

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday April 11, 2017, 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. Building and Planning Director David Ball gave the Invocation.

Mayor Werner then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 14, 2017. Commissioner Mike Helton made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Don Smith and then unanimously adopted.

Mayor Werner then made a few comments to the audience and stated that, if there is something new that was not discussed at the last City Commission meeting, the Board is willing to hear such matters. The Mayor further stated that taking the time to go over the same questions as the last meeting is not acceptable since these questions have been answered by the Fire Chief, Police Chief and the City Manager and reiterated that, if an audience member has something new to say, it will be heard and that comments are limited to three minutes.

Regarding Petitions and Communications from the Public, Mayor Werner recognized several individuals who had signed in to speak which were Mr. Alan Day, Ms. Lauren Meier, Ms. Dinah Bays, Ms. Sharon Hirschfield, Ms. Katrina Rial, Ms. Cheryl Refsland, Mr. Bill May, Ms. Genie Brabham and Mr. Robert Montgomery. All of the individuals that addressed City Commission had questions and concerns that related to the November 28, 2016, Wildfires, and actions during and subsequent to the event.

Regarding Reports of Boards and Committees, Item a was the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce Foundation Report presentation by GCVB Chief Operating Officer Ms. Vicki Simms. Mayor Werner recognized Ms. Simms who began by thanking Mayor Werner, the Board of Commissioners, the Fire Chief, Firefighters, Police Chief and Police personnel and the City Manager as well as all the City Departments for all their hard work and dedication during the Wildfires and in the recovery and rebuilding process. Ms. Simms then gave an overview of the Gatlinburg Relief Fund and stated that the Gatlinburg Relief Fund was established by the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce Foundation, a 501C3 organization, as a funding source to assist businesses, employees and the community after the November 28, 2016 Wildfires. Ms. Simms continued that no funding received through that account has covered administrative or overhead cost and that those expenses have been absorbed by the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce and that the Fund to date has assisted 355 individuals who were employed by businesses completely destroyed by the fire as well as the families of the 14 fire fatalities. Ms.

Simms concluded by stating that the intention moving forward is to finalize the utilization of the remainder of the funds by assisting the unmet needs of employees who have been laid off or are receiving limited hours due to the Wildfires.

Item B under Reports of Boards and Committees was the Mountain Tough Recovery Team (MTRT) report presentation by Secretary Mrs. Jackie Leatherwood. Mayor Werner then recognized Mrs. Leatherwood and she stated that the MTRT office will be located in the Citizens National Bank Building on Highway 321 in Suite 2 and that the MTRT is getting ready to break ground on the first new home to be rebuilt in Gatlinburg in the next seven to ten days. Ms. Leatherwood continued and stated that the MTRT is here to help with the unmet needs of Wildfire survivors and stated that there will be an Executive Director and an Administrative Assistant and six case workers. The case workers will meet individually with people to assist with any unmet need that they might be experiencing and help work with the individual for resolution. Mrs. Leatherwood stated that the Team wants to help individuals get back to a quality of life that was had prior to the Wildfires and that will take time, patience and understanding and that to visit Mountaintough.org to check on the ground breaking for the first home to be rebuilt and that it is in conjunction with the Appalachia Service Project and that it is very exciting to be a part of this effort and that it is a long range recovery process that will take time.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

- (1) that she would like to remind everyone of Arbor Day that will be held tomorrow at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School at 1:30 P.M.; and,
- (2) that she would like to announce that Earth Week presented by Hilton Garden Inn and Gatlinburg Chamber Foundation is Monday, April 10 – 14, 2017 with an event every day to celebrate being a good steward of the Earth. All events are free except the Earth Day 5K Road Race on Friday night; and,
- (3) that next, she would like to announce that the Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by G.C.O.P.P. is Saturday, April 15 at Mynatt Park and that children between the ages of 1 and 12 are invited to bring their Easter Baskets to Mynatt Park on Historic Nature Trail- Airport Road at Noon to meet the Easter Bunny and that the Easter Egg Hunt begins at 1:00 P.M. and that Hot dogs and refreshments will be served and prizes will be given to the children; and,
- (4) that she would like to announce another upcoming event that is the Gatlinburg Emergency Services Golf Tournament which will be held on Friday, May 5, 2017, at the Gatlinburg Golf Course and that lunch will be provided at 12:00 P.M. with a shotgun start at 1:00 P.M. and to contact Ron Barrett or Carrie Hurst at the Police

