

**City of Townsend**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**For**  
**July 21, 2015**

**Attendance:** Those present for the meeting were Mayor Michael Talley, Vice-Mayor Becky Headrick, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Commissioner Kenny Myers, Recorder Danny Williamson, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Fireman Shae Kinser, Marcia Jaranowski, Janis Foreman, Lesli Bales-Sherrod.

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

**Minutes:** Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the June 16, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

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

**Police Report:** Chief Suttles conveyed that traffic had been heavy with several drivers speeding. He also stated that usage of Little River had to 'shut-down' one day recently due to dangerous waters. Chief Suttles reported the Dodge truck should be received by July 22-23 and that Governor's Highway Safety Office (GHSO) grant money would be used to purchase radar equipment for the vehicle. Chief Suttles gave a brief recap of a meeting held with the police staff after court on 07/16/15, saying that numerous topics were covered to 'get everyone on the same page' as to what was expected of them. Chief Suttles then expressed that something needs to be done regarding tubing, because one owner of a local tubing business stayed open after being told to close because of dangerous waters. Chief Suttles had a meeting with Lance Coleman concerning the necessity of a river gauge and the need to help with early warning. Mayor Talley reiterated the Chief's frustration with the tubing companies putting people in the river when flash flood warnings are in effect and the City then must utilize the Volunteer Fire Department and other City resources, risking lives. Commissioner Myers stated that he thinks it is time we get with the County and put a committee together to get regulations in place for tubing.

**Maintenance:** Chief Suttles gave an update on personnel changes in that the seasonal worker had quit and had been replaced by Matthew Smiley, whose first day was today, 07/21/15. Chief Suttles reported he planned to talk with Blount County Highway Superintendent Bill Dunlap about the water breaks on streets in different areas around town. Recorder Williamson communicated that the insurance check had just been received for repair of the bike trail pole and light. Chief Suttles reminded all present that if they notice any City of Townsend street lights out to please call Sevier County Electric and let them know.

**Fire Report:** Fireman Shae Kinser reported call volume had been up. He then related that three more volunteers had completed advanced swift-water swimmer training, bringing the total to eight staff that have attained the highest degree of safety training. Kinser then told of a new LUCAS device the Department had received that is an automated CPR machine and said the staff will receive training on it in the coming weeks. He also reported that Station 1 was being renovated to accommodate manning by Rural Metro. Commissioner Palewski asked how many total volunteers the Townsend Volunteer Fire Department has and the response was thirty. Commissioner Myers asked how many were active and the response was fifteen. Mayor Talley then gave a brief synopsis of his talks with Fire Chief Don Stallions and the plans to build a shared three-bay building.

**Recreation:** Commissioner Suttles reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks celebration was a huge success. Recorder Williamson showed a four-minute video of the event filmed by Jesse Tipton.

### Unfinished Business

**Old Highway 73:** Mayor Talley spoke with Mayor Ed Mitchell on Friday, 7/17/15 and was told that all is ironed out except for the County's need for a separate insurance policy to work outside their jurisdiction. It was indicated they should have that within a week or ten days and hopefully can provide an estimate right away.

**Townsend City Hall Building Committee:** Chairman Myers reported that preliminary plans were presented at the 07/01/15 meeting as to a potential layout of the new building. The drawings were done pro bono by Townsend City Codes Officer Andy Morton. Rick Russell will try to determine if it presents any problems as far as the State is concerned if Mr. Morton is the architect. Chairman Myers related that the group talked about the potential amount to be financed and that meetings would normally be scheduled the first Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted. Mayor Talley mentioned that he had spoken with K.C. Williams of Blount County Library and they are very excited about the possibility of a satellite location in Townsend, especially if it were located in City Hall.

**Ratification of Charter received from TN General Assembly:** Mayor Talley gave a brief summary of the modifications to the Townsend City Charter worked on by City Council in tandem with Margaret Norris of MTAS, explained it had taken the necessary steps through the Tennessee State legislature and was now ready for ratification by 2/3 majority vote of City Council. Commissioner Palewski made a motion to ratify the Charter. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. Mayor Talley asked Recorder Williamson to take a roll call vote on the revised Charter. Those voting yea were Mayor Talley and Commissioners Myers, Palewski, and Suttles for a total of four yea votes. Vice-Mayor Headrick voted nay. With a margin of eighty-percent in favor, the Charter was ratified.

**Budget Amendment Ordinance 283-15-1C Second Reading:** Mayor Talley had Recorder Williamson give the basic details of the amendment. Mayor Talley then open the meeting for public comment at 8:05 PM. With no questions or comments from the public, he closed the public meeting at 8:06 PM. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the ordinance, Vice Mayor Headrick seconded and it passed with five yea votes.

**Landscaping Requirements Ordinance:** After some discussion, it was determined that certain language should be modified. Recorder Williamson is to email the word document to Vice-Mayor Headrick.

### New Business

**Private Use of 'Gateway to Cades Cove' slogan:** Mayor Talley reported that Carl Goodman, owner and operator of Isaacs Consulting and tenant at Trillium Cove, had asked about using the slogan on shirts and possibly other merchandise. Mayor Talley went on to say he felt the City should adopt the slogan in a specific style and format, basically make a logo, and have a set of rules made up for the use of it. Commissioner Myers asked if the City could request that anything be brought in for approval before being put on sale. He then suggested having a contest to get design ideas. After some discussion, Commissioner Myers made a motion to solicit submittals for 'Townsend – Gateway to Cades Cove' as a contest with a minimum of two-\$100.00 awards, one for a student and one for a non-student. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion and it passed with five yea votes. Reporter Leslie Bales Sherrod from The Daily Times will announce that the contestants may mail their submissions to City Hall or send them to the City's website by September 8, 2015.

**Tourism Liaison discussion:** Recorder Williamson read aloud an email from Janice Fillmore and others who had proposed the appointment of someone to serve as a representative at various government and business functions in order to better promote tourism. Mayor Talley stated that he thinks it is a good idea to have a tourism liaison, as Ms. Fillmore mentioned, who could attend Blount County Commission meetings, Blount County Chamber meetings, seek grant money and write grant requests. He also stated that selection of such a person would be a key decision and that he would like to have the group responsible for the email present

when such a choice was made. Mayor Talley indicated that if he saw any of the folks who signed the email he would ask them to resubmit the request for agenda inclusion and plan to be in attendance.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Credit Card Sales-** Recorder Williamson gave an update on the receipt of the credit card machine and how much of benefit it was at municipal court the previous Thursday.

There being no further business, Mayor Talley made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 P.M. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

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City Recorder

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_