



Townsend Council Meeting Minutes August 5, 2015

7:30 pm – Council Meeting

- I. Call to Order: 7:30 pm
- II. Opening Ceremonies: CM Ness asked everyone to sit down so the meeting could start. He asked that everyone put their cell phones on mute and if they needed to have any conversations outside of Council business to please take it outside to the hallway.
 - a. Roll Call: CM John Ness (acting Mayor), CW Lorraine Gorman, CM Rudy Sutton, CW Cindy Cook, TA Fred Townsend, TE Owen Hyne, TM Dawson Green, TC Cathy Beaver
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge was said.
 - c. Recognition of Visitors: 9 visitors
 - d. Announcements:
 - 2nd Movie Night Under the Stars – 8/7/15 @ dusk – Boxtrolls
 - Need volunteers for the 10th anniversary fair on 9/26/15
 - I. Ms. Willey volunteered to help with the traffic.
- III. Additions/Deletions to Published Agenda:
 - a. CW Gorman motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote to approve the agenda as written.
- IV. Council Minutes
 - a. Approved June 17, 2015 Mid-Month minutes on back table
 - b. Approved July 1, 2015 Council minutes on back table
- V. Mayors Report
 - a. Adoption of Proclamation for the 80th anniversary of the Social Security Program
 - CW Cook motioned, CM Sutton seconded with unanimous vote to approve the proclamation.
- VI. Reports
 - a. State Police: Cpl/1 Imhof (report given before announcements as Cpl. Imhof had to leave).
 - Lt. P is on vacation, there are no updates or reports, Townsend has been quiet.
 - Received the information on the fair and am working on getting attendance.
 - Working on info with problems in the park, troopers going in every time they are in Town and talking to kids, trying to reduce issues.
 - CM Ness said he and TM Green met with DelDot about speeding on Main Street and passed the info on to Lt. P and Cpl. Imhof. Trying to get more eyes on Main Street.
 - Cpl. Imhof stated she is trying to get more troopers on Main Street.
 - Mr. Fitzhugh said the worst speeding time is late at night or early in the morning.
 - Mr. Keenan stated the police can park in front of his house anytime day or night, and they may want to check out the lady sitting on the bench on Main Street nightly.
 - It was suggested the police use unmarked cars on Main Street and Cpl. Imhof agreed.
 - Ms. Willey said lawn ornaments are being stolen from yards and she did call the police.
 - Cpl. Imhof said anyone can contact her anytime by email or at her office at Troop 3.
 - b. Representative Jeff Spiegelman
 - We just found out this morning from Dave Hugg, Smyrna Town manager that with the new prevailing wage rules, if you don't want a project to fall into prevailing wage, the project in its entirety must be paid for with CTF funds or municipal street aid. If the Town contributes any money to the project, the prevailing wage will prevail.

- CM Sutton asked if this pertains to ongoing projects or only new projects.
 - Rep Jeff said any project that MSA or CTF funds are being used for. This interpretation comes from the Department of Labor.
- c. Townsend Fire Department: Keith Shoemaker
- Hydro seed was spilled all the way down Main Street from a contractor leaving Townsend Village. Not dangerous. Rob Allen is sending someone to clean it up.
 - BBQ is the last Saturday of the month. Please support the fire company.
- d. Town Attorney Fred Townsend III:
- Thanked Rep Jeff on the report of prevailing wages, helps the Town for future projects.
 - Nothing to report.
- e. Town Engineer Owen Hyne:
- New home construction continues in TVI and TVII.
 - 141 Main Street – completed most of the demolition, things moving along.
 - The site work is out for re-bid, wanted better prices. The pre-bid meeting for the site work at 141 Main Street was today, 3 local contractors came. Bids will be opened 8/14/15.
 - CW Gorman asked about putting a sign in front of 141 saying “Future Home of Town Hall”. This was discussed previously.
 - TE Hyne said if Council wants to do this we can have the site contractor do it or the Town can do it themselves.
 - Mr. Haines said he thought with the streetscape something was going to be done to make it easier for residents to cross the railroad tracks. You have to walk in the road to cross them.
 - TE Hyne said the railroad wouldn’t let us do anything at the tracks.
 - Mr. Keenan asked if prevailing wages will increase the cost of the new Town Hall and TE Hyne stated only if we get funds from CTF or MSA.
 - Mr. Keenan said the sidewalk at 141 Main has to be brought up to code, doesn’t make sense to do this and tear it up again when you do the streetscape.
 - TE Hyne stated we are trying to look ahead and it won’t have to be torn up. We will also be putting a sidewalk on Ginn Street.
 - Mr. Keenan said it would be best if the streetscape was done at the same time. He added he has lived here 20 years and is still waiting for a new sidewalk. He asked if the molding, etc. are going to be re-used in the new Town Hall to keep the ascetics. From what he has seen, everything has gone into the dumpster.
 - TE Hyne said the contractor is trying to save anything he can re-use.
 - CW Cook suggested the material that can’t be re-used, the Town could refurbish pieces if it appears intact, that kind of thing is in high demand and residents may want a piece of the history. Mr. Keenan said it has all been hauled to the dump.
 - Mr. Keenan told Council that residents are using the construction entrance to TVII at Gray and Ginn Street daily as a cut through and they fly. He suggested putting a chain across the entrance at night, traffic has really increased there.
 - CM Ness said he will let the police know and asked TM Green to talk to Handler about closing the entrance off at night.
 - Ms. Willey said state law requires dump trucks be covered. They fly from that entrance and they aren’t covered and dirt and small rocks fly everywhere.
 - Mr. Fitzhugh asked that the contractor be informed of the noise ordinance, they work all day Saturday and start early in the morning flying down Main Street.

