MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Oliver Springs Town Council was called to order on March 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Chris Hepler. All were present except Mr. Craze and Mr. Holland, who had excused absences.

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

Mayor Hepler congratulated Officer Laxton for attending and graduating from the National Forensic Academy, as the Mayor had the opportunity to travel with several others to attend the graduation ceremony. The students at the Academy represented federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across the state and geographic area, and the Academy is in the nature of a CSI investigation school, and is highly technical in nature. Having Officer Laxton attend and graduate from this academy is an honor not only to Officer Laxton, but also to the Oliver Springs Police Department.

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

COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER:

A. The Town currently has three inmates serving on the inmate work crew and a fourth inmate is expected to be assigned to the crew this week. However, one of the existing three inmates will be leaving on Monday for six weeks of required classes.

B. The repairs to the fence at the ball field are nearly complete. The only remaining work to be completed is the installation of top yellow caps on the remainder of the fencing, which should be completed in about one half of a day.

C. When the water was turned on at the ball fields and parks for the first time since fall, although the bathrooms were winterized, several of the waterlines had burst, probably caused due the excessive cold and excessive age of the pipes, and the cold weather won. The repairs to the ball field have now been completed. Repairs to the playground restrooms and concession areas will be reviewed to create an inventory of the required parts and repair work will begin probably next week. Insulated plywood backers for the metal gate doors will be fabricated and installed in order to give a higher level of protection in the future to the bathrooms and pipes.

D. The contractors of the Hannah Drive excavation/construction project and the contractors from the Kroger shopping center construction site in Oak Ridge have donated a large amount of dirt that has been used as fill at the DAV parking lot. Roane County has donated concrete tile for the culvert project at the DAV. However, the concrete tile did not meet specifications, and C. R. Barger and Son will sell to the Town the proper culvert at a cost of $13.90 per foot, to be delivered at no cost to the Town. As weather permits, the culvert will be installed. Mr. Troy Burney worked on one of the last clear days last week to straighten out the bend in the left side of the culvert and the workers will continue to do the same on the right side as soon as possible.

E. Mr. Timmy Tuggle has done a great job regarding the painting and body work on the new Water Department van.

F. The litter in Town is continuing to be picked up. All street department employees are to keep trash bags with them at all times and if trash is noted in the area they are working, the trash is to be picked up and not just left laying.

G. Scheduling permitting, the 2014-2015 first draft of the budget will be submitted within the next week to ten days for the workshop later this month.

H. The Town has received and reviewed all of the legal files from former City Attorney Chadwell. Ms. Treece contacted the several Chancery Court Clerks to verify

that the cases were not set for a hearing, and the Court Clerks advised that no court hearings had been scheduled. As soon as the Town Council selects a new City Attorney, Mrs. Treece will meet with the City Attorney so that the files can be transferred to them and they can begin work on the cases.

I. Perspective city attorneys were interviewed on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. Mrs. Treece personally feels that the Judkins Law Firm would best represent the Town. Mr. Judkins is well versed in all areas of concern as to the legal issues facing the Town of Oliver Springs including that of condemnation, tax sales, construction lawsuits, and water and sewer issues. Mayor Hepler, City Recorder Van Hook, and City Manager Treece were present for the interviews.

J. Rodstalgia, a car show, is planned for April, 2014. This will follow the same format as the car show held during the October Sky Festival. Details of the event are listed in an e-mail from Denver.

K. All documentation requesting a state law exception for the ATV traffic has been sent to Representative Kent Calfee. Mr. Calfee called and advised that the documentation has been forwarded to the parties involved, and he will monitor the progress, and he will advise as the request progresses.

L. As to the Pine Alley Issue, Mrs. Brown advised Mrs. Treece (on 3/3/2014) that if the Town abandons the alley, Mrs. Brown will only have 7.5 feet of the alley, and as she is wanting to build a parking pad for her property, she cannot construct the pad with just 7.5 feet of the of the alley. The subject of detouring water from her property was never mentioned. Mr. Coker also advises that he does not wish to receive the 7.5 feet of which he would receive if the alley is abandoned. However, he is willing to use his bobcat with City assistance to level or grade the alleyway. Mrs. Treece has requested quotes for the grading of the alleyway but as of this date, has not received any replies for the work and cost involving the alleyway. If Council instructs, Mrs. Treece will investigate and work further to obtain specifications and quotations.

