MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Oliver Springs Town Council was called to order on May 1, 2014 at 7:10 p.m. by Mayor Chris Hepler. All were present.

The meeting was opened in prayer by City Recorder Van Hook followed by the pledge to the flag.

Motion by Walker and second by Cox to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. All voted aye.

COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER:

A. The brush pickup is behind schedule due to the several days of rain. It will be finished as soon as the weather clears.

B. Spring cleanup of household items is now complete.

C. The Valley Drive culvert work will begin within the next several days as soon as the brush pickup is completed.

D. After adjustments and repairs by Greens to the cylinders wherein the mowing deck will not drop and cut into the dirt, the side-arm mower is back in service and is working well.

E. The Roane County cleanup was this past weekend and was successful.

F. The next Rodstalga car show is Saturday, May 3, 2014, in downtown Oliver Springs beginning at about 4:30 p.m. and ending about 10:30 p.m. The event last month was successful, and more individuals are expected to attend this event this month.

G. More telephone calls have been received requesting that cemetery plots at the Oliver Springs Cemetery be sold. A meeting of the Cemetery Board is requested wherein this can be discussed, and plans could be developed in order to sell cemetery plots. If the cemetery plots cannot be sold at any time in the near future, a sign should be prepared and placed stating that cemetery plots are not available at this time. One gentleman is upset as he is not getting information as to the sale of plots after months of calling Mr. Brummett.

H. Several health insurance quotes with Humana Insurance have been received from different agents. Hopefully updated information will be available at the Thursday evening workshop.

I. If funds can be obtained resulting from savings on health insurance premiums, approximately eight thousand to ten thousand should be budgeted for repairs to Red Bud Park to correct safety issues as well as improve the overall look and function of the park grounds.

J. The Pine Street Alley has been repaired except for a one half (1/2) load of gravel that will be placed once the rain is over this week.

K. The City Attorney, Building Inspector Glen Cofer, Mrs. Gifford, her attorney, and the City Manager will be present for a scheduled walk through of the Gifford property on May 2, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. Town Council will be advised as to the findings.

L. The Billy Phillips code violation issues have been reviewed by the City Attorney and he believes that the Town may proceed with the cleaning and removing of debris from the Phillips property pursuant to the court order. Quotes will be obtained and provided to Town Council.

M. Mr. Tinker on Hen Valley Road has been advised that he will have until the end of April for the completion of the cleanup of the property that he is renting to own. If

the cleanup is not complete by the end of April, the matter will be turned over to the City Attorney for further action. If the issue of the pet potbellied pig has not been resolved by the end of April, this issue will also be addressed.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Mr. Jason Fairchild of 533 First Norway Lane, when he mowed the grass and weed eated several family and friend grave plots at the Oliver Springs Cemetery noticed that many of the graves are being covered up by grass clippings and by the grass growing over the flat grave markers. He suggested that whoever mows the grass use a grass blower to blow the grass from the headstones and footstones, and that efforts be made to clean the grass or sod from covered up grave markers and corner plot markers.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Craze announced that the library committee will have a kick off benefit for a summer reading program for children ages four through ten on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., at the library. This summer reading program will begin June 10, 2014. Information and registration are available at that time.

Mr. Holland asked and Mrs. Treece discussed various aspects of the billing by the City Attorney, and that the Mayor and Mrs. Treece believed it would be best to have the City Attorney attend one council meeting each month in order to be present to answer questions from Town Council Members performed by the City Attorney. Much of his early billing was for review work and meetings in order to bring him up to speed on the several pressing legal matters and cases of the Town.

Mr. Holland asked and Mrs. Treece replied that the Town averages about three inmates each week on the work crew, but it will be some time before the Town gets the full inmate work crew returning.

Mr. Shillings asked and Mrs. Treece advised that much of the overtime was due to salt spreading as a result of inclement weather, water and sewer repair, and shortages of employees due to illness, vacations, and continued training. On several budget line items the budgeted overtime was unfortunately exceeded.

