

Gatlinburg City Commission
August 20, 2024
Meeting Minutes

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All the 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 August 6, 2024. Commissioner Jay Horner made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Kirby Smith and then unanimously adopted.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

- (1) that he would like to advise that the status update of the ongoing Capital Projects have been placed at their seats for review; and,
- (2) that he wanted to report to Commissioners that on Tuesday, August 13, the City partnered with the Smokies BearWise Task Force, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the National Park Service and Appalachian Bear Rescue to host a Bear Management Open House and that over 115 people attended the event, which allowed individuals to visit educational stations with BearWise material, speak with TWRA and Gatlinburg Police Department officers, as well as view demonstrations of animal-resistant equipment; and,
- (3) that he would like to announce that on tonight's agenda is the third and final reading of the Budget Ordinance and that he wanted to thank the Finance Director, the Director of Operations and Communication and the Department Heads for their work on the Budget, as well as thank the City Commission for their support and work at the June 24 Workshop Meeting and the July 11 Workshop Meeting to help pass the Budget; and,
- (4) that he wanted to conclude by acknowledging Public Works Director Larry Henderson who is at his final City Commission meeting before his retirement and that his years of service to the City have been nothing short of commendable and has left a lasting impact on Gatlinburg.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2618, AN ORDINANCE MAKING AND FIXING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND TO CARRY FORWARD APPROPRIATIONS FOR PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCES, Final Reading (Passed Second Reading 8/6/2024 and First Reading 7/16/2024).

Item A under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2618, an Ordinance making and fixing the Annual Appropriation for the several Departments of the City for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, and to carry forward appropriations for the prior year encumbrances Public Hearing and Second Reading (Passed First Reading 7/16/2024). Commissioner Horner made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on third and final reading which was seconded by Vice Mayor Mark McCown. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on third and final reading was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2619, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 5, CHAPTER 9 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND FURTHER BEING AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE REVISIONS FOR THE APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS, CHANGE ORDERS TO CONTRACTS AND SINGLE BIDS, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 8/6/2024).

Item B under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2619, an Ordinance to amend Title 5, Chapter 9 of the Municipal Code and further being an Ordinance to make revisions for the approval of contracts, change orders to contracts and single bids, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 8/6/2024). Commissioner Horner made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2620, A PROPERTY TAX LEVYING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 8/6/2024).

Item C under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2620, a Property Tax Levying Ordinance for the City for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 8/6/2024). Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2621, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 3-202 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE ADDRESSING COURT ADMINISTRATION AND SECTION 3-303 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE ADDRESSING ISSUANCE OF SUMMONSES AND FAILURE TO APPEAR, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 8/6/2024).

Item D under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2621, an Ordinance to amend Section 3-202 of the Municipal Code addressing court administrative and Section 3-303 of the Municipal Code addressing issuance of summonses and failure to appear, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 8/6/2024). Commissioner Horner made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The Finance Director explained that these increased were discussed during the Budget Presentation Workshop Meeting on July 11 and that compared to Sevier County and its municipalities,

it was apparent that the City needed an increase in these charges. The Finance Director further explained that the Police Chief and Court Clerk reviewed the fees and these increases. The City Manager stated that these rates had not been increased in quite some time. Commissioner Horner asked if the fines could be raised and the Finance Director replied that the fines are set by the State, but the City can adjust the court costs. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

New Business:

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF A VEHICLE TO THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

Item A under New Business was Discussion and Consideration of Approving a Contract for the conveyance of a vehicle to the Airport Authority. Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager explained that in their agenda package there is a memorandum from the Finance Director which explains that the proposed Contract would allow the City to transfer ownership of a 2013 Dodge Durango to the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport Authority and that the Contract has been reviewed by the City Attorney and meets the tenets of the State statute that allows a government entity to give property to another public entity so long as property is used for its public purpose.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Jay Horner

(1) Stated that he hated to see Public Works Director Larry Henderson leave and that he wished him well in retirement.

Commissioner Kirby Smith

(1) Stated that he wanted to congratulate Public Works Director Larry Henderson on his upcoming retirement and that he did a great job for the City.

Vice Mayor Mark McCown

(1) Stated that it has been a pleasure knowing and working with Public Works Director Larry Henderson and that he wishes him well in his retirement.

Mayor Mike Werner

(1) Stated that he also wanted to wish Public Works Director Larry Henderson well in his retirement and that he has done a great job.

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



Mike Werner, Mayor



Greg Patterson, City Recorder
/sb