M. Mrs. Treece and other employees, on behalf of the Town are planning a "surprise" retirement party for Troy Burney at noon on March 21, 2014, at the Tupper Town Community Center. Lunch, cake, a short celebration will be held. Please RSVP your attendance Mrs. Treece or City Secretary Becky Campbell so an accurate attendance count for food items can be obtained. REMEMBER THIS IS A SURPRISE. NOT A WORD!!! PLEASE.

N. Both Dixie Choppers have been serviced and are ready for the upcoming mowing season. The Kubota will be serviced within the next two weeks and will be ready as well. The push mowers, weed eaters, and all other equipment will be inspected and serviced as needed to ensure that they will be ready for use when the weather breaks. The sidearm mower will be serviced, inspected, checked, and repaired if needed, to ensure that it is in working order.

O. The inmate line work crew, absent on another project for approximately two weeks, will return within the next two weeks. They will complete the area on the backside of the soccer field and will continue on with the Town's project list, and remove all debris collected at creek bank edge as part of their clean up efforts.

P. Mrs. Treece and Mr. Ed Coker of Ace Hardware met to discuss quantity pricing on items that the several departments use regularly. Department heads are preparing a list of the parts that are regularly required or needed, and Mr. Coker and Mrs. Treece will review the listing to see if bulk pricing can be obtained. Once this has been completed, Mrs. Treece will advise. Please note that Mr. Coker is happy to assist with this matter.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

None.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Stinnett asked and Mrs. Treece advised that the erosion of the edge of the road at Highway 62 at the Morgan County Roane County line has been reported to TDOT.

Mr. Shillings asked and the Mayor, the Recorder, Mr. Eddie Coker, the City Manager, and others discussed that due to the inaccurate records of cemetery lots sold and burials performed, over the many, many, years, combined with the several changes in management, the lack of revenue to maintain the cemetery, and for other reasons, no cemetery lots are being sold. Although the University of Tennessee Architectural Department working with surveyor Lackey and Associates, Inc. has performed some surveys and testing on the cemetery to determine where burials might be, and due to the fact that there are many unmarked graves, the Cemetery Board of Directors chose not to sell anymore lots at this time as there was concern that cemetery lots could be double sold, or cemetery lots shown on the cemetery records to be available for sale, might otherwise be occupied by unmarked graves; therefore it would be best not to sell any lots at this time. Funding is needed to conduct a thorough and accurate survey of the sold and unsold, occupied and unoccupied lots, in order to bring the cemetery records as current as possible. However, funding has not been available and does not appear to be available in the immediate near future.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Mayor opened discussion as to the abandonment of the Pine Street alley. Mrs. Brown and Mr. Coker expressed no desire to have the alley closed. Mrs. Brown advised that the 7.5 feet that she would receive would not be enough square footage for her property improvement purposes. No action was taken.

After discussion, and upon recommendation by the Mayor, motion by Walker and second by Stinnett to hire Joe Judkins and Nick Armes as the new City Attorneys at the rate of $100.00 per hour. All voted aye.

After discussion, motion by Stinnett and second by Walker to close Main Street from the intersection of Main Street at the Southern Railroad to the Police Department on the last Saturday of April for each quarter, for a cruise night celebration, involving outdoor movies, entertainment, food, races, and other family oriented entertainment. All voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

Chief Morgan advised that the several law enforcement agencies in the area had conducted a beer sale sting operation in Oliver Springs and two businesses were cited for violations. After discussion, the Mayor scheduled a Beer Board meeting for March 20, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

City Manager Treece advised that each Councilman had received a copy of the amendment to the Beer Ordinance. After discussion, it was decided not to take any action to allow Council members for research and investigation.

With no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was upon motion duly made and seconded and unanimously approved, adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph H. Van Hook
City Recorder

APPROVED:

Chris Hepler
Mayor