The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 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 September 19, 2023. Commissioner Jay Horner made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Vice Mayor Mark McCown and then unanimously adopted.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

(1) that she would like to advise that status updates of the active Capital Improvements Projects have been placed at the podium for review; and,

(2) that she would also like to announce the Halloween Spooktacular hosted by the Recreation Department and Rocky Top Sports World will occur from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. on October 24, 2023, with registration for the costume contest starting at 5:30 P.M. and that this is a free community event.

New Business:

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN WITH BLUECROSS/BLUESHIELD FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024, TO DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Item A under new business was discussion and consideration of approving a Medical Insurance Plan with BlueCross/BlueShield for the period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the Medical Insurance Plan with Blue Cross/Blue Shield which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The City Manager explained that there was a Workshop Meeting held earlier this evening regarding the renewal of the Insurance Plans that the City funds for the employees and that the renewal of the Medical Insurance Plan is a hybrid between a fully insured plan and a self-insured plan and that other governmental entities use a similar approach. The City Manager also explained that the City's Insurance Consultant, Barnes Insurance Agency, estimates that this Insurance Plan will represent an approximate savings between $250,000 and $300,000. Mr. Graham Childs, representing Barnes Insurance Agency, explained that this Medical Insurance Plan comes with a zero-dollar deductible and will reduce out-of-pocket maximums for employees and that it will also reduce costs for employees that elect to have dependent coverage. Mr. Childs also explained that the Dental Insurance Plan will be enhanced with a $1,000 increase to the out-of-pocket maximum, the City's Vision Insurance Plan remains with Humana, and that the Agreement with USAble comes with a two-year rate guarantee. After these comments, the motion to approve the Medical Insurance Plan was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN WITH BLUECROSS/BLUESHIELD FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024, TO DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Dental Insurance Plan with Humana for the period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Commissioner Chad Reagan made a motion to approve the Dental Insurance Plan with Blue Cross/Blue Shield which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The motion to approve the Dental Insurance Plan was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A VISION INSURANCE PLAN WITH HUMANA FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024, TO DECEMBER 31, 2025.

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Version Insurance Plan with Humana for the period of January 1, 2024, to December 21, 2025. Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the Vision Insurance Plan with Humana which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The motion to approve the Vision Insurance Plan was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A LIFE AND DISABILITY PLAN WITH USABLE FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024, TO DECEMBER 31, 2025.

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Life and Disability Plan with Usable for the period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025. Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the Life and Disability Insurance Plan which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The motion to approve the Life and Disability Insurance Plan with USAble was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF MOTOROLA BRAND TWO-WAY RADIOS AND ACCESSORIES UNDER STATEWIDE CONTRACT 424 FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the purchase of Motorola Brand Two-Way Radios and accessories under Statewide Contract 424 for the Police Department. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the purchase which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The Police Chief explained that this is a collaborative Grant with the City of Pigeon Forge Police Department through the Violent Crime Intervention Fund Grant and that the funds will be used to purchase 48 new Motorola radios and accessories, including charging stations and other necessary equipment required to connect to the vehicles and consoles. Mayor Werner asked if there are other benefits and the Police Chief replied that this will move communications to a tri-band system, which operates with transmission through radio waves, cellular telephone service, and WiFi and that it will provide better transmission in buildings and residences. The City Manager also explained that this Contract is in the amount of $1,108,622.29 and is fully funded by a competitive collaborative enhancement grant through the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs and that no match is required by the City. After these comments, the motion to approve the purchase of Motorola band radios and accessories under Statewide Contract 424 was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH CHARLES BLALOCK AND SONS FOR SITE DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO THE MULTIMODAL MASS TRANSIT PROJECT.

