

Gatlinburg City Commission

April 21, 2026

Meeting Minutes

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All the members were present, with the exception of 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 March 3, 2026. Commissioner Randy Brackins made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Chad Reagan and then unanimously adopted.

Regarding reports from Boards and Committees, Mr. Chad Netherland, President and CEO of the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, reported during the first quarter that the marketing team has spent extensive time on their spring campaign rollout and commercial rollout, along with launching a new podcast. Mr. Netherland also reported that visits to Gatlinburg.com have had a slight decrease compared to Quarter 1 of 2025, due to artificial intelligence searches, however, he noted that social media impressions totaled 27 million in the first quarter. Mr. Netherland also reported that the GCVB hosted 27 total events, including the second year of WineFest, in the first quarter and that Welcome Center traffic was down slightly compared to 2025. Commissioner Reagan asked how the turnout was for WineFest and Mr. Netherland replied that the turnout was good and that the marketing team is looking for ways to improve the event for 2027.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

- (1) that he wanted to announce that the Parkway would be repaved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation beginning on April 26 and that following the repaving, the Recreation Department would put out its approximate 300 hanging flower baskets; and,
- (2) that he also wanted to ask everyone to keep Commissioner Horner in their prayers after he sustained injuries in a recent fall.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2650, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GATLINBURG ZONING ORDINANCE, BEING ORDINANCE NO. 830, AND FURTHER BEING AN ORDINANCE TO RECLASSIFY PARCEL 20.01, TAX MAP 126L, GROUP B LOCATED AT 217 SYCAMORE LANE IN THE CITY, FROM R-2 (MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) DISTRICT TO C-2 (GENERAL BUSINESS) DISTRICT, Public Hearing and Second Reading (Passed First Reading 3/3/2026 and Planning Commission 2/19/2026).

Item A under old business was Ordinance Number 2650, an Ordinance to amend the Gatlinburg Zoning Ordinance, being Ordinance No. 830, and further being an Ordinance to reclassify Parcel 20.01, Tax Map 126L, Group B located at 217 Sycamore Lane in the City from R-2 (Medium Density Residential) District to C-2 (General Business) District, Public Hearing and Second Reading (Passed First Reading 3/3/2026 and Planning Commission 2/19/2026). Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. Mayor Werner opened the public hearing and closed the public hearing after no comments were made. The Planning Director explained that this proposed rezoning of 217 Sycamore Lane is changing the parcel from R-2 (Medium Density Residential) to C-2 (General Business) and that the rezoning was approved by the Gatlinburg Municipal Planning Commission at its February 19, 2026, meeting and approved by the City Commission on first reading at the March 3, 2026, meeting. After these comments were made, the motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2651, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GATLINBURG ZONING ORDINANCE, BEING ORDINANCE NO. 830, AND FURTHER BEING AN ORDINANCE TO RECLASSIFY PARCEL 31, TAX MAP 126M, GROUP A LOCATED ON BASKINS CREEK ROAD IN THE CITY, FROM R-1 (LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) DISTRICT TO C-1 (TOURIST COMMERCIAL) DISTRICT, Public Hear and Second Reading (Passed First Reading 3/3/2026 and Planning Commission 2/19/2026).

Item B under old business was Ordinance Number 2651, an Ordinance to amend the Gatlinburg Zoning Ordinance, being Ordinance No. 830, and further being an Ordinance to reclassify Parcel 31, Tax Map 126M, Group A located on Baskins Creek Road in the City, from R-1 (Low Density Residential) District to C-1 (Tourist Commercial) District, Public Hearing and Second Reading (Passed First Reading 3/3/2026 and Planning Commission 2/19/2026). Commissioner Reagan made the motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Vice Mayor Kirby Smith. The Planning Director explained that this proposed rezoning is changing the parcel from R-1 (Low Density Residential) to C-1 (Tourist Commercial) and that the rezoning was approved by the Gatlinburg Municipal Planning Commission at its February 19, 2026, meeting and approved by the City Commission on first reading at the March 3, 2026, meeting. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously adopted.

New Business:

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING APPOINTMENTS TO THE ANNA PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.

Item A under new business was discussion and consideration of approving appointments to the Anna Porter Public Library Board. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the reappointment of Beverly Waldron and Sally Helton and the appointment of

Ronald Miller, which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The City Manager explained that the appointment of Ronald Miller to the Board was to fill the term of Christine Maltese, who resigned earlier this year. Following these comments, the motion to approve the reappointments of Beverly Waldron and Sally Helton and the appointment of Ronald Miller was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING AN UPDATED PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE POLICY REQUIRED BY THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TDOT).

Item B under new business was discussion and consideration of adopting an updated Procurement Procedure Policy required by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). Commissioner Brackins made a motion to adopt the updated procurement procedure policy, which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The Finance Director explained that this update is required based on a review from TDOT and is in addition to the TDOT recommended change to the City's Internal Control Manual, which was approved by City Commission at its March 3, 2026, Meeting. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the updated procurement procedure policy was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AUDIT CONTRACT WITH CROSSLIN, PLLC FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 2026.

Item C under new business was discussion and consideration of approving an Audit Contract with Crosslin, PLLC for the Fiscal Year ending June 2026. Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The Finance Director explained that this is the second year in the three-year contract with Crosslin, which has done the City's audits for the last five years. The base audit fee for this Contract is in the amount of \$55,000 for the City and \$11,750 for Rocky Top Sports World, the City's component unit. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Contract was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH CDM SMITH FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS REGARDING A GRANT APPLICATION RELATED TO THE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STUDY.

Item D under new business was discussion and consideration of approving an Agreement with CDM Smith for the allocation of funds regarding a grant application related to the Pedestrian Safety Study. Commissioner Brackins made a motion to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. Mayor Werner remarked that a positive workshop on this item was held before the Meeting. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Agreement was unanimously adopted.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Randy Brackins

(1) Stated that he extends his well-wishes for a speedy recovery to Commissioner Horner.

Commissioner Chad Reagan

- (1) Stated that he also hopes Commissioner Horner has a speedy recovery; and,
- (2) Stated that he wants everyone to remember the families of Bob McKay and Tom Trentham after their recent passing.

Vice Mayor Kirby Smith

- (1) Stated that he also wants everyone to keep Commissioner Horner in their prayers; and,
- (2) Stated that he wanted to congratulate the Gatlinburg-Pittman High School girls and boys basketball teams on their recent seasons, which both teams qualified for the State Tournament.

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



Mike Werner, Mayor



Greg Patterson, City Recorder

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