Mr. Shillings stated from time to time he has questions from citizens about various aspects of the operations of the City, including the various expenditures for labor, supplies, and material. Mr. Shillings desires to do the very best job he can, and tries to do the very best job that he can, and accordingly he will ask questions and seek information as to any of these questions that may arise. In his efforts, Mr. Shillings is not trying to make people mad or otherwise create problems. He is simply trying to answer questions and do a good job. City Recorder Van Hook suggested that if one does nothing, then one probably will not be criticized. However, if one tries to accomplish something, criticism will be offered. Therefore, City Recorder Van Hook many times considers it a compliment that he is being criticized as he is attempting to accomplish to improve the Town or other venture under consideration. He encouraged Mr. Shillings to think of any criticism or attack as a compliment to his efforts. Mr. Shillings hoped that people would understand his efforts to improve the Town.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mrs. Treece asked about the status of the possible sale of Oliver Springs cemetery plots, and Mayor Hepler requested input from City Recorder Van Hook. Recorder Van Hook advised that he, James Brummett, and Edward Coker were the three man Board of Directors of the Oliver Springs Cemetery, and had been appointed by Town Council several years ago. The position of City Administrator, first David Bowling and now Tina Treece, is an ex officio member of the board. Unfortunately over the approximately one hundred and twenty five years of the operation of the cemetery, accurate burial records have been lost and are not now available for use by the existing management. Although the cemetery is in possession of a cemetery plot map, and the University of Tennessee archeological department used ground-penetrating radar to determine occupied and

unoccupied grave spaces, the cemetery board does not have reliably accurate records as to the unoccupied plots that would be available for sale, the unoccupied plots that have been sold, and the plots that have been sold and are occupied, and possibly the plots that are occupied and not sold, but unknown to the Board. In view of this dilemma, the Board several years ago not to sell cemetery plots at this time, as the Board could not guarantee that any plots sold would be unoccupied. If the Board sold what it believed to be an unoccupied plot, and when the plot was attempted to be used, an unknown grave were uncovered, this would create problems, especially in view of the emotional time when a loved one is deceased and must be buried. It is possible to spend substantial sums of money for an accurate and thorough survey of the property, to create the most accurate maps and records possible, and then begin to sell cemetery plots with some degree of reliability. On the other hand, if Town Council so desired, the cemetery could sell cemetery plots with no guarantee that the plot would be unoccupied. If at the time of need, the plot proved to be occupied (but unknown to the Board and others at the time of sale), the Board could exchange the occupied plot for an unoccupied plot. In view of these continuing problems and as Town Council took no action as to the sale of cemetery plots, Mrs. Treece suggested, and the Mayor so directed, that a sign be prepared and placed on the cemetery grounds advising that at this time cemetery plots are not for sale. Mrs. Treece, Mr. Cox, and others suggested that perhaps the Board could have a meeting to review the situation as it now exists. Mr. Cox offered some suggestions for solutions and he was referred to offer the suggestions and ideas to the Cemetary Board

NEW BUSINESS:

Upon recommendation by the Assistant Fire Chief Justin Bailey, motion by Cox and second by Craze to hire Thomas Giles, Zack Presnell, and Michael Munamaker, who have prior experience, and James Fergreson, Justin Turpin, and Gregg Fisher, who were relatively inexperienced, as volunteer fireman for the Oliver Springs Volunteer Fire Department to begin training and serving. After discussion, all voted aye.

Motion by Walker and second by Stinnett to authorize the purchase of five SCBA oxygen cylinders (a forty five minute oxygen bottle) at a cost of $895.00 each for the Fire Department use. After discussion, all voted aye.

Mr. Cox commented that the Town is fortunate to have an outstanding Volunteer Fire Department. The members work well together and do a good job.

With no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was upon motion duly made and seconded and unanimously approved, adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph H. Van Hook
City Recorder

APPROVED:

Chris Hepler
Mayor

TOS Minutes 5-1-14