Department for team and/or sponsorship information; and,

(5) that finally, she would like to announce some new events which include: Gatlinburg Goes Green Seminar Monday, April 17 from 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. and that the E-Waste Recycling Day on Wednesday, April 19 and the Earth Day Festival on April 20 has moved to downtown Gatlinburg. The event runs from Noon to 5:00 P.M. and to check the events page on Gatlinburg.com for more information. The City Manager further stated that there is a new addition to the events calendar on Friday, April 28, Gatlinburg will host Rodney Atkins in concert and that Rodney grew up in East Tennessee and wants to help out the community and offered to do a free concert to help attract people to the area and that it will be held Friday, April 28 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. in the Shade Tree Parking Lot adjacent to the Convention Center on Historic Nature Trail/Airport Rd and that everyone is invited to the free concert.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN OFF-PREMISE CERTIFICATE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER FOR DIANNE V. KNIPP, D/B/A PARK LIQUOR, 1235 E. PARKWAY, STE #1.

The first Item under New Business was discussion and consideration approving an Off-Premise Certificate of Good Moral Character for Dianne V. Knipp, d/b/a Park Liquor, 1235 E. Parkway, Ste #1. Commissioner Helton made a motion to approve the Certificate which was seconded by Commissioner Smith and then unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE FOR DIANNE V. KNIPP, D/B/A PARK LIQUOR, 1235 E. PARKWAY, STE #1.

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Certificate of Compliance for Dianne V. Knipp, d/b/a Park Liquor, 1235 E. Parkway, Ste #1. Commissioner Jerry Hays made a motion to approve the Certificate which was seconded by Vice Mayor Mark McCown and then unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A PERMANENT RIGHT-OF-WAY USE REQUEST LOCATED AT EAST PARKWAY AND HIDDEN HILLS ROAD (REQUESTED BY RANDY CORLEW FOR COMFORT SUITES BY SEVEN HILLS HOSPITALITY, LLC).

The next Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a permanent right-of-way use request located at East Parkway and Hidden Hills Road (requested by Randy Corlew for Comfort Suites by Seven Hills Hospitality,

LLC). Commissioner Hays made a motion to approve the request which was seconded by Commissioner Helton. The City Manager then explained that this project has been in discussion stages for a couple of years and that the Design Engineer for the project is Mr. Randy Corlew and that the proposed location of the project is at the intersection of Highway 321 and Hidden Hills Road and that the request is for approval to make improvements to the Hidden Hills side of the road and that Planning Commission reviewed this several months ago and are recommending it for approval. The City Manager then asked the City Building and Planning Director to further explain and Mr. Ball stated that this was reviewed by Planning Commission and that there was discussion about creating better access to the property and creating a better traffic situation with Hidden Hills Road as a result of the Hotel being added to the corner. Mr. Ball further stated that Mr. Corlew developed a plan that would add an additional turn lane that would help transition from Hidden Hills Road onto the Hotel property as well as provide an additional turn lane for motorists coming down Hidden Hills Road that would provide a left turn lane. Mr. Ball continued that the request is to add a retaining wall that is necessary which would be forty-two inches high and would be located on the edge of the right-of-way between the current City street and the Hotel property which is the area that would be raised and filled to get the turn lane in properly and that the Public Works Department is good with this request and that more details would need to be submitted before any work is done. Mayor Werner then asked about a time frame for ground breaking and Mr. Corlew stated that site work will be starting soon and the Owner wants to do a groundbreaking in May. Vice Mayor McCown then asked as to the usage of the existing log cabin and Mr. Corlew stated that the cabin would be used as a construction trailer. After these comments, the motion to approve the permanent right-of-way use requested located at East Parkway and Hidden Hills Road was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 936, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ABSG CONSULTING, INC. (ABS CONSULTING) TO CONDUCT AN AFTER ACTION REVIEW RELATED TO THE WILDFIRES EVENT THAT OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 28, 2016.

The next Item under New Business was Resolution 936, a Resolution authorizing the City to enter into a Professional Consulting Service Agreement with ABSG Consulting, Inc. (ABS Consulting) to conduct an after action review related to the Wildfires Event that occurred on November 28, 2016. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Helton. The City Manager then stated that both the Chiefs have been involved in the Request For Proposal (RFP) process looking at various companies that would perform a review of this nature and what the review would entail and that this is the recommended company to use for the review. The City Manager then asked

