

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All members were present. Mayor Jerry Hays called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Finance Director Robert Holt gave the Invocation.

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

Regarding the first Item under Petitions and Communications from the Public, Mayor Hays recognized Ms. Kay Morton who stated that she was in attendance to discuss three issues with the first being the traffic situation on the North end of town. Ms. Morton stated that the caution light in that area of town does not help slow traffic and that something needs to be done to help slow down traffic. Ms. Morton stated that one of her friends was recently coming to visit her when she was stuck by a vehicle while attempting to cross the street and that people will not come visit her anymore because they are afraid to cross the street and further stated that she has almost been struck by a vehicle while attempting to cross the street on multiple occasions even once by a trolley and once by a police officer. She stated that the caution light needs to be changed to a traffic light and mentioned that it would also help people pull out of the property at the future site of the Gatlinburg Mountain Coaster. Ms. Morton stated that a traffic light is also needed at the City parking lot and that the traffic lights need to be synchronized so that all vehicles will have to stop at one of the traffic lights and that those two lights would take care of the speeding problem and also help businesses in the area. Ms. Morton then stated that the second issue she wanted to discuss was that the Walk on the North Side will be on the fourth weekend in April and that she would like for the Tunes and Tales entertainers to participate in the event. Ms. Morton then stated that the third issue she wanted to discuss was the change in the election procedures for the Board of Commissioners and that she thinks running for a specific seat would be a terrible change. She stated that candidates would have to point out who they are running against instead of running for one of the seats and that it would discourage people from running and would protect the status quo.

The next Item under Petitions and Communications from the Public, Mayor Hays recognized Ms. Sarah Lowe who then thanked the City Commission and City Manager for the opportunity to speak and stated that she wanted to discuss the speeding that occurs from traffic light 1 to traffic light 3. She stated that she talked with the City Manager two years ago about the problems with speeding in that area and that the City Manager told her that Highway 441 was a State road and that the City would have to get approval from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) before the City could make any changes to the road. She stated that she has spoken to the Police Chief and was told that no officer is assigned to patrol that area on a regular basis and suggested that an officer be assigned to patrol and walk the area. Ms. Lowe then stated that she had a few suggestions to help solve the problems with speeding in the area and

suggested that the City could lower the speed limit and install pedestrian signs in the road at crosswalks that are commonly found at hospitals and requested that the City ask for the State's approval to install similar signs. Ms. Lowe also suggested that the City could add poles with flags at each crosswalk that pedestrians would pick up and wave when they wanted to cross the road and stated that she has seen this practice in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Ms. Lowe then stated that she would like to have music at the north end of town included in the Tunes and Tales Program and that the north end has been denied music ever since the Program began because of the lack of people in the area and that the City needed to include the north end of town in this year's Program. Ms. Lowe then stated that the crosswalk in the curve after traffic light 3 is a major problem and that she almost hit someone in that crosswalk and further stated that the crosswalk is in a poor place and that something needs to be done to address this issue.

Item C under Petitions and Communications from the Public, Mayor Hays recognized Mr. John Packard who stated that he recently moved to Gatlinburg and owns American Sideshow on the Parkway and that he was in attendance to talk about the crosswalks on both sides of his business. Mr. Packard stated that it is not safe for pedestrians to cross the street at either one of the crosswalks and that pedestrians literally take their life into their hands when crossing the street and that he has almost been struck by a vehicle over ten times while in the crosswalk outside his business. He stated that even if one car stops for a pedestrian to cross the street that the cars in the other lanes do not always stop and that is the reason that a lady nearly died attempting to cross the street. Mr. Packard stated that he is now afraid to cross the street and that he would love for the City Commissioners to come to his business so that they could see how reckless people drive in that area of town. He then stated that cars accelerate quickly after they have been stopped and that the average car travels 45 to 50 miles per hour and that he would personally buy a radar gun to prove it. Mr. Packard stated that accidents will continue to happen if nothing is done and that he is appealing to the City Commission to do something about the matter because he believes it is the City's responsibility. Mr. Packard then thanked the City Commission for their time and stated that he was glad to be a resident of Gatlinburg.

