

**City of Townsend**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**For**  
**September 15, 2015**

**Attendance:** Those present for the meeting were Mayor Michael Talley, Commissioner Ron Palewski, Commissioner Jackie Suttles, Commissioner Kenny Myers, Recorder Danny Williamson, Police Chief Ron Suttles, Shae Kinser, Marcia Jaranowski, Lisa Stratton, Kathy Morris, Gary Lawson, and Lesli Bales-Sherrod.

**Pledge:** Mayor Michael Talley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 pm.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the August 18, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with three yea votes. Mayor Talley abstained from the vote as he was absent from the August meeting.

**Finance Report:** Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of August, 2015. Commissioner Palewski 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 reported that traffic had seen a great increase since last month. He recapped the two foot-races that had been held in town since the last meeting and remarked how smoothly things went even though one of the races had more than 1,500 runners. Chief Suttles reported that he hoped to get decals on the new police vehicle soon. He then talked about the waiting period if a new Tahoe is ordered and some discussion followed as to alternatives.

**Maintenance:** Chief Suttles indicated there was roughly three more weeks budgeted for seasonal labor. He then summarized several of the department's accomplishments, including clearing work behind City Hall and at the City Park, and changing of the bulbs to LED in the Christmas decorations. Mayor Talley asked what would be done with the old bulbs, and if there would be any chance of donating them. Chief Suttles indicated the City of Townsend would be glad to donate them if anyone could find a place that could use them. Mayor Talley then asked about if anyone knew if the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) had done any mowing in the area recently. No one knew of any mowing that had been done. Several minutes of discussion took place

**Fire Report:** Shae Kinser reported call numbers were down slightly. He stated that the department was preparing for the festival and getting geared up for Child Safety Day. Mr. Kinser indicated the department had been doing a great deal of in-house personnel training. Mayor Talley asked about the progress on the venture with the ambulance company. Mr. Kinser responded that the ambulance had to be in a controlled environment, that they had considered a new building but it was cost prohibitive, and that Chief Stallions was working on alternatives.

**Recreation:** NIL

**Unfinished Business**

**Old Highway 73:** Mayor Talley said he was told we would be Blount County Commission's September agenda and just learned that we are not on it. He said we need to act and moved that we repair that section of road this year. He made a motion that the City patch just the damaged section of Old Hwy 73. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion and it passed with four yea votes.

**Townsend City Hall Building Committee:** Chairman Myers reported the building committee is to the point where City Council needs to get involved in the process. He reported that initial estimates for the building are \$1.8 million for a City Hall/Fire Hall combination. Representatives from the Rural Development Agency came to a meeting 08/27/15 and explained that there was basically no grant money available through their support, but loan money was, at a current rate 3.625%, which would mean a monthly payment of about \$8200 if the entire amount was financed. They also indicated there was no conflict issue with Andy Morton serving as architect for the job. Several minutes of discussion, as well as questions and answers, then took place. Recorder Williamson is to ask Mr. Morton to be prepared to make a presentation by the next City Commission meeting.

**Landscaping Requirements Ordinance:** Recorder Williamson will have to proofread the entire document and will make the changes for a later meeting.

**New Business**

**AFLAC-** Kathy Morris and Lisa Stratton gave a brief summary of supplemental plans available to employees. Commission Myers made a motion to allow the AFLAC representatives to make a presentation to City of Townsend employees. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

**City of Townsend Employee Insurance-** Gary Lawson, with Employee Benefit Specialist, made a presentation about possible alternatives to address the recent renewal of the City of Townsend employee's insurance plan which increased by slightly over 30% effective 09/01/15. The gist of his proposal consisted of three parts: 1) start charging employees a portion of insurance so it truly is a cafeteria plan, 2) have two plans – one that is for employees less than 65-years-old and one for those 65 or older, or on a retiree insurance plan, and 3) if budget allows, offer other benefits not currently available, such as vision, dental, and life. Mayor Talley made a motion to allow Mr. Lawson to meet with City of Townsend employees and present the benefit options. Commissioner Myers seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

**Review of City of Townsend logo submissions** – After some discussion, Commissioner Myers made a motion to extend the deadline another month. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes. Recorder Williamson will inform the newspaper.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mayor Talley reported of correspondence he had with a fisherman who had been asked to leave the river by a property owner. The person is affiliated with a fly fisherman's association. The Mayor stated the issue once again brings up the question of property ownership and where folks are allowed in the river. He will forward all the correspondence to City Attorney Will Carver.

There being no further business, Mayor Talley made a motion to adjourn at 8:32 P.M. Commissioner Myers seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes.

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City Recorder

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