the Police Chief to further explain and he stated that what has been proposed will be to review the fire from an historical perspective, fire dynamics, the response, what happened and issues encountered, lessons learned and recommendations which will be included in the After Action Report. After these comments, Resolution Number 936 was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SITE MANAGER AND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MICHEAL H. JENKINS D/B/A LAND AIR TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Site Manager and Lease Agreement with Micheal H. Jenkins d/b/a Land Air Total Communications. Commissioner Helton made a motion to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager then explained that this is related to the site on Greystone Heights Road and that the City has a long standing arrangement with Mr. Mike Jenkins and Land Air Total Communications as the Site Manager for that facility. The City Manager then commented that in lieu of making a lease payment for that facility, Mr. Jenkins serves as the Site Manager. After these comments, the motion to approve a Site Manager and Lease Agreement with Micheal H. Jenkins d/b/a Land Air Total Communications was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF THE UNITED HEALTHCARE MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN.

The next Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the renewal of the United Healthcare Medical Insurance Plan. Commissioner Helton made a motion to approve the renewal which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager then explained that the City's Insurance Consultant, Mr. Chris Fessenden and the Human Resources Manager as well as Finance Director, have been negotiating the plan for some time and stated that it is a one year renewal with United Healthcare and that, if approved, would begin May 1, 2017 and that it does include a 9.9% rate increase and that, in the early stages of negotiation, the rate was much higher and that this is the best rate that the City could get at this time. After these comments, the motion to approve the renewal of the United Healthcare Medical Insurance Plan was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF THE BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD DENTAL PLAN.

Item G under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the renewal of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Dental Plan. The City Manager commented

that there is no rate increase on this plan or on the next plan under Item H. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the renewal which was seconded by Commissioner Helton and then unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF THE BOSTON MUTUAL GROUP LIFE AND AD&D INSURANCE PLANS.

The next Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the renewal of the Boston Mutual Group Life and AD&D Insurance Plans. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the renewal which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown and then unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE GATLINBURG CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU FOR RECOVERY MARKETING EFFORTS.

Item I under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a request for additional funding from the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau for Recovery Marketing efforts. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the request which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager then asked President/CEO to give an overview and Mr. Adams stated that this is part of the helping and healing process and that the request will be used to help our citizens, our workers, our business owners and our community as a whole. Mr. Adams stated that marketing is one step in the process of getting tourists back into our community so business can thrive and stated that monies used from this request would be used in two phases and that priority one is for \$276,00 which would be used for 19 weeks of additional advertisement in 8 of the key feeder markets and that priority two funds would be spent in mid-July and August to concentrate on late Summer and early Fall business to make sure that tourists are still coming to Gatlinburg. Mr. Adams then thanked the City Commission for their consideration of this request. After these comments, the motion to approve the request for additional funding from the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE CONVEYANCE OF A SURPLUS RADIO TOWER LOCATED ON SKI VIEW DRIVE.

The last Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the conveyance of a surplus radio tower located on Ski View Drive. Commissioner Helton made a motion to approve the conveyance which was seconded by Vice

Mayor McCown. The City Manager then explained that after a lease agreement with E-911 was approved a couple of years ago, a new tower was constructed at the end of Ski View Road and that the Newport Police Department is interested in the old tower and will dismantle and remove it from that site. After these comments, the motion to approve the conveyance of a surplus radio tower located on Ski View Drive was unanimously adopted.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Jerry Hays:

(1) Thanked everyone for their prayers and stated that it is good to be back at City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Don Smith:

(1) Commented about the First Responders, Sheriff's Department Officers, Gatlinburg Police Department and all of the overtime and hard work that they put in during the fires and stated that he had said this before and that he is very thankful for all of them.

Commissioner Mike Helton:

(1) Thanked Mrs. Jackie Leatherwood and Ms. Vicki Simms for their outstanding work and the reports that they had given earlier and that Commission is 100% behind these efforts.

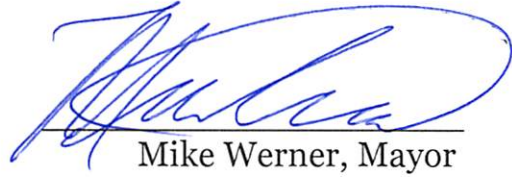
Vice Mayor Mark McCown:

(1) Welcomed Commissioner Hays and Helton back to the meeting.

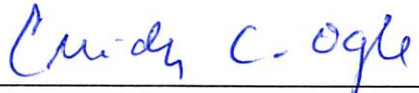
Mayor Mike Werner:

(1) Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated that this is a strong community and that we want to help anyone we can and what has happened is in the past and that Gatlinburg has a bright future and that as a community we are moving forward together.

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



Mike Werner, Mayor


Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder
/jv