

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday July 21, 2015, 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. Finance Director Robert Holt gave the Invocation.

Mayor Werner then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of July 7, 2015. Commissioner Mike Helton made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Don Smith and then unanimously adopted.

Regarding Petitions and Communications from the Public, Mayor Werner recognized Ms. Cornelia Dobbins who proceeded to address City Commission regarding the removal of the tax exemption related to the Hotel/Motel Tax. Ms. Dobbins then asked Commission if they had a copy of the Gatlinburg Hospitality Association (GHA) letter and Commission advised that it was distributed at yesterday's Budget meeting. Ms. Dobbins continued that the GHA is requesting that the exempt status for non-profit groups be removed from the local Hotel Motel Tax. Ms. Dobbins continued that most non-profit groups anticipate paying these taxes and that a refund is often issued to these organizations. Ms. Dobbins concluded that the GHA sees this as money being left on the table and that the Association would like to see this money being utilized for the City and, specifically, toward the Convention Center Sales Department in an effort to increase group sales for the City and increase local business. Mayor Werner then thanked Ms. Dobbins for her comments and stated that the City Commission would take this request under advisement.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

- (1) that she wanted to announce that the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau has received a 2015 Telly Award for the new 2015 television commercial "Created Just for You." The commercial was selected as one of the winners out of 12,000 entries submitted from all 50 states as well as five continents and that other notable winners included Discovery, Disney, ESPN, Fox and was recognized for the high merit of creative work, rather than competing against other organizations' work; and,
- (2) that she wanted to announce that Liveability.com has recognized Gatlinburg as one of the "Best U.S. Cities for Summer Hikes" and described as a gateway City that lead to some of the world's most beautiful, scenic, invigorating hiking trails, Gatlinburg was listed as one of the five best cities from which to launch a Summer hike. The City Manager further stated that other destinations recognized included, Millinocket, Maine, Madison, Wisconsin, Aspen, Colorado and Portland, Oregon; and,
- (3) that she wanted to announce the following schedule for annual maintenance at the Community Center and stated that August 3 – 9 the entire Community Center will be closed, August 10-11 that the Bowling Center and Pool only will be open, August 12 – 14 that the Bowling Center,

Pool and Tone Zone will be open and that August 15 the entire Community Center will be open. The City Manager advised that the longer schedule was due to the complete refinishing of the hardwood floors.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 918, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GATLINBURG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (TML) RISK MANAGEMENT POOL "SAFETY PARTNERS" LOSS CONTROL MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM.**

The first Item under New Business was Resolution Number 918, a Resolution authorizing the City of Gatlinburg to participate in the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) Risk Management Pool "Safety Partners" Loss Control Matching Grant Program. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Hays. The City Manager then explained that this is an annual program that the TML Insurance Pool offers to its members and stated that the Grant amount is approximately \$2,000 which would be used toward the purchase of turnout gear that was included in the Budget that was reviewed with City Commission yesterday. After these comments, the motion to approve Resolution Number 918 was unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DECLARING CERTAIN WINTER LIGHTS AS SURPLUS.**

The next Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of declaring certain Winter Lights as surplus. Commissioner Helton made a motion to approve declaring Winter Lights as surplus which was seconded by Vice Mayor Mark McCown. The City Manager then commented that the surplus items included the candelabra that used to be at the entrance of town many years ago and more than 60 hearts. After these comments, the motion to declare certain Winter Lights as surplus was unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A 5311 RURAL TRANSPORTATION OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RELATED TO THE MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT.**

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a 5311 Rural Transportation Operating Assistance Grant Contract with the Tennessee Department of Transportation related to the Mass Transit Department. Commissioner Hays made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager then stated that the City often receives both Operating and Capital Assistance Grants from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and that this Grant is strictly related to operating assistance and the information provided states that this is a partial allocation of a little over \$350,000 and that this Grant is important to the funding of the Mass Transit Department. The City Manager further stated that there will be another Contract to

come before City Commission related to this Operating Grant once additional monies become available from TDOT. After these comments, the motion to approve the Operating Assistance Grant Contract with TDOT was unanimously adopted.

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 2483, AN ORDINANCE MAKING AND FIXING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF GATLINBURG FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2016, AND TO CARRY FORWARD APPROPRIATIONS FOR PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCES, FIRST READING.**

The last Item under New Business was Ordinance Number 2483, an Ordinance making and fixing the annual appropriations for the several Departments of the City of Gatlinburg for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016, and to carryforward appropriations for prior year encumbrances, First Reading. Commissioner Helton made a motion to approve the Ordinance which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. Mayor Werner then commented regarding yesterday's Budget meeting and stated that the document and proposed FY2015-16 Budget were thoroughly reviewed. The City Manager then stated that this is the necessary First Reading of the Ordinance. After these comments, the motion to approve Ordinance Number 2483 was unanimously adopted on First Reading.

**UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:**

**Commissioner Jerry Hays:**

- (1) Wished Happy Birthday to Ben Seavy and Albert Werner; and,
- (2) Stated that he wanted to let everyone know that the Mayor and City Manager are working on a route for a walking trail at Rocky Top Sports World and to be watching for that in the near future.

**Commissioner Don Smith:**

- (1) Thanked the City Manager and Finance Director and Staff for their hard work in putting the Budget together and stated that that they did a great job with the Budget presentation.

**Commissioner Mike Helton:**

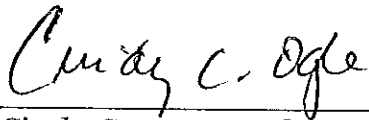
- (1) Also wanted to wish Ben Seavy and Albert Werner Happy Birthday and stated that either party would be fun to attend; and,

- (2) Wanted to wish Maddie Thomas, Davy Thomas's daughter, good luck with the start of her college soccer career at Milligan College.

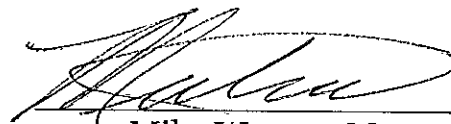
**Mayor Mike Werner:**

- (1) Echoed the above regarding the Budget presentation and,
- (2) Stated that there is a great article about our City Manager in the CityView Magazine and is the feature article and encouraged everyone to read the article. The Mayor then thanked everyone for attending this evening.

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



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Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder  
/jv

  
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Mike Werner, Mayor