

**City of Townsend**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**For**  
**March 15, 2016**

**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. Audience members attending were Lesli Bales-Sherrod, Beth Larshus and Kathy Williamson.

**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 February 22, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed with five yeas votes.

**Finance Report:** Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of February, 2016. Vice-Mayor Headrick made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Suttles seconded the motion and the report was approved with five yeas votes.

**Police Report:** Chief Suttles reminded folks that spring break means more traffic will be coming. He also stated that a sales representative should be faxing information very soon on the police vehicle being considered for purchase. Chief Suttles reported that the officer's work schedules might be adjusted somewhat to better accommodate the upcoming event at the Heritage Center. Mayor Talley asked Chief Suttles if any progress had been made on the case of the counterfeit money distribution mentioned last month. Chief Suttles responded that one person had been arrested and that he had not heard anything else.

**Maintenance:** Chief Suttles reported that the tile replacement for Old Highway 73 had been completed. He then indicated that Blount County Highway Department will repave the area the next time they are in this area. Chief Suttles reported that the maintenance worker had been cleaning extensively around the perimeter of the City Park and had started mowing for this season. Chief Suttles asked Recorder Williamson as to when the seasonal help for maintenance started in the budget and was told that it began with 96 hours in April. Vice-Mayor Headrick asked about the duplicated street sign issue and Chief Suttles indicated it had been resolved. Mayor Talley asked about the status of the bike trail lights and Recorder Williamson gave a recap of the procurement process and stated that all components should arrive by the end of April. Chief Suttles asked the commissioners how late to reset the timers for the lights to and the consensus was midnight. Commissioner Myers asked Chief Suttles if weed killer had been applied along the bike trail and Suttles said "no". After some discussion, it was agreed that weed killer should be applied. Chief Suttles asked if anyone had received calls about the bear-proof garbage containers not being emptied on a timely basis. Some discussion ensued, and Recorder Williamson told of calling Appalachian Bear Rescue roughly two weeks earlier to tell them of the problem and they in turn called Tennessee Department of Transportation.

**Fire Report:** Mayor Talley reported that Chief Stallions had called to say he was ill and would not be able to attend this month, but planned to in April.

**Recreation:** Nothing from Recreation Commissioner. Commissioner Myers mentioned that he had been approached by Mark Oldham, owner of Apple Valley Café, with an offer to allow the City of Townsend to lease the property directly in front of his business that accesses Little River for one dollar per year. Several points were discussed and Commissioner Myers was asked to check further into the matter. Recorder Williamson was asked to check on the cost of garbage pickup, as it was felt that heavier usage of the area would occur and would warrant removal twice per week.

**Unfinished Business**

**City Employee Insurance** – Recorder Williamson had been asked at February’s meeting to obtain pricing from another insurance broker. He began this month’s dialogue by introducing Beth Larshus of Cambron Insurance who was recommended by Margaret Norris after another city Ms. Morris works with had been greatly pleased with Ms. Larshus’ performance. Ms. Larshus and Recorder Williamson then explained the spreadsheets that had been given to the commissioners that outlined the various insurance options. Numerous questions were asked and answered. After several points were discussed and opinions expressed, Commissioner Myers made a motion to switch the City of Townsend insurance coverage offered to employees to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee Platinum 2 option as presented. Vice-Mayor Headrick seconded the motion and it passed with four yea votes, with one vote of no by Commissioner Suttles. The switch in plans as presented reverses the ration of City of Townsend expense contribution for family members from the former 25% to 75%.

**Townsend Tomorrow** – Mayor Talley reported that he had been informed that Townsend Tomorrow has their paperwork drawn up and will need to be included on the April agenda.

**New Business**

**Resolution 258-16-1C Election Call** – Mayor Talley read the resolution which called for the need for an election for two commissioner positions set to expire September 1, 2016, Commissioners Headrick and Suttles. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion and it passed with five yea votes.

**FY-2016 Audit Contract Vote** – Recorder Williamson read the State of Tennessee requirements that each city contract with an independent auditor, and informed City Council that Ingram, Overholt, and Bean had agreed to maintain the prior year’s rate. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion and it passed with five yea votes.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

There being no further business, Commissioner Myers made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 P.M. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder

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