Item F under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Contract with Charles Blalock and Sons for the site development related to the Multimodal Mass Transit Project. Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. Mr. Jeff Mize with CDM Smith explained that this Contract is being funded through an IMPROVE Act Grant, which the City applied for at the end of 2020 and was awarded in 2021. Mr. Mize also explained that the Project has gone through the proper permitting process and has been granted approval from the Tennessee Department of Transportation to bid the Project and that two bids were received. Mr. Mize further explained that this bid for consideration was the low bid and within 10 percent of the estimated cost of the Project. The City Manager explained that this Contract was for the land site development for the proposed Trolley storage structures and an office building for the Mass Transit Department, which will be located at the Public Works Complex. Commissioner Reagan asked about the storage units for the Trolleys and Mr. Mize explained that this will have 24 bays for Trolleys in addition to the offices for the Mass Transit Department. The City Manager clarified that this Contract is only for the site development and that the structures will be constructed under a separate contract at a future time. Mayor Werner asked if the Contract included liquidated damages and Mr. Mize replied that this is a 90-calendar day Contract with liquidated damages in the amount of $580 per day beyond the Contract completion date. After these comments, the motion to approve the Contract was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH BEARICUDA, INC., FOR ANIMAL RESISTANT DUMPSTERS.

Item G under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Manufacturing and Supply Agreement with Bearicuda, Inc., for animal resistant dumpsters. Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The City Manager explained that this is the final part of the process to purchase animal resistant dumpsters, which was approved in the current Budget and that Commissioners have approved updates to the Gatlinburg Municipal Code as it relates to Solid Waste and Refuse. The City Manager also explained that this Agreement was prepared by the City Attorney and identifies the amount of monies to be paid to Bearicuda based upon their production and delivery schedule. The Finance Director explained that he had discussion with the President of Bearicuda, Inc. regarding the process of purchasing the dumpsters and that the City has purchased several units from Bearicuda over the past 12 months. Vice Mayor McCown asked if there had been any positive feedback from the public regarding these dumpsters and the City Manager replied that the dumpsters previously purchased have been used at City facilities and have received favorable comments. The Assistant City Manager explained that a letter will be sent to commercial customers explaining how the Dumpster Program will operate and the City Manager also explained that as part of the letter, customers will also receive a form to complete and that businesses can request the City to dispose of their current dumpsters. Commissioner Horner commented that he has heard favorable comments regarding these dumpsters. After these comments, the motion to approve the Agreement was unanimously adopted.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2607, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GATLINBURG ZONING ORDINANCE, BEING ORDINANCE NO.830, AND FURTHER BEING AN ORDINANCE TO RECLASSIFY PARCELS 047.00 AND 042.00, GROUP B, OF TAX MAP 126, LOCATED AT 315 AND 325 LONG BRANCH ROAD FROM R-2 (Medium Density Residential) to C-2 (General Commercial District), First Reading (Approved by Planning Commission 9/21/2023).

Item H under New Business is Ordinance Number 2607, an Ordinance to amend the Gatlinburg Zoning Ordinance, being Ordinance No. 830, and further being an Ordinance to reclassify Parcels 047.00 and 042.00, Group B, of Tax Map 126, located at 315 and 325 Long Branch Road R-2 (Medium Density Residential) to C-2 (General Commercial District), First Reading (Approved by Planning Commission 9/21/2023). Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The Building and Planning Director explained that this request involves two small parcels on Long Branch Road which are surrounded by C-2 Zoned Properties. The Building and Planning Director further explained that the two lots have homes on them which will be demolished and replaced with condominiums. After these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading was unanimously approved.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Jay Horner

(1) Stated that he wanted to thank Barnes Insurance Group and the Human Resources Director for their explanation of the City's new Insurance Plans at the Workshop Meeting earlier in the evening and that he thinks the new plans will be good for the City and its employees.

Commissioner Kirby Smith

(1) Stated that in the light of the fatal shooting of Knox County Deputy Tucker Blakely in the line of duty that he wanted to thank the Gatlinburg Police Department for what they do on a daily basis.

Vice Mayor Mark McCown

(1) Stated that he wanted to thank the City for the trimming and removal of trees which were on City right-of-way between the wall and river at First Baptist Church.

Mayor Mike Werner

(1) Stated that wanted to present a Letter of Intent to name the Assistant City Manager as the next City Manager and explained that the City Manager has given a notice of retirement, effective March 31, 2024. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to present the Letter of Intent which was seconded by Commissioner Horner.

The Assistant City Manager acknowledged his appreciation to the Commissioners for their confidence in him and that he was excited about the opportunity to further contribute to the continued success of the City and to work with the businesses, residents, visitors, and City employees. The Assistant City Manager also wanted to thank the City Manager for her support and work over the past 40 years.

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

Mike Werner, Mayor

Cindy C. Ogle

Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder
/mp