

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday November 2, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All members were present with the exception of Commissioner Chad Reagan. 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 October 19, 2021. Commissioner Don Smith made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Vice Mayor Mark McCown and then unanimously adopted.

Regarding Reports of Boards and Committees was the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau Third Quarter Report presentation by President/CEO Mark Adams. Mr. Adams reported that the third quarter was very strong for Gatlinburg for visitation as the City continues to get national recognition by being named to many top-10 lists. Mr. Adams also reported that Gatlinburg is in a favorable position compared to other tourist destinations as he attended a Destinations International convention and other Visitors Bureaus are discussing what steps to take while recovering from the COVID-19 shutdowns. Mr. Adams also reported that there are a number of first time visitors to Gatlinburg reported at the Welcome Centers and over 131,000 visited the two locations. Marci Claude, Public Relations Manager for the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, reported that the City is still receiving the benefits of being named the top domestic trending destination by TripAdvisor. She explained that the Gatlinburg.com website has seen a 7 percent increase in traffic compared to 2020 and that the VisitGatlinburg mobile app has over 220,000 active users. Mrs. Claude also reported that travel writers were hosted in the third quarter, that a public relations blitz occurred in Chattanooga and Birmingham and that work continues on the 2022 Vacation Guide. Scott Murphy, Convention Center Building Manager, reported that in the third quarter there were 13 events, with two of those new to Gatlinburg. He also gave Commissioners an update on the Convention Center Renovations Project and explained that the meeting room conversion process was going well.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

- (1) that she would like to advise that status updates of several Capital Projects and the Convention Center Renovation Project have been placed at the podium for review; and,
- (2) that she would like to advise of some upcoming events including the Veterans Day Celebration that will be held on November 11, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at Rocky Top Sports World and that this day serves as a moment to step back and recognize the heroism of our military and honor the sacrifices they have made to protect our rights as Citizens of the United States and also the Gatlinburg Winterfest Kickoff and Chili Cook off presented by Bush's Chili Beans will be November 11, 2021, from 5:00 to 8:00p.m. on the Anakeesta parking lot with entertainment this year being Grand Ole Opry member Mark Willis.

New Business:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2581, CLOSING A PORTION OF A FORMER PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS AND BEING A PORTION OF HEMLOCK STREET, First Reading (Passed Planning Commission 10/21/2021).

Item A on under New Business was Ordinance Number 2581, closing a portion of a former Public right-of-way located within the City limits and being a portion of Hemlock Street, first reading (Passed Planning Commission 10/21/2021). Commissioner Ryan DeSear made a motion to adopt the Ordinance which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The Building and Planning Director explained that this Ordinance closes a portion of the former public right of way that is 700 feet in length and 20 feet in width and that the applicants are looking to purchase all property around the area of the former public right of way. The Building and Planning Director stated that the Utility and Street Departments have reviewed the requested closure and have no objection to the request and that, if the closure is approved, the applicants will have to incur the costs of moving a water meter. After these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance was unanimously approved on first reading.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CAPITAL ASSISTANCE GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT.

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Capital Assistance Grant Contract with Tennessee Department of Transportation for the Mass Transit Department. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The Finance Director explained that this Grant award is for \$855,000 with the City's match being \$95,000, which has been budgeted. The Finance Director also explained that the Contract is for the replacement of three trolleys and one van, depending on the costs of the equipment. After these comments, the motion to approve the Contract was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH CLUB CAR FOR A FOUR-YEAR LEASE OF GOLF CARTS FOR THE GATLINBURG GOLF COURSE.

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Contract with Club Car for a Four-Year Lease of Golf Carts for the Gatlinburg Golf Course. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The Golf Course Manager explained that the proposal is for a 48 month standard lease in the amount of \$3,170.16 per month. He also explained that previously a lease-purchase agreement had been utilized with Club Car due to the

anticipation that the golf carts would have a lifespan of longer than four years and that with the increase of rounds played at the Golf Course, that was no longer a reasonable expectation. Vice Mayor McCown asked if the GPS system would still be available on the golf carts and the Golf Course Manager replied that it would and that the Golf Course continues to receive positive comments on the amenities provided on the carts.

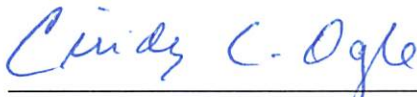
DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DECLARING CERTAIN CITY EQUIPMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS AS SURPLUS.

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of declaring certain City Equipment and Miscellaneous items as surplus. Commissioner Smith made a motion to declare the certain equipment and miscellaneous items as surplus, which was seconded by Commissioner DeSear. The City Manager explained that the American Legion chairs that were listed as surplus would need to be removed from the list. The City Manager also noted that this declaration of equipment and miscellaneous items as surplus is an attempt to remove items from the old Library building. After these comments, the motion to declare certain equipment and vehicles as surplus was unanimously adopted.

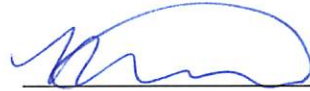
UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

There were no unscheduled items.

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



Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder



Mike Werner, Mayor

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