The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All the members were present, with the exception of Commissioner Kirby Smith. 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 March 19, 2024. Commissioner Chad Reagan 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, the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau (GCVB) First Quarter Report was presented by President/CEO Chad Netherland. Mr. Netherland reported that during the first quarter he had several meetings, including with State Commissioner of Tourism Mark Ezell. Mr. Netherland also met with City and County leaders on 2024 cooperative marketing plans and with PR Agency FINN regarding 2024 planning and earlier media placement to benefit spring visitation.

Mr. Netherland also reported that digital users on Gatlinburg.com were up 12 percent over last year and mobile app users were up 5 percent over 2023. He also reported that the new Gatlinburg.com launched on March 5 and the new Visit Gatlinburg mobile app launched on January 16. During the first quarter, 46,000 vacation guides were mailed out and 21,784 were viewed online. Mr. Netherland also noted that Gatlinburg received several accolades during the first quarter from Southern Living and World Atlas, as well as receiving substantial national attention from the Eggo Pancake House marketing campaign, which resulted in a global reach of 50 million naming Gatlinburg as the Pancake Capital of the South. Mr. Netherland also reported that the Welcome Center had increased over 6,000 from the first quarter of 2023 and that Convention Center building attendance was up 46 percent from 2023, through 27 events compared to 29 a year ago.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

(1) that he would like to advise that status updates of the FY 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 Capital Projects have been placed at the podium for review; and,

(2) that he wanted to announce that The Mountain Man March would be held on Saturday, April 20 in Gatlinburg and that the annual event was established in 2008 for the University of Tennessee Army ROTC to honor Frank Walkup, who was killed in action in Iraq in 2007 and the event features a 5K, 10K, half marathon, and full marathon and begins and ends at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School; and,

(3) that he wanted to announce that a Firewise Neighborhood Event will be held at Mynatt Park from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. providing Firewise Information, Firewise Evaluations, and property cleanups by the Department of Forestry; and,

(4) that he wanted to remind everyone that the Gatlinburg Rotary Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at 1 p.m. at the Gatlinburg Golf Course; and,

(5) that he wanted to remind everyone that the Lighting and Merchandise Display

Ordinance, which was approved by Commissioners in February goes into effect on Saturday, April 20 and if anyone has questions to call the Building and Planning Department; and,

(6) that he wanted to announce that the City's Street Department began its pressure washing of sidewalks in the downtown area on April 16 and that this pressure washing will occur on weekdays between April and October; and,

(7) that he wanted to commend the Gatlinburg Firefighters Association on its annual Fit For Duty 5K/10K held on Saturday, March 30, as it drew 107 participants and raised $10,000 for the Association's community outreach program; and,

(8) that he also wanted to comment the Gatlinburg Recreation Department for its successful Trout Fishing Tournaments held on April 1 and April 6, which drew 190 anglers during the two events; and,

(9) that he wanted to compliment everyone for their participation in the annual Arbor Day Celebration held on Friday, April 12 at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School and that the ceremony is vital to the City's designation of remaining a Tree City USA; and,

(10) that he wanted to announce that the City will hold a public auction of abandoned and seized vehicles on April 25 at 2 p.m. at the Public Works Complex; and,

(11) that he wanted to announce that the Police Department will participate in National Prescription Drug Takeback Day on Saturday, April 27, and that any unwanted, expired, or unused prescription drugs can be dropped in the kiosk, which is open year round, in the Police Department lobby; and,

(12) that he wanted to announce that the Police Department will be participating in the Keep Sevier Beautiful Battle of the Badges litter cleanup on May 4, which is a countywide litter pickup event and that the Gatlinburg portion of the cleanup will begin at the Spur Welcome Center at 9 a.m.; and,

(13) that he wanted to announce that the Gatlinburg Police Department and the Gatlinburg Fire Departments will hold their annual Emergency Services Golf Tournament on Friday, May 31 at the Gatlinburg Golf Course; and,

(14) that he wanted to announce that Gatlinburg was named as the Number One Best Small Town in Tennessee in the April edition of Southern Living.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2612, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 12-502 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADOPTING EXCEPTIONS TO THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE AS

RECOMMENDED BY THE TENNESSEE STATE FIRE MARSHALL'S OFFICE, SECOND READING (Passed First Reading 3/19/2024).

Item A under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2612, an Ordinance to amend Section 12-502 of the Municipal Code by adopting exceptions to the 2018 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code as recommended by the Tennessee State Fire Marshall's Office, second reading (Passed First Reading 3/19/2024). Commissioner Chad Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading, which was seconded by Commissioner Jay Horner. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2613, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 12-902 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADOPTING ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS TO THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TENNESSEE STATE FIRE MARSHALL'S OFFICE, SECOND READING (Passed First Reading 3/19/2024).

Item B under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2613, an Ordinance to amend section 12-902 of the Municipal Code by adopting additional exceptions to the 2018 edition of the International Residential Code as recommended by the Tennessee State Fire Marshall's Office, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 3/19/2024). Commissioner Horner made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

New Business:

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SINGLE BID TO SUPERIOR PAVEMENT MARKING, INC., FOR THE STRIPING OF CITY STREETS.

Item A under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a single bid to Superior Pavement Marking, Inc., for the striping of City Streets. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Single Bid which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The City Manager explained that this is a Single Bid from Superior Pavement Marking, Inc., in the amount of $83,000 for street striping for the remainder of the Fiscal Year and that it also is recommended by the Public Works Director. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Single Bid was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED OFF PARKWAY AT TAX MAP 126E GROUP B PARCEL 26.00.

