



Townsend Council Meeting Minutes June 3, 2015

7:00 pm – Re-Organizational Meeting

- I. Call to Order: 7:05 pm
- II. Roll Call: CM Jermaine Hatton, CM John Ness, CW Lorraine Gorman, CM Rudy Sutton, CW Cindy Cook, TE Owen Hyne, AA Melissa Faedtke, TC Cathy Beaver
- III. Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge was said.
- IV. Introduction of New Council Members:
 - John Ness
 - Lorraine Gorman
 - Rudolph (Rudy) Sutton
- V. Oath of Office for Newly Elected Council Members:
 - All 3 electives read the oath of office for Council and signed the oath.
- VI. Introduction of Entire Council: CM Jermaine Hatton introduced the 5 Council members for 2015.
- VII. Nomination and Election of Town Mayor for one (1) year term:
 - CM Ness stated as senior Councilman he believes he speaks for all of Council and he believes all take the office seriously. He added they have all talked and agreed to nominate Jermaine Hatton to serve as Mayor for another year.
 - CM Ness motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote to elect Jermaine Hatton to serve as Mayor for the following year.
- VIII. Oath of Office for Town Mayor: CM Hatton read the oath of office for Mayor and signed the oath.
- IX. Adjournment: 7:12 pm, CM motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote.

7:30 pm – Council Meeting

- I. Call to Order: 7:30 pm
- II. Opening Ceremonies
 - a. Roll Call: Mayor Jermaine Hatton, CM John Ness, CW Lorraine Gorman, CM Rudy Sutton, CW Cindy Cook, TA Fred Townsend, TE Owen Hyne, TM Dawson Green, AA Melissa Faedtke, TC Cathy Beaver
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge was said
 - c. Moment of Silence for Beau Biden: All remained standing for a moment of silence for Beau Biden.
 - d. Recognition of Visitors: Bill McMichael (News Journal), Rich Gorman, Al Harrington, Joel Esler, Mal Martin, Jeff Spiegelman,
 - e. Announcements: Friday is movie night in the park; Big Hero 6 will be showing.
- III. Additions/Deletions to Published Agenda:
 - a. CM Ness asked to delete the Police report; Lt. P. is out sick and had nothing to report.
 - b. CW Gorman asked to add approval of 5/6/15 Council minutes to the agenda.
 - c. CM Ness motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote to approve the minutes with the above addition and deletion.
- IV. Council Minutes (copies on back table)
 - Approval of April 22, 2015 Mid-Month minutes
 - I. CM Ness motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote to approve the above minutes as written.
 - Approval of May 6, 2015 Council minutes
 - I. CM Ness motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote to approve the above minutes as written.
- V. Mayors Report
 - a. Because of Beau Biden's funeral, the house is not in session this week and the senate is done with session. Still working on Bill 70. The DLLG has sponsored a bill to allow Towns to opt into a bill not permitting guns in Town Halls. Originally a Town had to opt out of the bill, now they will have to opt in.
 - b. Municipal Street Aide (MSA) - still haven't come up with the money needed to keep the fund where it is. Need to apply pressure on all elected officials to get this done. Is a work in progress. Governor's bond bill is currently at 3 million.
 - c. Asked all of Council to attend the June 16, 2015 DLLG dinner/meeting, it is a very important one. We don't typically have a meeting in June and did this to coincide with the last day of session in the House.
 - d. CW Cook asked if the NRA tried to block the gun bill. Mayor Hatton said they wouldn't support it but didn't block it.

- e. Rep. S. added the bill exempts people like police officers who carry a weapon for their job.
- f. Mayor Hatton said we were going to have flowers delivered for Beau's service but the family asked for donations. The Town made a donation today in Beau's honor.

