

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes

For

August 18, 2015

Attendance: Those present for the meeting were Vice-Mayor Becky Headrick, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Commissioner Kenny Myers, Recorder Danny Williamson, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Kathy Wilbanks, Marcia Jaranowski, Janis Foreman, Lesli Bales-Sherrod, and Don Prater. Mayor Michael Talley was out of town.

Pledge: Vice-Mayor Headrick opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 pm.

Minutes: Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the July 21, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

Finance Report: Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of July, 2015. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the report. Vice-Mayor Headrick seconded the motion and the report was approved with four yea votes.

Police Report: Chief Suttles talked about receipt of the new Police Department vehicle, the 2015 Dodge truck and told of the after-market equipment that must now be installed. He went on to report that traffic had dropped off considerably compared to the past few months. Commissioner Palewski asked if traffic was more this year than last. Chief Suttles responded that it sure seemed to be quite a bit heavier. Commissioner Myers stated that the Park service had just reported a record number of vehicle entries into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for a one month period. That month was April, 2015 according to audience member Leslie Bales-Sherrod of the Daily Times. Chief Suttles reported that most everything else had been quiet. He brought up the matter of a half-marathon run sponsored in part by Blount Partnership. Recorder Williamson informed everyone that requested paperwork had been sent to the race officials and that it was scheduled to occur September 12, 2015.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported of a schedule board he had created for the maintenance department which listed in order of priority several projects to be completed. He then gave an update on the status of the items on the list, giving kudos for the amount of progress made on all the items. Chief Suttles spoke of contacting Blount County Road Superintendent Bill Dunlap and coordinating the patching of the potholes on Tiger Drive before school's restart. Chief Suttles then reported that most equipment was working well, with the exception of one cylinder on the backhoe that must be replaced soon.

Fire Report: Nil

Recreation: Commissioner Suttles asked Recorder Williamson about the Christmas lights order. He responded that the supplier had sent 1000 of the 4000 ordered and had indicated the rest would ship in late August. He also stated that the check for the entire order was in the safe as it had been cut in June and was part of last year's expense.

Unfinished Business

Old Highway 73: Recorder Williamson reported that the revised inter-local agreement containing the language naming Blount County as 'additional insured' was now in the Blount County attorney's possession. The commissioners asked Recorder Williamson to contact Will Carver and ask that he contact the Blount County attorney to ensure that he does have the agreement and will act on it.

Townsend City Hall Building Committee: Chairman Myers reported that there was no meeting last month but there was one scheduled on August 27, 2015 at 10:00 AM. Allen Hawk, Area Specialist Rural Development with the United States Department of Agriculture is set to be at that meeting. One of the topics to be addressed is Mr. Andy Morton, City Codes Officer, serving as architect for the job. Several minutes of discussion, as well as questions and answers, then took place.

Landscaping Requirements Ordinance: Recorder Williamson is to complete the changes marked by Vice-Mayor Headrick and try to have ready for review by next meeting.

New Business

Appalachian Bear Rescue (ABR) project for bear-proof trash containers: Kathy Wilbanks with ABR gave a presentation concerning efforts to place bear-proof trash containers at Peery's Mill, the swimming/picnic area between Townsend and Walland, the special-needs picnic area in Townsend maintained by the Civitans, and the adjoining picnic area. She reported on the total cost and that Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency would be helping with the project. She requested the City of Townsend fund \$2000.00 toward the total. Vice-Mayor Headrick asked Wilbanks about the State of Tennessee making year-round garbage pick-ups, and to see if she could get that in writing. Vice-Mayor Headrick also requested that Wilbanks get an email regarding the concrete pads for the containers. Myers made a motion that the City of Townsend appropriate \$2000.00 to be used toward the bear-proof containers. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion. Myers then requested a roll-call vote.

More discussion ensued, with the topic of private property arising. Commissioner Myers stated he felt the City should approach the owners of Apple Valley about leasing the land to the City for use as City Park. The roll-call vote was then taken and results were as follows: Vice-Mayor Headrick-yea, Commissioner Suttles – yea, Commissioner Palewski – yea, Commissioner Myers – yea. Wilbanks agreed to keep City Council updated with all correspondence between related parties affiliated with the project.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Recorder Williamson gave commissioners copies of insurance proposals, with the notation that he had just received the renewal under the current plan and it was a 30% increase.

There being no further business, Commissioner Myers made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 P.M. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

City Recorder

Approved: _____ date _____
Title: _____