

**City of Townsend**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**For**  
**June 21, 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, Police Chief Ron Suttles, and Fire Chief Don Stallions. Audience members attending were Janis Foreman, Morgan Whitfield, Janice Fillmore, and Lesli Bales-Sherrod.

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

**Minutes:** Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the May 17, 2016 minutes. Vice-Mayor Headrick seconded and the motion passed with four yeas votes, with Mayor Talley abstaining due to his absence on May 17.

**Finance Report:** Recorder Williamson gave the finance report for the month of May, 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. Recorder Williamson pointed out that the current-year projected numbers reviewed during the budget workshops in April and May contained an estimated transfer of \$120,000 from the general fund to go into the street fund and building fund. Commissioner Myers made a motion to transfer \$60,000 from the general fund to the building fund and \$60,000 from the general fund to the street fund. Commissioner Palewski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Recorder Williamson advised he would make the transfer before the end of the week.

**Police Report:** Chief Suttles informed of plans to have the new 2016 Ford Explorer police vehicle in use by the following weekend. He conveyed that traffic flow was heavy, but pretty much normal for this time of year. Chief Suttles stated that a few complaints had been received concerning the scooter convention that was held in Townsend in May which saw roughly 600 participants. He pointed out that a very small number of citations were issued to those riders during the event. Mayor Talley brought up a point that he would like the Police Chief to be involved in a meeting to be held in early July with an organizer from the biker's group and Kim Mitchell from Blount Partnership.

**Maintenance:** Chief Suttles reported that the maintenance crew had the highway looking better than it had a long time and that in the past few days, they were focusing on removing scrub brush from around the handicap picnic area. Also, some weed and brush control spraying has taken place since last month's meeting. Chief Suttles then told of his conversations with Chico Messer from the Blount County Highway Department about having Messer do an assessment on the City of Townsend's streets and the paving needs. All officials were in agreement that Mr. Messer should be asked to complete an assessment as quickly as possible. However, Vice-Mayor Headrick voiced that she felt the bike trail needed repaired first. Some discussion followed and others opined that only certain sections of the bike trail were in need of repair. Commissioner Palewski asked Chief Suttles about the impact of the folks picking up litter. Suttles replied that those folks were helping quite a bit in making the area look better. Mayor Talley asked Vice-Mayor Headrick to be in charge of marking the spots on the bike trail needing repair.

**Fire Report:** Chief Stallions reported that one of higher priority projects at this point was preparation for the annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration. He was asked about a rain date and stated there was not one, and that the show would go on unless there was too much lightning in the area. Chief Stallions then alluded

briefly to departmental training that had been taking place. He reported the department had been getting all their trucks serviced, with the goal being to have Tennessee Department of Transportation safety inspections conducted on the vehicles. Stallions then commented that there had been several river injuries, with the low water level being one contributing factor. Mayor Talley asked if there were any areas that had been identified as being more prone for accidents and injuries to occur. Chief Stallions responded that the area behind the Kampground of America (KOA) was one of the worst. He related that the department averages 300 calls per years. Some further discussion ensued. Chief Stallions reported that the department's improved ISO rating was to become effective this month. Several minutes of questions, answers, and discussion followed.

**Recreation:** Recreation commissioner asked about the number of portable toilets to have delivered for the fireworks celebration. Commissioner Myers made a motion to order four. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Townsend Together** – Janice Fillmore recapped the group's meeting that was held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Dancing Bear Lodge. She stated that Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell was the guest speaker. She also reported that the group is in the process of obtaining non-profit status (503C). The next meeting is set for 2:00 PM on July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Dancing Bear Lodge.

**Unfinished Business**

**Fiscal Year 2017 budget ordinance – Second reading.** Mayor Talley read the heading for ordinance 286-16-1C, the City of Townsend Fiscal Year 2017 budget ordinance, and opened the floor for a public hearing at 7:45 PM. With no public comment received, Mayor Talley closed the public hearing at 7:46 PM. Commissioner Myers made a motion to pass the ordinance. Vice-Mayor Headrick seconded and the motion passed unanimously with five yea votes.

**Update on lease of river-access property-** Once Mayor Talley read the agenda item, Commissioner Palewski voiced that he wanted to read a letter he had prepared. That letter is included as an attachment to these meeting minutes. Recorder Williamson was asked about progress on the lease from the attorney. Williamson reported that the attorney had indicated he was going to try to have it available for tonight's meeting, but that nothing had been received as of 4:00 PM. Further discussion took place and Mayor Talley surmised that the project be shelved for the time being. Janice Fillmore then spoke with a question as to the feasibility of Parks and Recreation getting a grant to purchase Heritage Park and if the City of Townsend would be willing to help. Commissioner Suttles voiced that she would rather see any money spent for a project like that go toward a new building for the City of Townsend. Commissioner Myers agreed with that opinion. Chief Stallions pointed out that there was no Blount County Parks and Recreation, only Maryville/Alcoa, and that he had never heard of them having projects in the county. Mayor Talley closed the conversation by saying that any numbers supplied regarding such a project would be considered and discussed.

**New Business**

**Knoxville Track Club Townsend 15K race** – Recorder Williamson reported that this race had been held for at least three years, and that all paperwork had been properly submitted. Commission Myers made a motion to approve permission of the race. Vice-Mayor Headrick seconded and motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**AirMedCare Network coverage** – Morgan Whitfield discussed the costs for medical air transport, and proposed to cover all City of Townsend residents for \$1,195 for one year. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the expense. Commissioner Palewski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Myers made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 P.M. Commissioner Suttles seconded and the motion passed with five yea votes.

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

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Oldham,

In regards to your email of May 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 to Our Codes Enforcement Officer, Andy Morton, I understand that you are **in question of the City of Townsend's sign ordinance regarding your request to change one of your signs at Apple Valley**. Your request was denied by the Townsend Planning Commission. I have to say that the people on the Planning Commission spend many, many hours trying to design our ordinances to please all of our residents and business owners (without any compensation) I might add, to accommodate to the best of their ability these ordinances.

**You also mentioned that you don't appreciate being told NO to things that don't make sense. I must say that in my 78** years, I have been told no many more times than I can count and will probably be told no many more times. I learned to rationalize that I might have been premature in questioning others opinion. I just sucked it up and went on.

You also mentioned that you might rethink your offer to lease the river access property to the City of Townsend because of the Planning Commissions hard line about your sign. I take exception to this statement as should the other members of this Commission. The fact that you seem to think that the city needs this property is not so. The city has fared very well up to now and will continue to do so.

Leasing this property will put extra burden on our Maintenance Department, not to mention our Police Department. The cost of up keeping the property although maybe minimal, these are monies of the residents of Townsend which **I believe the majority would hardly ever take advantage of. I didn't even get into the liability to Townsend if anything were to happen on the property. Putting up signs that say swim at your own risk aren't worth the material that they're** printed on. Remember that a word spoken cannot be taken back.

Commissioner  
Ron Palewski