

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday April 17, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All members were present. Mayor Mike Werner called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Finance Director Robert Holt gave the Invocation.

Mayor Werner then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2018. Commissioner Don Smith made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Vice Mayor Mark McCown and then unanimously adopted.

Mayor Werner then recognized Judge Carter Moore who had signed up prior to the meeting and had asked to speak. Judge Moore stated that he had been a County Court Judge in Cocke County for six years prior to being appointed to retiring Judge Ben Hooper's position on November 2, 2017. Judge Moore further stated that he oversees Criminal Court in Cocke, Grainger, and Sevier counties and has recently served on the panel to combat the Opioid Crisis in the surrounding counties as well as being very involved in Drug Recovery Court. Judge Moore concluded by stating that he wanted to introduce himself so that the Commissioners could put a face with a name and thanked them for the opportunity to do so.

Item B under Petitions and Communications from the Public and Items from the audience was the Presentation of a Certificate of Recognition to the Gatlinburg-Pittman 2017-18 Lady Highlanders Basketball Team by Mayor Werner.

Regarding Reports of Boards and Committees was the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau (GCVB) First Quarter Report presentation by President/CEO Mark Adams who stated that the First Quarter concentration was making sure the business plan for the year is in place and is being implemented. Mr. Adams proceeded to review highlights which included that the Gatlinburg Convention Center staff, along with the GCVB, hired Proof of the Pudding as the new food service company for the Gatlinburg Convention Center and so far have been very pleased with the results. Mr. Adams continued that the Finance Department is using their allocated funding wisely with marketing expenditures accounting for 69.4% of the total Quarterly Budget, which helps to bring more visitors to Gatlinburg. Mr. Adams further stated that the GCVB has thirty-one employees with several of those employees receiving recognitions for service awards at the March Board meeting. Mr. Adams continued by giving highlights of the First Quarter events including Hands on Gatlinburg, the Gatlinburg Wine Tour, Gatlinburg Winefest which had 1,200 people in attendance with 45% being from outside Tennessee, the Spur Clean Up, and Earth Day Festivities. Mr. Adams then reviewed the increases in revenues related to the Convention Center and further stated that the future Convention Center estimated attendance was confirmed at

24,272 which is an increase of 3,436 from the First Quarter of 2017 and added that new event bookings are up from the First Quarter of 2017. Mr. Adams continued that along with booking the Convention Center, the GCVB also assists area hoteliers with leads and that 39 leads were sent to local hoteliers during the First Quarter. Mr. Adams then gave Visitor Services information stating that there was an increase of 1,000 visitors from 2016 to 2017. Mr. Adams concluded by highlighting the Marketing and Public Relations information for the First Quarter including that the repost of Blake Shelton's Ole Red Facebook post reached 602,000 people and that Gatlinburg was featured in 14 different publications.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

(1) that she would like to announce that the Annual Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Thursday, April 19, at 1:00 p.m. at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School and stated that the City is proud of its designation as a Tree City USA, and is particularly pleased with the National Arbor Day Foundation's recognition of Gatlinburg for its 30th year of achieving that status; and,

(2) that she would also like to announce that the 6th Annual Firefighters 5K and 10K road races will be held on Saturday, April 21. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the 1230 East Parkway Fire Hall and the races will begin at 9:00 a.m. This event raises money for the Gatlinburg Firefighters Association Community outreach programs and for more information go to gatlinburgfire.org; and,

(3) that another upcoming event is the Spur Clean Up which will start at 9:00 a.m. on April 24, at the Spur Welcome Center and that local businesses are encouraged to bring teams to participate in a top trash collection competition for a Big Daddy's pizza party; and,

(4) that she would like to announce with Earth Week (presented by Hilton Garden Inn and Gatlinburg Chamber Foundation) being held Monday, April 23-Friday, April 27, there are a couple of events to note. One being the Earth Day Festival which will be held on April 26, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Anakeesta Plaza which is a new location for 2018. The second event is the Earth Day 5K Run/Walk – Night Race will be held on Friday, April 27, and will start and end at the Nantahala Outdoor Center. Registration begins at 8:00 p.m. and the race begins at 10:00 p.m. For more information, go to [Gatlinburg.com/Earth Week](http://Gatlinburg.com/EarthWeek) page.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2525, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL ZONING ORDINANCE BY RECLASSIFYING PARCEL 29 OF TAX MAP 126L, GROUP D, LOCATED AT 213 SILVERBELL LANE

FROM R-1A TO R-1, Public Hearing and Second Reading (Passed First Reading 3/20/18 and Planning Commission 2/15/18)

The only Item under Old Business was was Ordinance Number 2525, an Ordinance amending the Municipal Zoning Ordinance by reclassifying Parcel 29 of Tax Map 126L, Group D, located at 213 Silverbell Lane from R-1A to R-1, Public Hearing, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 3/20/18) (Passed Planning Commission 2/15/18). Commissioner Hannah Helton Harper made a motion to approve the Ordinance which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Mayor Werner opened the Public Hearing in which there were no comments and the Public Hearing was closed. Ordinance Number 2525 was then unanimously adopted on Second and Final Reading.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE USAGE OF THE AQUARIUM PARKING GARAGE FOR THE SEVIER COUNTY FOOD MINISTRIES FIESTA ON APRIL 24, 2018.