The next Item under Petitions and Communications from the Public, Mayor Hays recognized Mr. Danny Lewis who stated that he was a part-owner of American Sideshow with Mr. Packard and that they have not been in business at their current location for long and that it is scary to cross the street in that area of town. Mr. Lewis stated that his grandfather was the Mayor of Red Bank when the City added red light cameras at traffic intersections and that the cameras caused people to quit coming to Red Bank. Mr. Lewis stated that he knows it would be expensive to fix the problem and that maybe a moderate use of cameras would make people think twice about speeding or at least make them slow down. Mr. Lewis then stated that he was willing to do anything he could to help address the problems at the crosswalks because it is a benefit to him as a citizen to have safe crosswalks. Mr. Lewis then stated that it is amazing how the City keeps the sidewalks so clean considering the number of tourists that visit

## Gatlinburg.

The last Item under Petitions and Communications from the Public, Mayor Hays recognized Mr. Mike Lion who stated that he has seen police cars and trolleys fail to stop at crosswalks and that it is embarrassing to see City vehicles not stopping at crosswalks and that if City vehicles will not stop at crosswalks then why would tourists stop at them. Mr. Lion then stated that there is a pedestrians have the right-of-way sign at traffic light 10 and that this sign needs to be taken down because someone will get hurt when there is a green light for vehicles and pedestrians believe that they have the right-of-way. After these comments, Commissioner Mark McCown stated that safety is a priority for the City Commission and Administration and especially at traffic light 1 through traffic light 3 and then stated that he does not want this to ever happen again. Commissioner McCown then asked the City Manager to schedule a Workshop to discuss the best options to slow traffic and increase the safety of crossing the street at crosswalks. Mayor Hays then stated that the City Commissioners take the concerns seriously and that they will do their best to address the issue. Mayor Hays then stated that the City cannot add traffic lights to the area due to the fact that it is a State road and that the City can ask the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) to add traffic lights and that TDOT usually requires that studies be performed before traffic lights are added to state roads. The City Manager then stated that a Workshop would be an appropriate setting to further discuss the matter and that Police Chief Randy Brackins can provide a report of the traffic related issues in the area at that time. The City Manager then stated that the City has added pedestrian signage, painted crosswalks and provided additional police patrol to that area of town and that there is a mobile radar trailer on the evening's Agenda that can be used to help slow down traffic and further stated that she will schedule a Workshop as soon as possible and notify all interested parties of the scheduled meeting.

Regarding Reports of Boards and Committees, the City Manager presented the Employee Recognition Board First Quarter Awards to Employees of the First Quarter those being Mr. Alex Morris of the Convention Center, Mr. Archie Hatcher of the Street Department, and Mr. Trent Grove of the Police Department. The City Manager then presented the Units of the First Quarter Awards to Mr. Tim Jenkins and Mr. Eric Weeks of the Sanitation Department and to Mr. Scott Price, Mr. Lee Hickam and Mr. Jeremy Ogle of the Mass Transit Department.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

- (1) that she wanted to remind everyone that there will be an Arbor Day Celebration tomorrow at 1:30 P.M. at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School to celebrate Gatlinburg's 26<sup>th</sup> year as an official Tree City USA and that there will be special presentations made by Mayor Jerry Hays and Tom Simpson of the Tennessee State Forestry Department. The City Manager then stated that

there will also be a special program by the Pi Beta Phi students and that there will be a tree planting on the school grounds after the program; and,

