library facility and indicated “it’s not the staff that’s objecting to anything”. Commissioner Palewski wanted to comment for the record that Ron Queen, from the State Comptroller’s Office, had paid City Recorder Danny Williamson a great compliment for his work on the budget, saying that he saw work from folks who had been doing this for forty years that did not do as good a job. Mayor Talley closed the public hearing at 7:51 PM. Commissioner Palewski made a motion to approve the FY-2016 budget ordinance. Vice-Mayor Headrick seconded and it passed with four yea votes.

Budget Amendment Ordinance 283-15-1C First Reading – Recorder Williamson explained that, although MTAS said it was not necessary since City Council had given the Budget Officer authority to transfer monies within a fund, he had prepared the amendment to more accurately reflect expenses by department. Mayor Talley then read the details of the ordinance. Vice-Mayor Headrick made a motion to approve the ordinance, Commission Suttles seconded and it passed with four yea votes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Credit Card Sales- Recorder Williamson gave an update on the progress of being able to accept debit and credit cards

Business Tax - Recorder Williamson gave an update on a visit from the State of TN tax office

Revised Charter - Recorder Williamson let everyone know the State approved charter had been received, and he would try to review it in order for it to be voted on for approval at the July meeting

There being no further business, Mayor Talley made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 P.M. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

City Recorder

Approved: _____ date _____

Title: _____