Gatlinburg City Commission
August 4, 2026
Meeting Minutes

The Gatlinburg City Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All members were present except Commissioner Jay Horner. Mayor Mike Werner called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Finance Director Robert Holt led the Invocation.

Mayor Werner then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of July 21, 2026. Commissioner Chad Reagan made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Kirby Smith and then unanimously adopted.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

(1) That he wanted to commend the Gatlinburg Fire Department and Gatlinburg Police Department staff for the recent kids camps and that those items are important community programs; and,

(2) That he wanted to announce that the Gatlinburg Police Department was hosting a Car Seat Safety Event at Rocky Top Sports World on August 6 from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2656, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 7-501(2) AND 7-502 OF THE GATLINBURG MUNICIPAL CODE, AND FURTHER BEING AN ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE SPARKLING DEVICES IN THE DEFINITION OF "FIREWORKS" AND TO PROHIBIT THE RETAIL SALE OF FIREWORKS IN THE CITY OF GATLINBURG, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 7/21/2026).

Item A under New Business was Ordinance Number 2656, an Ordinance to amend Sections 7-501(2) and 7-502 of the Gatlinburg Municipal Code and further being an Ordinance to include sparkling devices in the definition of "fireworks" and to prohibit the retail sale of fireworks in the City of Gatlinburg, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 7/21/2026). Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Commissioner Randy Brackins. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2657, A PROPERTY TAX LEVYING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 7/21/2026).

Item B under Old Business was Ordinance 2657, A Property Tax Levying Ordinance for the City for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 7/21/2026). Commissioner Brackins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2658, AN ORDINANCE MAKING AND FIXING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF GATLINBURG FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND CARRY FORWARD APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCES, Public Hearing and Second Reading (Passed First Reading 7/21/2026).

Item C under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2658, an Ordinance making and fixing the annual appropriation for the several departments of the City of Gatlinburg for the Fiscal Year beginning July1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, and carry forward appropriations for the prior year encumbrances, Public Hearing and Second Reading (Passed Frist reading 7/21/2026). Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. Mayor Werner then opened the Public Hearing and after no comments were made, he closed the Public Hearing. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

New Business:

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A RIGHT-OF-WAY USE REQUEST LOCATED AT 1525 ZERMATT COURT FOR PROPOSED RETAINING WALL REPAIR. (Requested by Jonathan Eichorn).

Item A under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Right-of-Way use requested located at 1525 Zermatt Court for proposed retaining wall repair (Requested by Jonathan Eichorn). Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the right-of-way use request which was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. The Planning Director explained that this is a right-of-way use request at 1525 Zermatt Court and that the owner is requesting authorization to repair an existing private retaining wall located within the City's right-of-way and the request is limited to the repair of the pre-existing structure that was originally

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2659, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE IV, SECTION 411 OF THE GATLINBURG ZONING ORDINANCE, BEING ORDINANCE NO. 830, AND FURTHER BEING AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN STANDARDS FOR MACHINE-READABLE GRAPHICS (QR CODES) WITHIN COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICTS, First Reading.

Item B under New Business was Ordinance Number 2659 an Ordinance to amend Article IV, Section 411 of the Gatlinburg Zoning Ordinance, being Ordinance No. 830, and further being an Ordinance to establish development and design standards for machine readable graphics (QR Codes) within Commercial Zoning Districts, First Reading. Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The Planning Director explained these proposed amendments serve to formally establish development and design standards for QR Codes or other machine-readable graphics within commercial zoning districts to protect the visual landscape and streetscape aesthetics of our commercial corridors, which accommodating contemporary operational requirements. The Planning Director also explained that these proposed Amendments were reviewed and approved by the Gatlinburg Municipal Planning Commission at their July 23, 2026, Meeting and is being presented tonight on first reading. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1044, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING UPDATED SECTIONS TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES RULES AND REGULATIONS DATED SEPTEMBER 1, 2026.

Item C under New Business was Resolution Number 1044, a Resolution approving and adopting updated sections to the Human Resources Rules and Regulations dated September 1, 2026. Commissioner Brackins made a motion to adopt the changes to the City's Human Resources Rules and Regulations Manual, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. The City Manager explained that these updates to the City's Human Resources Rules and Regulations Manual were reviewed at the July 20, 2026, Budget Presentation Workshop Meeting and if approved, these changes will go into effect in the City's Human Resources Rules and Regulations Manual on September 1, 2026. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the changes to the City's Human Resources Rules and Regulations Manual was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2660, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GATLINBURG MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE V, CHAPTER 9 BY ADDING SECTION 5-916 AND FURTHER BEING AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO USE, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS TO PURCHASE GOODS AND SERVICES, First Reading.

Item D under New Business was Ordinance Number 2660, an Ordinance to amend the Gatlinburg Municipal Code, Titel V, Chapter 9 by adding Section 5-916 and further being an ordinance to authorize and City to use, under certain circumstances, competitive sealed proposals to purchase goods and services, First Reading. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The City Attorney explained that this Ordinance will allow the City to utilize sealed Requests for Proposals (RFPs)as a purchasing mechanism. State Law requires governing bodies to officially adopt an Ordinance to allow the use of RFPs. Though most purchases can be handled through the process of accepting sealed Bids, however, this will allow the City another mechanism.

Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2661, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 17-204 OF THE GATLINBURG MUNICIPAL CODE ADDRESSING COMMERCIAL SANITATION RATES, First Reading.

Item E Under New Business was Ordinance Number 2661, an Ordinance to amend Section 17-204 of the Gatlinburg Municipal Code addressing commercial sanitation rates, First Reading. Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The Finance Director explained that this is an Ordinance related to the City's Commercial Sanitation Rates and that it was discussed and reviewed during the July 20, 2026, Budget Presentation Workshop Meeting. The Finance Director also stated that this Ordinance will increase the monthly flat fee for businesses with dumpsters to $200 per month, per dumpster. The Ordinance will also increase the monthly flat fee for businesses without dumpsters to $50 per month. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading was unanimously approved.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Chad Reagan
Asked if the community could remember his family, especially his mother.

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

Mike Werner, Mayor

Greg Patterson, City Recorder

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