- (2) that she also wanted to remind everyone that the Smoky Mountain Wine Fest will begin on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, with the Wine, Dine and Art Crawl that will offer participants an opportunity to visit three different art galleries in the Arts and Crafts Community and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres and then finish the evening with a meal at one of three participating restaurants. The City Manager then stated that the Wine Fest will be held Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. at the Ripley's Aquarium Plaza and tickets can be purchased at the gate for \$20; and,
- (3) that she wanted to announce that the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage will be held April 15-19 at Mills Auditorium; and,
- (4) that she would also like to announce that the Great Smoky Easter Arts & Crafts Show will be held April 15-19 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center; and,
- (5) that she wanted to notify everyone that Earth Week will be held April 21-25 and that there will be an event each day to celebrate being a good steward of the Earth; and,
- (6) that she wanted to remind everyone that the Keep Sevier Beautiful Extreme Household Cleanup Event will be held Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Sevierville Municipal Complex from 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. to collect household hazardous waste, electronics, clothing and prescription medications; and,
- (7) that she wanted to announce the Gatlinburg Emergency Services Annual Golf Tournament will be held Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Gatlinburg Golf Course and that lunch will be served at noon with a shotgun tournament start at 1:00 P.M. The City Manager further stated that the cost is \$75 per player or \$300 per team and that the proceeds will benefit Community Police Programs and Fire Prevention and Education and to contact Lieutenant Terry Stines, Lieutenant Ronnie Barrett or Officer Ronnie France of the Police Department at 436-5181 or Assistant Fire Chief Charlie Cole at 436-1417 for more information; and,
- (8) that she wanted to remind everyone that the Gatlinburg Police Department Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at Mynatt Park and that lunch will be served at noon and that the egg hunt will start at 1:00 P.M.

## **DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A REQUEST FOR**

**THE USAGE OF THE AQUARIUM PARKING GARAGE FOR THE SEVIER COUNTY FOOD MINISTRIES FIESTA EVENT ON TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014.**

The first Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a request for the usage of the Aquarium Parking Garage for the Sevier County Food Ministries Fiesta Event on Tuesday, April 29, 2014. Commissioner Werner made a motion to approve the request which was seconded by Vice Mayor Helton and then unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A REQUEST FOR THE USAGE OF THE FRED MCMAHAN PARKING GARAGE ON FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2014, FROM THE ARROWMONT SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS.**

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a request for the usage of the Fred McMahan Parking Garage on Friday, May 9, 2014, from the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. Commissioner Don Smith made a motion to approve the request which was seconded by Commissioner Werner and then unanimously adopted.

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

The next Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of ratifying an appointment to the Gatlinburg Airport Authority, Inc., Board of Directors. Commissioner McCown made a motion to ratify the appointment of Mr. Vic Barrett to the Gatlinburg Airport Authority, Inc., Board of Directors which was seconded by Commissioner Werner and then unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE GATLINBURG PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of making an appointment to the Gatlinburg Public Building Authority Board of Directors. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion to nominate Mr. Bud Ogle to take the place of the late Mr. Marlin Watson on the Gatlinburg Public Building Authority Board of Directors which was seconded by Commissioner Werner and then unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE GATLINBURG RECREATION BOARD.**

The next Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of making appointments to the Gatlinburg Recreation Board. Commissioner McCown made a motion to reappoint Mr. Al Shirley, Mr. Allen Cox, Mr. Buster Flynn, Mr. Larry McMahan, Mr. Lester Flynn, and Mr. Whit Helton to the Gatlinburg Recreation Board which was seconded by Commissioner Werner and then unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 907, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE STATE OF TENNESSEE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN II, 401 (k) AND APPROVING THE EMPLOYER AGREEMENT.**

Item F under New Business was Resolution Number 907, a Resolution adopting the State of Tennessee Deferred Compensation Plan II, 401 (k) and approving the Employer Agreement. Commissioner Werner made a motion to approve the Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager then stated that the Treasury Department of the State of Tennessee is requiring another Resolution be passed that is associated with the new Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) hybrid plan. The City Manager further stated that the City Commission passed two Resolutions related to the new TCRS hybrid plan in December 2013 and that this Resolution deals specifically with the 401 (k) aspect of the new retirement option and that the TCRS hybrid plan will only affect employees hired after July 1, 2014. After discussion, the motion to approve the Resolution to adopt the State of Tennessee Deferred Compensation Plan II, 401 (k) and approve the Employer Agreement was unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN OTHER THAN THE LOW BID TO WANCO, INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF A POLICE RADAR TRAILER.**