- There was a discussion about the bump-outs. The residents stated they don't stop the speeding and 2 vehicles can't go past them at same time. Many more accidents since they were put in.
- f. Town Manager Dawson Green:
- The state won't put speed bumps on Main Street, they will possibly do additional striping, tubular barriers or signs but first DelDot wants to do a study because bump outs are supposed to slow traffic down. If you see them out there doing the study, feel free to talk to them and tell them your concerns.
 - Mr. Keenan asked about putting the wake up strips on the sides of Main Street.
 - TM Green stated DelDot said no, they are entirely too loud and residents would complain.
 - There was a long discussion about the bump outs not being even, not being wide enough and causing accidents.
 - Mr. Fitzhugh said turning off South Street onto Main Street you have to swing out wide to miss the bump out and you go over the center line. He said when this Town was built Main Street was straight, there wasn't a curve, the street has been moved. There are a lot more accidents because of the bump outs. He added that Council needs to take care of the residents, it's in the ordinance.
 - CM Ness stated Main Street is a state road and the main thoroughfare through Town. We are very limited in what we can do but are trying.
 - Mr. Fitzhugh asked CM Ness if he is ever going to get Town cops in here.
 - CM Ness stated we have the DE State Police. We have looked into hiring our own force.
 - Mr. Fitzhugh said that's all you do, look into it. You were on the committee when you first started and we had the money in there to start a force in Town, what happened to the money.
 - CM Ness there was never money in the budget to start our own police force because it would be cost prohibitive.
 - Mr. Fitzhugh said a lot of small Towns have their own police force and you're saying we can't afford it.
 - CM Ness said we probably could but we would have to raise your taxes.
 - Mr. Fitzhugh stated you won't raise his taxes, he doesn't have to pay taxes and he doesn't care if you raise everyone else's taxes.
 - TE Hyne said DelDot measured and approved the bump outs.
 - Mr. Keenan asked when the sidewalks from the streetscape will be fixed.
 - He was told we are working with DelDot and the contractor to get this done.
 - Mr. Fitzhugh asked why the contractor isn't using dumpsters from our trash company, why a permit isn't posted in the window for the construction and why the weeds haven't been cut.
 - All of this will be looked into.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Finance: Chair – Jermaine Hatton
 - The draft audit will tentively be submitted to Town by 8/18/15.
- b. Public Works: Chair – CM Rudy Sutton
 - Nothing to report.
- c. Land Use & Development: Chair – Jermaine Hatton
 - Nothing to report.

- d. Community Relations: Chairs – CW Cindy Cook
 - Been on vacation and haven't done much on facebook but per the recent stats we have 100% question response.
 - In response to a query I had, the Townsend historical marker will be placed in the front yard of the new Town Hall once it is done.
 - Residents have asked to see the budget. It is now on the Town website and on the facebook page.
- e. Public Safety: Chair – CM John Ness
 - Working with DelDot and the State Police in trying to resolve speeding on Main Street.
- f. Parks & Recreation: Chair – CW Lorraine Gorman
 - Park Maintenance
 - I. Park has been looking very good lately; George is doing a very good job maintaining the park.
 - II. Someone got over zealous playing basketball and broke one of the rims, it is ordered.
 - School of Rock Concert
 - I. Didn't have the turn-out we hoped for. CW Gorman thanked Ms. Willey for attending the concert.
 - II. Ms. Willey said the kids were very good and she enjoyed the concert.
 - III. CW Gorman said the electric works well and the kids who played really enjoyed themselves and said they would like to come back.
 - Movie under the Stars – Boxtrolls - August 7, 2015 – 8:30 pm
 - I. Looks like rain on Friday night, waiting until tomorrow for the weather report, may delay to movie to the raindate on Saturday night.
 - II. Little Italy, Fat Daddy's Funnel Cakes and Dino's Icecream coming to movie night.
 - Town Fair – Saturday, September 26, 2015 – 10th Anniversary
 - I. Parade @ 10:00 am, fair 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
 - II. Getting lots of registrations, had 70 vendors last year, hope to have more this year.
 - III. Concord Pets has a pet contest every year, they would like the pets to be in the parade this year.

CW Gorman said there is a band made up of doctors that play for charity and they would come and put on a concert in the park if we raise money for a charity. We might try to do this in the spring.

 - Ms. Willey said the kids from School of Rock need new equipment and musical instruments. She suggested that be our charity we raise money for.

VIII. Citizens Comments & Participation - none

IX. Adjournment: 8:47 pm, CW Cook motioned, CW Gorman seconded with unanimous vote.