VI. Reports

- a. State Police: Lt. Tom Paskevicius – not here
- b. Representative Jeff Spiegelman
 - Formally requested Bill 70 be added to the House agenda. Since we were closed today, may add a day at the end of session. If the bill doesn't go through, the soonest we can address it will be January 2016. The pictures the Town sent were really helpful and once it is on the floor we will need a letter from the Town.
 - Regulatory reform bills may affect the Town, one regulates change and removal, another one is a bill starting in the Senate where agencies have to tell the public how much new processes will cost, re: new sewer, etc.
 - Mayor Hatton stated our sewer is through NCC, if we change this, will the bill affect us.
 - Rep Spiegelman said no, the bill affects DelDot, DNREC and the like.
 - Mayor Hatton asked Rep Spiegelman where he stands on prevailing wages.
 - Rep Spiegelman said he supports it, would allow Towns to do a lot more work. It was supposed to be a package that included DelDot and it didn't work.
- c. Townsend Fire Department: Keith Shoemaker – not here
- d. Town Attorney Fred Townsend III: nothing to report
- e. Town Engineer Owen Hyne:
 - Discussion/possibly award contract for 141 Main Street
 - We opened the bids on 5/28/15 at the Town Hall. Received one bid for the inside work and one for the outside work.
 - Recommend the Town award the renovation contract to Affordable Contractor, LLC for \$257,000.00.
 - CM Ness motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote to award Affordable Contractor, LLC the renovation work for \$257,000.00.
 - TE Hyne recommended the bid for the site work be rejected, way over the amount projected. He stated he will work on the numbers.
 - CM Ness motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote to reject the bid for the site work.
- f. Town Manager Dawson Green:
 - 4 building permits were issued for new homes in May.
 - Handler applied for construction entrance sign permits, they were approved and paid for but haven't been picked up yet.
 - The contractor planting trees in TVII East should be done by next week. Going to meet with him, wants to plant more trees in open spaces.
 - Mayor Hatton asked TM Green to contact the contractor tomorrow, he planted 4 trees in a TVII West resident's yard and they knew nothing about it.
 - CW Gorman asked if the approved landscape plan filed with NCC has to be changed since they aren't following the plan. TE Hyne said no, the Town can give permission to do this.
 - CW Gorman clarified they are planting trees denied by homeowners in the open spaces and was told yes.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Finance: Chair – Jermaine Hatton
 - Finances are looking better with the correct input in the system.
 - The 2015-2016 budget should be approved at the mid-month meeting.
 - The auditors will be onsite to complete the 2014-2015 audit on June 15, 2015.
- b. Public Works: Chair – CM Rudy Sutton
 - The ground is still being cleared at 141 Main Street, asked the contractor to put the silt fence up. It hasn't been completed due to weather.
 - The contractor showed me a tree stump that was growing under the neighbor's fence; I talked to the neighbor and came up with a solution to have it removed.
- c. Land Use & Development: Chair – Jermaine Hatton
 - Still in the same situation trying to identify our sewer capacity issues and continuing to work on it.
 - Working on creating the planning commission and retiring the zoning committee.
 - It will be time to update the comprehensive plan next fiscal year. There are some classes we have been advised to take.

- d. Community Relations: Chairs – CW Cindy Cook
 - Boulden Brothers Gas and Propane have agreed to purchase flags for Town residents for the 4th of July. I’m working on the details.
 - Zip Code 19734 crime news disclaimer
 - I. Crime outside Town limits is reflecting on the Town and preventing business from wanting to move into Town and deterring people from buying homes in Town limits. Would like to create a better understanding that it is outside Town limits, not in Town limits.
 - II. Mayor Hatton said he looked at many articles written about crime in Townsend. He stated that any crime committed in incorporated Townsend says Town of Townsend in the article, any crime committed outside Town limits simply says Townsend.
 - III. Mr. McMichael from the News Journal said their style is to say near Townsend.
 - IV. After a long discussion it was suggested to put crime statistics on Facebook and the website.
- e. Public Safety: Chair – CM John Ness
 - Several people have approached me about security at the new Town Hall.
 - Speed limit/solar/radar signs – Have some information and a form to be filled out from Alexis, Rep Spiegelman’s assistant. Once I get more information will present it to Council to decide what we want to do.
- f. Parks & Recreation: Chair – CW Lorraine Gorman
 - Park Maintenance – discussion/possible vote on hiring a part time seasonal employee
 - I. Strobert Trees started pruning trees Monday, supposed to be done by Friday; the weather has held them up.
 - II. Talked previously about hiring a part time person, didn’t get any feedback from Council with the handout, and would like to proceed with this, too much for George to keep up with.
 - III. CM Ness said he is all for this, someone dedicated to the park, said he rides his bike on the weekends and is always cleaning trash up in the park, the new person needs to work on weekends.
 - IV. CW Gorman said the weeds are already out of control, is a monumental task for one person, it’s a big park.
 - V. CW Gorman motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote to post an opening for a seasonal part time position to work in park as needed based on the criteria handed out previously.
 - Movie Night – Friday, June 5th (rain date: Saturday, June 6th)
 - I. Big Hero 6 will be shown in the park this Friday. Fat Daddy’s Funnel Cakes and Dino’s Icecream will be there. It has been posted everywhere.
 - II. Iron Source is providing the parking lot lights for free.
 - III. The police will be at the event along with several volunteers and George to help with whatever may be needed.
 - Country Line Dancing – Thursday, June 18th
 - School of Rock Concert – Saturday, July 25th
 - Town Fair – Saturday, September 26th

VIII. Citizens Comments & Participation

- a. CM Ness was asked where things stand with the Town police force. CM Ness stated the startup costs are too high; he has talked to many people and it is more cost effective to keep the state police at this point. It will be up to Council if that were to be changed.
- b. Since many residents can’t make it to meetings, it was suggested that Council members take the time and walk the streets on weekends to talk to residents off and on.
- c. CW Gorman suggested possibly having a Town Hall meeting at the park on a weekend.
- d. Mr. Gorman suggested having a Town table at the monthly fire hall BBQ to talk to residents.

IX. Adjournment: 8:48 pm, CM Ness motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote.