

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All members were present. Mayor Mike Helton called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Finance Director Robert Holt gave the Invocation.

Mayor Helton then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of November 18, 2014. Vice Mayor Mike Werner made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Mark McCown and then unanimously adopted.

Regarding Petitions and Communications from the Public Mayor Helton recognized Mr. Jerry Reid to discuss the Tunes and Tales Program. Mr. Reid stated that he had heard that the Tunes and Tales Program was going to end and not happen in 2015 and, after speaking with Special Events Manager Jim Downs at the Convention and Visitors Bureau, he learned that the Program was going on a hiatus to determine the value of the program and see if it was worth the expense. Mr. Reid further stated that he believes that Tunes and Tales is a great program and that it involves visitor interaction and weaves in Gatlinburg's history and brings repeat visitors. Mr. Reid then referenced Emi Sunshine as part of Tunes and Tales and that she was now more widely known and that he had gathered 1,033 signatures of businesses and employees downtown that want to keep the Tunes and Tales Program. Mr. Reid concluded by thanking the City Commission for their time and consideration of his petition. Mayor Helton then recognized Mr. A.J. Reid and he explained the process in gathering the signatures and that, with the exception of a very few people, all were positive toward the Tunes and Tales Program. Next, Mayor Helton recognized Mr. Billy Reynolds who reiterated all the positive things that had been said about the Program and that he would like to see the Program stay and stated that the visitor's experience of Tunes and Tales is very positive. After these comments, Mayor Helton asked that the City Manager take this information under advisement and discuss with proper Staff.

Regarding Reports of Boards and Committees, the City Manager commented that the Environmental Review Board Awards (EDRB) were announced earlier in the month at the Chamber Banquet and that the City is pleased to officially present these Awards. Mayor Helton then presented the EDRB Awards as follows: **SIGN DESIGN EXCELLENCE - Certificate Awards** – Park Grill Restaurant, Tom & Earl's Back Alley Grill and Sugarland's Distilling Company; **Award Winner – Crockett's Breakfast Camp**; **BUILDING ADDITION/RENOVATION EXCELLENCE - Certificate Award** – The Paula Deen Store and Maypop's; **Award Winner – Crockett's Breakfast Camp**; **NEW BUILDING EXCELLENCE - Certificate Award** – Gatlinburg Mountain Coaster; **Award Winner – Sugarland's Distilling Company**; **LANDSCAPING EXCELLENCE - Certificate Award** – Crockett's Breakfast Camp; **Award Winner – Sugarland's Distilling Company**.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

- (1) that she wanted to remind everyone of the New Year's Eve Fireworks Show and Ball Drop and stated that the Space Needle has added sequencing LED lights to the tower that will add drama to the Fireworks Show at Midnight and that there will also be a DJ set up at the Convention Center beginning at 10:00 P.M.; and,
- (2) that she wanted to follow up on the Gatlinburg "Nose" Christmas World Record Attempt and stated that information is being submitted to Guinness World Record for official verification and that the public relations campaign netted 2 million impressions on social media and 155 million media impressions; and,
- (3) that she wanted to announce the January City Commission meeting schedule and stated that the next City Commission meeting will be January 20, 2105; and,
- (4) lastly, that she would like to introduce Mr. Larry Elmore and Mr. Travis Lowe with Pugh and Company to review the Preliminary Audit for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2014. Mr. Elmore commented that this is the preliminary draft and that it looks fine and that no material changes will be made to the final version and then he thanked Finance Director Robert Holt, City Manager Cindy Ogle and staff for all their help in conducting the audit. Mr. Travis Lowe then reviewed highlights of the audit document and stated that the City's net income for the Fiscal Year was \$2.5 million and that general tax revenues were up 6%. Mr. Lowe referenced several charts and graphs that detailed revenues and expenses and stated that there is a considerable amount of tourism related expenses and that the Rocky Top Sports World (RTSW) construction was completed in this Fiscal Year and that the City issued \$18 million in debt toward the construction. Mr. Lowe further stated that new debt was issued in the amount of \$17 million for RTSW and \$3.5 million for the City's contribution to the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts and that some bonds were reissued for a savings of \$800 to \$900 thousand dollars for the life of the bonds and that the overall financial position of the City is healthy. The City Manager then commented that this is the preliminary Audit and stated that the auditors would be present at the Mid Fiscal Year Review to go into more detail and that there may be some slight adjustments to the final audit. The City Manager further stated that the City prides itself in getting the audit out in a timely manner and that is the reason it is being presented this evening as it is due to the State by the end of December. The City Manager then thanked Mr. Lowe for his review of the preliminary audit.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH SILVERBELL PARKWAY, LLC, AND SILVERBELL INVESTMENTS, LLC, RELATED TO AN AERIAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.**

