

City of Townsend
Commission Meeting Minutes
For
April 19, 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, Marcia Jaranowski, Adam Garrison, Sandy Headrick, and Mark Oldham.

Pledge: Mayor Michael Talley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:02 pm.

Minutes: Commissioner Palewski made a motion to approve the March 15, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Myers seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

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

Police Report: Chief Suttles began by complimenting how well both the recent event held at the Heritage Center and the Bronco rally had gone. He then informed City Council that the budgeted police vehicle had been ordered. Mayor Talley asked what kind was decided on and Chief Suttles said it was a Ford Explorer. Chief Suttles then reported that bids for the seized Lexus and the surplus Crown Victoria that had been listed for sale on GovDeals.com had not met the reserve so the vehicles would remain on the auction site a while longer. He conveyed that the Ford truck would be kept available for use for a police vehicle in case the older Crown Victoria cruiser begins having trouble. Commissioner Myers asked about the police department's policy/plan for replacement of vehicles. Chief Suttles explained that a plan had been in place until the prior mayor's term to budget a replacement vehicle every third year, as one tends to wear out upon reaching 120-140 thousand miles. It was during that time the replacement vehicle was cut from the budget three years in a row and that is contributing to the current problem.

Maintenance: Chief Suttles reported that Leslie Brady had been hired as the part-time seasonal maintenance worker and began working April 11. Chief Suttles informed all that the replacement bike trail poles and fixtures had arrived, and gave notice that the new ones were slightly different than the originals. He also stated that three LED bulbs had been received to test. The aim will be to have the new poles and fixtures installed by the end of May.

Fire Report: Mayor Talley reported that he had not heard from Chief Stallions lately, but wanted to tell anyone who did not already know that the TAVFD, Townsend Area Volunteer Fire Department's ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating number was going down, which is very good news. Sandy Headrick asked if there were any plans to add additional fire hydrants and it was the consensus of City Council that such a matter would be left up to homeowners.

Recreation: Recreation commissioner had nothing new to report. Sandy Headrick asked if anything was planned for July fourth fireworks. Mayor Talley responded that the same budget amount as last year had been appropriated to furnish to the TAVFD for the fireworks, as the Fire Department administrates that event.

Townsend Together – Mark Oldham gave everyone present a fact sheet about the newly formed group containing: membership, mission statement, vision statement, six short-term goals to be achieved in 12-24 months, and a long range goal. It will be attached as separate document to these minutes. Mr. Oldham mentioned that, as part of the long range of finding a long-term funding source for Townsend, that Townsend Together was very supportive of a property tax. That comment prompted several minutes of discussion among both audience and City Council. Comments included those from Vice-Mayor Headrick, who stated that she had spoken with numerous residents recently while obtaining signatures for her re-election petition, and that none of them wanted any form of property tax, and also those of Commissioner Myers, who voiced that, while working at Ace Hardware, he had spoken with several customers and local business owners who support the idea of a property tax. Mayor Talley asked Mr. Oldham if the group members had attended any tourism-related meetings yet and he responded that they had only been to a Chamber of Commerce meeting to date. Oldham then invited City Council members to attend the Townsend Together meetings, with the next one being set for 2:00 PM on April 27th at the Dancing Bear Lodge.

Unfinished Business

City Logo Contest – Recorder Williamson presented City Council with the entries that had been received over the past seven weeks, after having advertised the contest in The Daily Times a total of five times. Council members chose to award \$100 prizes to four submissions from students and one submission from an adult. Mayor Talley made a motion to approve the action. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion and it passed with five yea votes.

New Business
None

OTHER BUSINESS:

Update on lease of river-access property- Recorder Williamson reported his findings on garbage pickup costs. He called three vendors and only one called back. They offered a price of \$60.00 per month if the City of Townsend provides the bags or \$80.00 per month if the garbage service provides the bags. City Council asked Recorder Williamson to contact the City Attorney and have him prepare a land lease. City Council also asked Williamson to check with the insurance carrier to see what additional costs would be added for leasing the property.

City Manager position for FY-17 budget- Mayor Talley explained that he requested this item be added to the agenda. He went on to explain that he feels he misses too many opportunities to help the City of Townsend the most, something a City Manager could rectify. Mayor Talley expounded that, ideally, the position could be filled as a part-time slot, possibly Monday-Wednesday-Friday, and would be responsible for employee oversight, grant procurement and management, ambassadorship, and a host of other functions that would benefit the City of Townsend tremendously, and quite possible pay for itself. Several other comments were provided by commissioners, including: 'Townsend is still too small', 'Townsend could benefit greatly', 'there may be a retiree living here now that would like to do it', 'a City Manager position should be full-time'. No further action was taken.

There being no further business, Commissioner Suttles made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 P.M. Commissioner Myers seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

City Recorder

Approved: _____ date _____
Title: _____

