Gatlinburg City Commission
June 16, 2026
Meeting Minutes

The Gatlinburg City Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All members were present except Mayor Mike Werner. Vice Mayor Kirby Smith called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Finance Director Robert Holt led the Invocation.

The next Item on the Agenda was the election of the Mayor. Commissioner Jay Horner nominated Mayor Werner to be elected for the position of Mayor, which was seconded by Commissioner Randy Brackins. The nomination of Mayor Werner was unanimously approved. Mayor Werner then called for nominations for Vice Mayor. Commissioner Brackins nominated Vice Mayor Smith to be elected for the position of Vice Mayor which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The nomination of Vice Mayor Smith was unanimously approved.

Vice Mayor Smith then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of May 19, 2026. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Horner and then unanimously adopted.

Regarding Petitions and Communications from the Public and Items from the Audience, State Representative Fred Atchley addressed the Commission to present the House Joint Resolution which officially recognized Gatlinburg as the 'Gateway to the Smokies.'

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

(1) That the City recently received notification that it will be presented with two Tennessee Municipal League Awards at its annual conference in Kingsport for the Excellence in Public Works and the Innovation Award; and,

(2) That he wanted to recognize the City's Building Department for its recent successful audit of commercial building inspections; and,

(3) That he wanted to announce that the annual 'First in the Nation' Independence Day Parade was being held at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, July 4, with other Independence Day celebrations, including the annual River Raft Regatta at 1 p.m. and the Drone Show and Fireworks Finale at 9:50 p.m; and,

(4) That he wanted to announce that City Hall and other government offices will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE 2652, APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE NECESSARY EXPENSES OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS,

OFFICES AND BOARDS OF THE CITY PENDING THE FINAL PASSAGE OF THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 5/19/2026).

Item A under Old Business was Ordinance No. 2652, appropriating an amount sufficient to cover the necessary expenses of the various departments, offices, and boards of the City pending the Fiscal Year 2026-2027, Second Reading. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading, which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

Ordinance Number 2653, AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 5/19/26).

Item B under Old Business was Ordinance No. 2653, amending the Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, Second Reading. Commissioner Brackins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading, which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

New Business:

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SEVIER COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT AND THE GATLINBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Item A under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Emergency Communications between Sevier County Emergency Communications District and the Gatlinburg Police Department. Commissioner Reagan made the motion to approve the agreement as discussed, which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The Police Chief explained that this Agreement was a renewal of the existing agreement, which expires on July 1, 2026. The Police Chief further explained that this Agreement is for a five year term and that the City Attorney has reviewed the document. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Agreement was unanimously adopted.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2654, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GATLINBURG ZONING ORDINANCE, BEING ORDINANCE NO. 830, AND FURTHER BEING AN ORDINANCE TO RECLASSIFY PARCEL 18, TAX MAP 118, LOCATED ON GLADES ROAD IN THE CITY FROM R-1 (LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) DISTRICT TO C-5 (CRAFTS COMMERCIAL DISTRICT), First Reading (Passed Planning Commission 5/21/2026).

Item B under New Business was Ordinance No. 2654, an Ordinance to amend the Gatlinburg Zoning Ordinance, being Ordinance No. 830, and further being an Ordinance to reclassify Parcel 18, Tax Map 118, located on Glades Road in the City from R-1 (Low Density Residential) District to C-5 (Crafts Commercial) District, first reading (passed Planning Commission 5/21/2026). Commissioner Horner made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading, which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The Planning Director explained that this rezoning request would facilitate the development of a Residential Planned Unit Development and that this parcel is located within the Critical Slope Floating Zone and any future development will be required to comply with the applicable development and roadway standards. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DONATING .168 ACRE OF LAND AND GRANTING A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPUR AND WILEY OAKLEY INTERCHANGE PROJECT AND GRANTING THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS.

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of donating .168 acres of land and granting a temporary construction easement in connection with the Spur and Wiley Oakley Interchange Project and granting the Mayor and City Manager authority to execute necessary documents. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the donation and temporary construction easement which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The City Manager explained that this was regarding the donation of .168 acres of City owned property for the Wiley Oakley Drive Crossover Bridge Replacement Project for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the land was necessary for permanent features associated with the bridge and roadway improvements. Following these comments, the motion to approve the donation and easement was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 1041, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF GATLINBURG FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027-2031.

Item D under New Business was Resolution No. 1041, a Resolution adopting a Capital Improvements Program for the City of Gatlinbrug for Fiscal Years 2027-2031. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The City Manager explained that the City's CIP Program for Fiscal Years 2027-2031 were recently reviewed in a Workshop Meeting on June 1, 2026. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 1042, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SEVIER COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000 AND 44 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR) SECTION 201, TO REPEAL AND REPLACE IN ITS ENTIRETY THE CURRENT LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF GATLINBURG AS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION NO. 978.

Item E under New Business was Resolution No. 1042, a Resolution adopting the Sevier County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 201, to repeal and replace in its entirety the current local hazard mitigation plan for the City of Gatlinburg as previously adopted by Resolution No. 978. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The Director of Operations and Communications explained that this is regarding the adoption of the Sevier County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Plan, which was last updated in 2020, and that the local adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is a critical requirement established by FEMA. The Director of Operations and Communications further explained that Federal laws require local governments must adopt a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to remain eligible for various grant programs. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE GATLINBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Item F under New Business was discussion and consideration of making appointments to the Gatlinburg Board of Education. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to reappoint Ann Watson, Mitch McCarter, and Lisa Reagan to the Board, which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The motion to approve the reappointments of Ann Watson, Mitch McCarter, and Lisa Reagan was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE CITY'S INTENTION TO ISSUE DEBT FOR THE TIMELY PURCHASE OF MAJOR PIECES OF EQUIPMENT IN THE FY2026-2027 BUDGET.

Item G under New Business was discussion and consideration of the intention to issue debt for the timely purchase of major pieces of equipment included in the FY 2026-2027 Budget. Commissioner Horner made the motion to approve the intent to issue debt, which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The City Manager explained that there is the need to purchase several pieces of large rolling equipment for the Fire, Police, and Sanitation Departments in the amount of $5,790,000 and that due to significant lead time in manufacturing these items, it is important that orders can be placed as soon as possible. Following these comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION DECLARING CERTAIN CITY ITEMS AS SURPLUS.

Item H under New Business was discussion and consideration of declaring certain City items as surplus. Commissioner Horner made a motion to declare the items as surplus, which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The Finance Director explained that there are equipment items and vehicles from the Recreation Department and Golf Course being declared surplus, along with several impounded vehicles to be sold at a public auction. Following these comments, the motion to declare the items as surplus was unanimously adopted.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

Commissioner Jay Horner

(1) Stated that he wanted to thank various Departments for their work for a successful and clean audit for the FY 2024-25 Budget year; and,

(2) Stated that he wanted to recognize the Building Department for their work with the successful State audit; and,

(3) Stated that he was proud of the City's efforts to receive the Tennessee Municipal League awards; and,

(4) Stated that he wanted to wish Mayor Werner a speedy recovery.

Vice Mayor Kirby Smith

(1) Stated that he wanted to thank the City Manager for the job he is doing and that he wanted to publicly recognize him.

There being no further business to come before the City commission, Commissioner Brackins made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Horner seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mike Werner, Mayor

Greg Patterson, City Recorder

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