The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 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 June 6, 2023. Vice Mayor Mark McCown made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Chad Reagan and then unanimously adopted.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

(1) that she would like to announce that the Community Center will be closed from July 31 until August 6 for annual maintenance and that the facility will reopen on August 7, 2023, at 6:00 A.M. and,

(2) also, that she would like to announce that the Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center will be hosting its annual Fun and Safety Back to School Bash at Rocky Top Sports World on Thursday, July 27 from 3:00 until 5:00 P.M. and that agencies will be in attendance including the Police and Fire Departments.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2600, AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, Second Reading (Passed First Reading June 6, 2023).

Item A under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2600, amending the Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, Second Reading (Passed First Reading June 6, 2023. Commissioner Jay Horner made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading, which was seconded by Commissioner Kirby Smith. The motion to adopt the Ordinance was unanimously approved on second reading.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1006, A RESOLUTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY UPON WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE OWNERS AND TO INCORPORATE THE SAME WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY.

Item A under New Business was Resolution Number 1006, A Resolution to annex certain territory upon written consent of the owners and to incorporate the same within the corporate limits of the City. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The City Manager explained that the annexation request was approved by the Planning Commission in February and that a Public Hearing was held before City Commission June 6 and no public comments were heard. The City Manager also explained that this is the actual Resolution to officially annex the property. The Building and Planning Director explained that this property is at the intersection of Powdermill Road and Johns Branch Road and that three acres of the parcel are inside the corporate limits of the City and City services are available to serve the property. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH SOUTHEASTERN BUILDERS RELATED TO THE MILLS PARK PAVILION AND THE SOFTBALL CONCESSION BUILDING RESTROOMS RENOVATION PROJECT.

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Contract with Southeastern Builders related to the Mills Park Pavilion and the Softball Concession Building Restrooms Renovation Project. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager explained that this is related to the renovation of the Mills Park Pavilion restrooms and the Softball Concession Building restrooms and that three bids were received and that this was the low bid in the amount of $289,610 and there are sufficient funds in the 801 Capital Projects Budget to cover the Project costs. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Contract was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH WHALEY CONSTRUCTION, LLC RELATED TO THE CONNECTOR PATH FROM GATLINBURG-PITTMAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Contract with Whaley Construction, LLC related to the Connector Path from Gatlinburg-Pittman Junior High School to the Community Center. Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The City Manager explained that this is the low bid in the amount of $200,634 and that monies for the Project were appropriated in last year's School Fund Budget in the amount of $195,000 and that the slight difference is available in the 801 Capital Projects Fund. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Contract was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SINGLE BID TO HIGHWAY MARKINGS, INC., RELATED TO THE INSTALLATION OF GUARDRAILS.

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Single Bid to Highway Markings, Inc., related to the installation of guardrails. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Single Bid which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager explained that this was an item that the City bids out every two to three years and that this was a Single Bid. The Public Works Director explained that Highway Markings, Inc. has been the successful bidder for several years and always been the low bid. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Single Bid was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR-THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK FOR RECIPROCAL EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES.

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an Agreement with the United States Department of Interior-The National Park Service, Great Smoky Mountains National Park for Reciprocal Emergency Support Services. Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The City manager explained that this is a longstanding Agreement with the United States Department of Interior, the National Park Service and Great Smoky Mountains National Park for Reciprocal Emergency Support Services for fire and rescue services. The Fire Chief explained that the Agreement is for a five-year period and there are no changes from the previous Agreement. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Agreement was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS TO UPDATE AND REPLACE THE CURRENT POLICE DEPARTMENT RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM.

Item F under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee, Office of Criminal Justice Programs to update and replace the current Police Department Radio Communication System. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Grant Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The City Manager explained that this is an opportunity to upgrade the current Police Department Radio Communication System and is funded by a one hundred percent Grant in the amount of $1,383,318. The City Manager also explained that this Grant is a collaborative Project and includes purchasing equipment for the Pigeon Forge Police Department. The Police Chief explained that this upgrade would update the Police Department's radio communications system to the Tennessee Advanced Communications Network. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Grant Contract was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1007, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS (PEP) "SAFETY PARTNERS" LOSS CONTROL MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM.

Item G under New Business was Resolution Number 1007, a Resolution authorizing the City to participate in the Public Entity Programs (PEP) "Safety Partners" Loss Control Matching Grant Program. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to adopt the Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager explained that the City anticipates receiving $3,000 from this Grant, which would be used to offset the purchase of turnout gear for Firefighters and Police bullet proof vests. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DECLARING CERTAIN CITY ITEMS AS SURPLUS.

Item H under New Business was discussion and consideration of declaring certain City items as surplus. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to declare these items as surplus which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The motion to declare these items as surplus was unanimously adopted.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2601, AN ORDINANCE MAKING AND FIXING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024, AND TO CARRY FORWARD APPROPRIATIONS FOR PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCES, FIRST READING.

Item I under New Business was Ordinance Number 2601, an Ordinance making and fixing the annual appropriation for the several Departments of the City for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2023, an to carry forward appropriations for the prior year encumbrances, First Reading. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The motion to adopt the Ordinance was unanimously approved on first reading.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Jay Horner

(1) Stated that he has heard of issues for downtown business employees finding parking spaces in the Bishop Lane Parking Lot between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. each day and hopes that the City can alleviate the issue. The City Manager told Commissioner Horner that staff would look into the issue and communicate back with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Kirby Smith

(1) Stated that he wanted to thank the City Administration for their work on the Budget.

Commissioner Chad Reagan

(1) Stated that he wanted to thank the Department Heads and the City Administration for a job well done on the Budget.

Vice Mayor Mark McCown

(1) Stated that he too wanted to express his appreciation for the work of all involved on the Budget; and,

(2) Inquired about the planned construction by the National Park Service of a flyover Bridge along the Spur. The Public Information Officer replied that, according to the National Park Service, as of March 2023, the Project was expected to go to bid in late 2023 or early 2024, with construction beginning in late 2024.

Mayor Mike Werner

(1) Stated that he wanted to offer his thanks and appreciation for everyone's work on the Budget.

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

Mike Werner, Mayor

Cindy C. Ogle

Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder
/mp