

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes
For
December 15, 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, and Police Chief Ron Suttles. No members of the public were in attendance.

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

Minutes: Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the November 17, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

Finance Report: Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of November, 2015. Mayor Talley made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion and the report was approved with five yea votes. Upon hearing Recorder Williamson report on the general fund balance, Commissioner Myers made a motion to allow the appropriated fund transfers budgeted for June, 2016 to instead occur in January, 2016. This consists of a \$30,000 appropriation from the general fund to the building fund, and a \$30,000 appropriation from the general fund to the street fund. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion and it passed with four yea votes and one nay vote by Vice-Mayor Headrick.

Police Report: Chief Suttles reported that it had been a busy month for the police department. He stated that the Townsend Christmas parade 'went great, especially considering how big the crowd was', and that sixteen additional officers had provided help. Chief Suttles also reported that he and Officer Frank Shearl would receive their annual POST training January 4-8, 2016, and the other two Townsend police officers were scheduled over the two following weeks. Commissioner Palewski asked if there was any process for the public to give crime tips anonymously. Chief Suttles indicated there is no formal process, and commented that his department received very good input from the community.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported that the flywheel on the dump truck was 'shot', and that replacement cost would most likely be more than the truck is worth. He indicated options were being reviewed for the snow plow and salt spreader. Suttles conveyed that a small dump truck had been seized, and should become available to the City of Townsend early in 2016. He opined that one of the other trucks, such as the F150 or older model four-wheel drive, may have to be utilized for snow removal. Lastly, Chief Suttles reported that the maintenance worker had been busy edging the City sidewalks.

Fire Report: No representative was present

Recreation: Commissioner Suttles thanked everyone for their help with the Christmas parade.

Unfinished Business

Old Highway 73: Mayor Talley reported that all contracted work was completed and that the City of Townsend is now waiting on the final bill. Commissioner Myers stated the new road may have to have the radius widened somewhat. Myers also asked if there was now a need to have a new right-of-way drawn up. Vice-Mayor Headrick is to check on this via contact with surveyor Rick Younger. Chief Suttles stated that Blount County Highway Department, with the remaining asphalt from the project, had filled

potholes and repaired the street beside Beef Barn. Mayor Talley asked Recorder Williamson to have City Codes official Andy Morton to prepare a letter for the owners of the Beef Barn property, explaining to them the requirements for dumpster pickups so that City of Townsend streets are not damaged.

New Business

Sevier County In-Lieu of Property Tax Contract – Mayor Talley gave background on the contract and asked how the proposed payment compared to last year and to budget. Upon learning that the amount was less than last year, the commissioners asked Recorder Williamson to get more information from Sevier County as to why the amount was less, and to include the contract on the January, 2016 agenda.

Stormwater Ordinance from Planning Commission - Mayor Talley gave background on the ordinance, indicating it mostly came about after construction of Dollar General and the realization the City of Townsend had no regulation language in place to cover what they expected of Dollar General. Commissioners decided to take no action on the ordinance until they had more time to review it, and asked that it be put on the January, 2016 agenda.

Landscaping Ordinance from Planning Commission - Commissioners decided to take no action on the ordinance until a public hearing notice was given, and asked that it be put on the January, 2016 agenda.

Fair Housing requirements for Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) recipients: Commissioners asked Recorder Williamson to check with MTAS and see if they had a model ordinance that covered fair-housing. There was also discussion as to the need for the city attorney to review any and/or all ordinances before they were voted on by commissioners. Commissioners then asked Recorder Williamson to forward the stormwater, landscaping, and fair housing ordinances to the attorney before the January, 2016 City Commission meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Talley raised the subject of wine sales in supermarkets. He stated that since the State of Tennessee had passed legislation approving wine sales in supermarkets, the City of Townsend might want to consider adding it as a referendum item on the upcoming election ballot. He pointed out that this could be done without any cost to the City of Townsend if the referendum vote was included on that ballot. Mayor Talley then made a motion that the City of Townsend add the choice of wine sales in supermarkets within the city to the next ballot. No second was received for the motion and it died on the floor.

There being no further business, Mayor Talley made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 P.M. Commissioner Myers seconded and the motion passed with four yea votes, as Commissioner Suttles had to leave the meeting at 8:00 PM.

City Recorder

Approved: _____ date _____
Title: _____