The first Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an Easement Agreement with Silverbell Parkway, LLC, and Silverbell Investments, LLC, related to an aerial transportation system. Commissioner McCown made a motion to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Commissioner Don Smith and then unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARROWMONT SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS CONSERVATION EASEMENT AGREEMENT TO PRESERVE OPEN LAND.**

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an amendment to the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts Conservation Easement Agreement to Preserve Open Land. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the amendment which was seconded by Commissioner Jerry Hays. Commissioner McCown then asked if the business ceased operations what would happen to the Aerial Transportation System. The City Attorney replied that if usage of the system ceases for 180 days, there are provisions for termination. After these comments, the motion to approve the Amendment to the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts Conservation Easement Agreement to Preserve Open Land was unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A TWENTY YEAR EXTENSION TO THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST TENNESSEE RADIO GROUP.**

The next Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a twenty year extension to the Lease Agreement with the East Tennessee Radio Group. Vice Mayor Mike Werner made a motion to approve the extension which was seconded by Commissioner McCown. The City Manager then explained that the City was approached by East Tennessee Radio Group regarding a longer lease and the City Manager stated that due diligence has been done and that the Public Works Director and Utility Manager agree that there would be no problems with the extension of the lease with regard to the adjacent City water tank and the existing utility lines. After these comments, the motion to approve a twenty year extension to the Lease Agreement with the East Tennessee Radio Group was unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH FALIN ENTERPRISES, INC., RELATED TO THE GLADES ROAD RETAINING WALL REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.**

The next Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Contract with Falin Enterprises, Inc., related to the Glades Road Retaining Wall Replacement and Improvements Project. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Hays. The City Manager then explained that this Project has been in the Capital Improvements Program for a couple of years and that this year, more money was requested to move forward with this very important Project and that the low bidder is Falin Enterprises, Inc. with a contract amount of \$317,000 and the Project would begin to perform these much needed improvements to Glades Road on January 5, 2015, if approved. Commissioner McCown then asked about road closures and Mr. Gary Norvell responded that as of now those would be minimal and that a light system will be in place to regulate the flow of traffic and that at certain times a detour will be set up around Pine Street and that commercial traffic would be rerouted to Buckhorn and that the Project is expected to last for 60 days and that closures would be intermittent during that time. Mayor Helton then commented that the PEG Channel and the local radio station should be utilized to keep the public informed. The Public Works Director then stated that road closures and disruptions will be kept to a minimum. After these comments, the motion to approve the Contract with Falin Enterprises, Inc., related to the Glades Road Retaining Wall Replacement and Improvements Project was unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SINGLE BID TO MID-STATE EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REFUSE TRAILER FOR THE SANITATION DEPARTMENT.**

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a single bid to Mid-State Equipment for the purchase of a refuse trailer for the Sanitation Department. Commissioner Hays made a motion to approve the Single Bid which was seconded by Vice Mayor Werner and then unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF TWO TRASH COMPACTORS FROM THE CITY OF SEVIERVILLE FOR THE CONVENTION CENTER.**

The next Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the purchase of two trash compactors from the City of Sevierville for the Convention Center. Vice Mayor Werner made a motion to approve the purchase which was seconded by Commissioner Smith and then unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DECLARING CERTAIN CITY EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES AS SURPLUS.**

Item G under New Business was discussion and consideration of declaring certain City Equipment and Vehicles as surplus. Commissioner Smith made a motion to declare the

equipment and vehicles as surplus which was seconded by Vice Mayor Werner and then unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE USAGE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND MILLS PARK FOR THE SEVIER COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM FUN AND FITNESS DAY EVENT ON MAY 14, 2015.**

The last Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the usage of the Community Center and Mills Park for the Sevier County School System Fun and Fitness Day Event on May 14, 2015. Vice Mayor Werner made a motion to approve the requested usage which was seconded by Commissioner Hays and then unanimously adopted.

**UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:**

**Commissioner Don Smith:**

- (1) Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

**Commissioner Mark McCown:**

- (1) Also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year; and,
- (2) Congratulated the recipients of Environmental Design Review Board (EDRB) Awards.

**Vice Mayor Mike Werner:**

- (1) Also congratulated the recipients of the EDRB Awards and sated that these are great improvements to town; and,
- (2) Commented that the City Party was great and thanked everyone for their hard work in putting it together; and,
- (3) Stated that he was glad that the East Tennessee Radio Group had requested an extension to their agreement for twenty years and stated that the local radio station does a great job for the community.

**Mayor Mike Helton:**

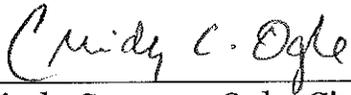
- (1) Commented that the Christmas Parade was great; and,
- (2) Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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



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Mike Helton, Mayor



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Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder

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