The next Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an other than the low Bid to Wanco, Inc., for the purchase of a police radar trailer. Commissioner Werner made a motion to approve the Bid which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner McCown then stated that the radar trailer is the equipment that City Manager referenced earlier that displays drivers speeds and is programmed to advise drivers that they need to slow down. Commissioner McCown further stated that the trailer can be used to help reduce the speeding issues on the north end of town. After these comments, the motion to approve the other than the low bid to Wanco, Inc., for the purchase of a police radar trailer was unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH JARVIS AWARD, FLAG AND SIGN CO., FOR THE FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF WAYFINDING SIGNAGE.**

Item H under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Contract with Jarvis Award, Flag and Sign Co., for the fabrication and installation of Wayfinding Signage. Commissioner Werner made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager then stated that the Contract is for Phase II of the Wayfinding Signage Program and that Phase I of the Program was completed in the last phase of the Underground Utilities and Streetscape Project. The City Manager further stated that the City requested bids a couple of times for the signage and that the Contract is before the City Commission due to the fact that it is a single bid and that the cost of the Contract exceeds \$20,000. The City Manager then stated that the Contract is for \$189,695 and includes the fabrication and installation of eleven wayfinding signs at various locations that will be paid from the Wayfinding Signage Project account of \$128,741 and that the other action the Commission would be taking is to authorize \$60,954 of additional funds for the Project. After discussion, the motion to approve the Contract with Jarvis Award, Flag and Sign Co., for the fabrication and installation of Wayfinding Signage was unanimously adopted.

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

The last Item under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the renewal of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Dental Insurance Plan. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion to approve the renewal which was seconded by Commissioner Werner. The City Manager then stated that the City's Insurance Consultant Chris Fessenden was in attendance and available for questions and that the renewal of the Dental Insurance Plan does not provide as good of news as the Health Insurance Plan's 0% increase, and that the good news is that the Dental Insurance Plan is a much smaller amount of money. The City Manager further stated that the Dental Insurance Plan includes a 5.9% rate increase with a two year rate guarantee and that the increase is equivalent to \$4,630.00 per year. After these comments, the motion to approve the renewal of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Dental Insurance Plan was unanimously adopted.

**UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:**

**Commissioner Mike Werner:**

- (1) Congratulated the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Employee Recognition Board recipients and stated

that they are all good people and that they do good work; and,

- (2) Extended his sympathies to the O.H. Ogle family and the Henry Parton family with the recent passing of these fine individuals..

**Commissioner Don Smith:**

- (1) Echoed the above regarding the Employee Awards; and,
- (2) Echoed the above regarding condolences to Mr. Ogle's family and Mr. Parton's family.

**Commissioner Mike McCown:**

- (1) Congratulated Mr. Alex Morris, Mr. Archie Hatcher, and Mr. Trent Grove on being recipients of the Employee of the First Quarter Award and Mr. Tim Jenkins and Mr. Eric Weeks and Mr. Scott Price, Mr. Lee Hickam, and Mr. Jeremy Ogle on being recipients of the Unit of the First Quarter Award and stated the employees do a good job and that the program is a great way for employees to receive recognition for their hard work.

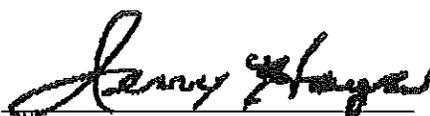
**Vice Mayor Mike Helton:**

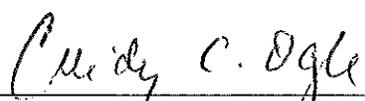
- (1) Echoed the above regarding the Employee Awards; and,
- (2) Echoed the above regarding condolences to Mr. Ogle's family and Mr. Parton's family.

**Mayor Jerry Hays:**

- (1) Echoed the above regarding the Employee Awards; and,
- (2) Echoed the above regarding condolences to Mr. Ogle's family and Mr. Parton's family and stated that he will greatly miss O.H. Ogle and Henry Parton.

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

  
Jerry Hays, Mayor

  
Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder  
/jv