Item A under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the usage of the Aquarium Parking Garage for the Sevier County Food Ministries Fiesta on April 24, 2018. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve usage of the Aquarium Parking Garage which was seconded by Commissioner Smith and then unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF USAGE OF THE MCMAHAN PARKING GARAGE FOR THE ARROWMONT SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS STARRY NIGHT EVENT ON JUNE 1, 2018.

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving usage of the McMahan Parking Garage for the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts Starry Night Event on June 1, 2018. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve usage of the McMahan Parking Garage which was seconded by Commissioner Harper and then unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 1, 2018 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019.

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving Health Insurance Plans for the period beginning May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Health Insurance Plans for the period beginning May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019 which was seconded by Vice

Mayor McCown. The City Manager recognized Finance Director Robert Holt, Insurance Consultant Chris Fessenden, and Human Resources Manager Michele Diebold and stated that they have been working very diligently on the renewal of the City's Health Insurance. The City Manager further stated, that at the last City Commission Meeting, there was an item on the Agenda regarding the Health Insurance renewal and Commission was asked to take no action in order for the City to have additional time to review a new proposal from Humana. The City Manager continued that with the current Insurance carrier United Healthcare increasing rates by almost 15%, the recommendation is for United Healthcare to remain as the City's provider for the month of May, due to the time needed to transition to Humana, with Humana becoming the City's Insurance provider effective June 1. The City Manager asked the Finance Director to further explain. Mr. Holt stated that he, Mr. Fessenden, Mrs. Diebold, and Humana Insurance Representative Rob Hare have spent a lot of time researching these plans and that it is a big step to change Health Insurance providers. Mr. Holt continued that there is always some disruption, but that Humana has offered a Plan with a broader network of medical facilities and doctors and that City Staff is working with Humana to minimize any disruption. Mr. Holt further stated that the change to Humana will save the City \$100,000 per year and that the Humana Plan is as good as or better than the current Plan with the Humana Plan only reflecting a 10.7% increase over the present rate. Mr. Holt continued that the Humana Plan offers a Wellness Program, complimentary Biometric Screenings, and Tele Medicine which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for employees to get medical advice and that the City has checked references with other local businesses and governments with Humana Plans and those references have all been positive. Mr. Holt concluded by stating that with the benefits and financial savings, it is worthwhile to make the switch from United Healthcare to Humana beginning June 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019. Vice Mayor McCown asked if City employees will be able to keep the same doctors to which Mr. Holt replied for the most part and that there may be some isolated incidents, and that Humana has stated that if a doctor is not in network they will work with that doctor to get them into the network if at all possible. After these comments, the motion to approve the Health Insurance Plans for the period beginning May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019 was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN INTER LOCAL AGREEMENT FOR AUTOMATIC RESPONSE OF FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS SERVICES.

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an Inter Local Agreement for automatic response of Fire, Rescue, and EMS Services. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Inter Local Agreement which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The City Manager commented that this is

a relatively new approach to mutual aid on these type services and asked Fire Chief Greg Miller to give an overview. Chief Miller stated that mutual aid is when the Gatlinburg Fire Department or another Department gets on the scene of a large fire or incident and then calls for help. Chief Miller continued that this adjustment creates automatic aid and is an Agreement between the Gatlinburg Fire Department and the City of Pigeon Forge, as it can only be done with the closest and staffed Department. Chief Miller explained that if either Department is dispatched or 911 receives a report of a confirmed structure fire, both Departments respond which creates more first responders arriving on the scene and if the first responding Department deems that they do not need help then the call can be cancelled at that time. Chief Miller further stated that this Agreement also offers a significant benefit since ISO states that if you have automatic aid with a nearby community Department, both Departments can count the other's responders in their numbers. Chief Miller concluded by stating that this Agreement will put more emergency responders on the scene sooner. After these comments, the Inter Local Agreement was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CLINICAL AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH WALTERS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE GATLINBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Walters State Community College and the Gatlinburg Fire Department. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the Clinical Affiliation Agreement which was seconded by Commissioner Harper. The City Manager then commented this is a long standing Agreement between the Gatlinburg Fire Department and Walters State Community College related to their Paramedic Program. The City Manager asked the Fire Chief Greg Miller to give an overview. Chief Miller stated that the Gatlinburg Fire Department and Walters State Community College have had this Agreement for over 25 years and that it is primarily for the EMT and Paramedic students. Chief Miller continued that Walters State Community College has a Field Internship portion of the curriculum and stated that the Gatlinburg Fire Department provides outside the classroom instructors, which are the City's Paramedics and Preceptors, and the students participate in a ride along with the instructors and by doing so the students get to realize the live patient aspect and begin to get hands on practice. Chief Miller concluded by stating that each student who goes through the program is required to carry a \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 malpractice policy. After these comments, the motion to approve a Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Walters State Community College and the Gatlinburg Fire Department was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A RECREATION FACILITIES FIVE YEAR LONG RANGE PLAN FOR 2018-

2022.