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Purchase Agreement for property located off Parkway at Tax 126E Group B Parcel 26.00.

Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the Purchase Agreement which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The City Manager explained that this is regarding the purchase of property for the proposed new one million gallon North Gatlinburg water storage tank, which is located adjacent to the existing water tank and that the property is 0.86 acres with an agreed purchase price of $130,000, which is the appraised value, and closing costs increase the total purchase amount to $132,288.90. Following these comments, the motion to approve the purchase agreement was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1012, AN INITIAL BOND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED FIVE MILLION AND NO/100 DOLLARS ($5,000,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY RELATED TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

Item C under New Business is Resolution Number 1012, an Initial Bond Resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed five million and no/100 dollars (5,000,000) General Obligation Bonds of the City related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project. Commissioner Reagan made the motion to adopt the Resolution which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The City Manager explained that this authorizes the City to issue bonds up to $5 million in the Water and Wastewater Funds for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project and construction of a one million gallon water tank at the North Gatlinburg tank site. The Finance Director explained that both Items C and D can be addressed at this meeting, but the City must wait 15 days before bidding on the bonds. Commissioner Reagan asked if $5 million would cover all the costs associated with the projects and the Finance Director confirmed it would, as all associated costs add up to $4,850,000. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1013, A FINAL BOND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $5,000,000 RELATED TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

Item D under New Business was Resolution Number 1013, a Final Bond Resolution authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the City in Aggregate Principal amount of not to exceed (5,000,000) related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project. Commissioner Horner made a motion to adopt the Resolution which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO SOUTHERN CONSTRUCTOR'S INC., RELATED TO THE WATER PLANT STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT.

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an Agreement to Southern Constructor's Inc., related to the Water Plant Streambank Stabilization

Project. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The City Manager explained that this was approved during the Budget process and the Project provides for needed stabilization of the riverbank at the site of the Water Plant and is in the amount of $380,000. The Utilities Manager explained that during flood conditions that the riverbank has eroded and that the Bid was in the project amount. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Agreement was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CHANGE ORDER TO THE SOUTHERN CONSTRUCTOR'S INC., CONTRACT RELATED TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

Item F under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Change Order to the Southern Constructor's Inc., Contract related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Change Order which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The City Manager explained that the Change Order is in the amount of $1,546,368.44 and provides for certain items that were not part of the original scope of the Project and were identified during construction. The Utilities Manager explained that the identification of further improvements were discussed in the Mid-Fiscal Year Review and that this additional work is through the existing contractor. The Utilities Manager also explained that the original scope of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project will be completed in April and that the added scope of work will continue through March 14, 2025. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Change Order was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FOXPE ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND INSPECTION SERVICES RELATED TO A CHANGE ORDER WITH SOUTHERN CONSTRUCTOR'S INC., RELATED TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.

Item G under New Business was Discussion and consideration of approving an amendment to the FOXPE Engineering Services Agreement for construction contract administration and inspection services related to a change order with Southern Constructor's Inc., related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Amended Agreement which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The City Manager explained that this is an Amendment to the existing Agreement with FOXPE for additional services related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project and that these services will be billed at an hourly rate not to exceed $250,000. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Amended Agreement was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE SOUTHERN CONSTRUCTOR'S INC., AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE MAIN LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

Item H under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving Change Order #1 to the Southern Constructor's Inc., Agreement related to the Main Lift Station Improvements Project. Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the Change Order which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The City Manager explained that this Change Order was related to improvements at the existing wastewater pumping facility and adds 45 days to the Project due to delays in equipment and material delivery, changing the substantial completion date to June 25, 2024, and does not add any additional monies to the Contract. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Change Order was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE RECREATION BOARD.

Item I under New Business was discussion and consideration of making Appointments to the Recreation Board. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to reappoint Al Shirley, Lester Flynn, Allen Cox, Buster Flynn, and Whit Helton to the Recreation Board for another two-year term. The motion to reappoint Al Shirley, Lester Flynn, Allen Cox, Buster Flynn, and Whit Helton was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTING GREG PATTERSON, CITY MANAGER TO THE SEVIER WATER BOARD, SEVIER TRANSPORTATION BOARD, SEVIER SOLID WASTE BOARD AND SEVIER ANIMAL CARE CENTER.

Item J under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving Greg Patterson, City Manager to the Sevier Water Board, Sevier Transportation Board, Sevier Solid Waste Board and Sevier Animal Care Center. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to appoint the City Manager to the Sevier Water Board, Sevier Transportation Board, Sevier Solid Waste Board and Sevier Animal Care Center which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. Mayor Werner explained the former City Manager served on these boards and that the current City Manager needed to be appointed. Following these comments, the motion to appoint the City Manager to the Sevier Water Board, Sevier Transportation Board, Sevier Solid Waste Board and Sevier Animal Care Center.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Jay Horner

(1) Stated that he wanted to thank the City for a successful City Manager transition.

Commissioner Chad Reagan

(1) Stated that he wanted to congratulate the City Manager for a successful first meeting.

Vice Mayor Mark McCown

(1) Stated that he wanted to wish a Happy Birthday to Fire Chief Charlie Cole and Mayor Werner.

Mayor Mike Werner

(1) Stated that he wanted to thank everyone for the birthday wishes; and,

(2) Stated that he wanted to thank everyone for the prayers for his newborn grandson, Wren, and his family.

Mike Werner, Mayor

Greg Patterson, City Recorder
/mp