Item F under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Recreations Facilities Five Year Long Range Plan for 2018-2022. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the Plan which was seconded by Commissioner Harper. The City Manager commented that this actually has to do with the next Agenda Item which is a Resolution to authorize the submittal of a Parks and Recreation Fund Grant and is part of the requirements of the application for the Grant. The City Manager continued that there was a Workshop Meeting last month with the Recreation Director Marty Nicely and Mr. Daniel Boutte of Lose and Associates in which the Commissioners were presented with some ideas of what to do at Mynatt Park. The City Manager further stated that this is a Project to take the City's oldest park, opened in 1973, and make it ADA accessible and a better experience for everyone. The City Manager asked Mr. Nicely to further explain. Mr. Nicely stated that a large part of the Grant process is planning and that is specifically what this addresses. Mr. Nicely continued that if the Grant is received that the City agrees to a 5 year plan to develop the Park, maintain facilities, and do a post completion inspection. Mr. Nicely further stated that the deadline for the Grant is tomorrow and, if approved, the plan and the Resolution will be emailed to the State along with some other documents. Vice Mayor McCown asked if it was a 50/50 Grant to which Mr. Nicely replied that it was a 50/50 match of \$500,000. After these comments, the Recreation Facilities Five Year Long Range Plan was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 950, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FUND (LPRF) GRANT APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT MYNATT PARK.

Item H under New Business was Resolution Number 950 authorizing the submission of a Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) Grant Application for improvements at Mynatt Park. Vice Mayor Mark McCown made a motion to approve the Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Smith and then unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO SEVIER SOLID WASTE, INC.

Item H under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Contract for the conveyance of property to Sevier Solid Waste, Inc. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Contract for the conveyance of property which was seconded by Commissioner Helton. The City Manager commented that the property in question is one of two Compactors that the City purchased in 2004

from the City of Sevierville and one of the Compactors is currently being used by the Convention Center. The City Manager continued that Sevier Solid Waste, Inc., had approached the City about purchasing the extra Compactor that is not in use and after determining that the City does not see a need for the extra Compactor in the future, this Item was put on the Agenda. After these comments, the Contract for the conveyance of property to Sevier Solid Waste was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH WHALEY CONSTRUCTION, LLC, RELATED TO A RETAINING WALL PROJECT ON CHEROKEE ORCHARD ROAD.

Item I under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an Agreement with Whaley Construction, LLC, related to a Retaining Wall Project on Cherokee Orchard Road. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The City Manager commented that the Engineer Gary Norvell and the Public Works Director Larry Henderson were both in attendance. The City Manager continued that this is a Project which was funded two Budget cycles ago and the Project can only be completed from April to October due to it being on the waterway and State restrictions related to the trout. The City Manager asked Mr. Henderson to further explain. Mr. Henderson stated that this is a 120 foot section of retaining wall constructed at the Park boundary and extending downstream and that it will be constructed with a redi rock pattern. Mr. Henderson further stated that the wall will be 8 feet in height and will be shaded colors of gray. Mr. Henderson continued that the Contract price is \$264,993 and is a 30 day Contract from notice to proceed and that there will be one lane of traffic open at all times which will be traffic signal controlled. After these comments, the Agreement with Whaley Construction, LLC, related to a Retaining Wall Project on Cherokee Orchard Road was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE GATLINBURG AIRPORT AUTHORITY, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Item J under New Business was discussion and consideration of making an appointment to the Gatlinburg Airport Authority, Inc., Board of Directors. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to reappoint Lisa Reagan which was seconded by Commissioner Smith and unanimously approved.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Don Smith:

(1) Commissioner Smith commented that he would like to congratulate the Lady Highlanders on another great season and the certificate they received this evening.

Commissioner Hannah Helton Harper:

(1) Commissioner Harper commented that she would like to congratulate the Lady Highlanders on a great job and stated that it also says a lot about the City and the rebuilding of the community.

Vice Mayor Mark McCown

(1) Vice Mayor McCown asked Public Works Director Larry Henderson how the Big Belly solar compactors downtown were working to which Mr. Henderson replied that they are performing well in the four years the City has had them and the compactors should have a life expectancy of seven to eight years.

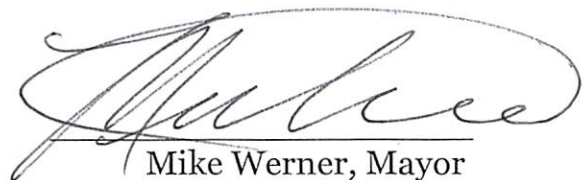
Mayor Mike Werner

(1) Mayor Werner commented that he would like to offer his condolences to Commissioner Smith and his family on the loss of Debbie Smith and stated how much he appreciates Commissioner Smith and what a great lady Debbie was and how much she will be missed.

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Cindy C. Ogle

Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder
/cl


Mike Werner, Mayor