

Gatlinburg City Commission
May 19, 2026
Meeting Minutes

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All the members were present. 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 April 21, 2026. Vice Mayor Kirby Smith made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Randy Brackins and then unanimously adopted.

Regarding Petitions and Communications from the Public and Items from the Audience, Ms. Jackie Leatherwood thanked Commissioners for making an exception to the Ordinance related to food trucks so that the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau could host an event for the Food Network, which will result in great marketing for the City, and resulted in a profitable week for her hotel property.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

- (1) that he wanted to wish the Gatlinburg-Pittman High School soccer team good luck in the TSSAA State Tournament; and,
- (2) that he wanted to congratulate the Gatlinburg-Pittman High School Class of 2026 on their graduation; and,
- (3) that he wanted to remind everyone that the Gatlinburg Farmers Market started the previous Saturday and would be each Saturday until October; and,
- (4) that he wanted to recognize that this week is National Public Works Week and National EMS Week; and,
- (5) that he wanted to report that the Gatlinburg Fire Department received its ISO review for renewal of the City's ISO rating and the Fire Department confirmed that the City maintained its Class 2 rating; and,
- (6) that he wanted to wish Maureen Parton a Happy Birthday.

New Business:

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE ANNA PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Item A under New Business was discussion and consideration of an appointment to the Anna Porter Public Library. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to appoint Paula

Barreras to the Anna Porter Public Library Board, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. The motion to appoint Paula Barreras to the Anna Porter Public Library Board was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING APPOINTMENTS TO THE GATLINBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving appointments to the Gatlinburg Planning Commission. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to reappoint Kirby Smith, Larry Claiborne, and Candace Ogle Morton to the Gatlinburg Planning Commission, which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The motion to reappoint Kirby Smith, Larry Claiborne, and Candace Ogle Morton to the Gatlinburg Planning Commission was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A RIGHT-OF-WAY USE REQUEST LOCATED AT 610 AIRPORT ROAD TO RE-ESTABLISH LOW VOLTAGE DATA LINES.

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of a Right-of-Way use request located at 610 Airport Road to re-establish low voltage data lines. Commissioner Brackins made a motion to approve the right-of-way use request which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The Planning Director explained that Sidney Maples, owner of the Sidney James Mountain Lodge, for permission to underground private communication lines within the City's right-of-way and that Mr. Maples provided a concept plan in which free hanging lines are intended to be bored under the City right-of-way. The Planning Director further stated that Mr. Maples has been advised that prior to permit issuance, a plan prepared by a design professional must be provided for the proposed work and that the right-of-way use agreement is temporary in nature and may be revoked by the City at any time. Following these comments, the motion to approve the right-of-way use request was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A BUSINESS DIRECTIONAL SIGN FOR THE RAMPANT LION PUB AT THE INTERSECTION OF GLADES ROAD AND POWDERMILL RD.

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Business Directional Sign for the Rampant Lion Pub at the intersection of Glades and Powdermill Road. Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the business directional sign which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The Planning Director explained that this is a request from Mr. Brian Papworth for the City to place a business directional sign for The Rampant Lion to be placed on the existing City business directional sign at the intersection of Glades Road and Powdermill Road and that the Planning Department staff has reviewed this request and determined that the sign qualifies based on the provisions of the Municipal Code Title 16, Chapter 4, Section 402. Following these comments, the motion to approve the business directional sign was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING MATCHING FUNDS RELATED TO THE “SAFE STREETS FOR ALL” (SS4A) GRANT PROGRAM.

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving matching funds related to the “Safe Streets For All” (SS4A) Grant Program. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the matching funds which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The City Manager explained that at the April 21, 2026 City Commission meeting, a proposal for professional services with CDM Smith to apply for grant funds for this grant and that the Pedestrian Safety Study was also reviewed in a workshop meeting prior to the April 21, 2026 City Commission Meeting. The City Manager further explained that per a review and analysis by CDM Smith, to accomplish the upgrades to the pedestrian crosswalks and traffic signals, the cost is estimated to be \$8,221,340 and the City’s match of 20 percent is \$1,644,268 and needs approval from the City Commission. Mayor Werner stated that the April 21 Workshop Meeting was positive and that this project would allow vehicular traffic to flow faster and pedestrian traffic to flow safer. Following these comments, the motion to approve the matching funds was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR CONVEYANCE OF FIRE TURNOUT GEAR TO GATLINBURG-PITTMAN HIGH SCHOOL.

Item F under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a contract for conveyance of fire turnout gear to Gatlinburg-Pittman High School. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Horner. The City Manager explained that this would convey 15 sets of turnout gear from the Gatlinburg Fire Department to Gatlinburg-Pittman High School to be used in their Fire Science Program. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Contract was unanimously adopted.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 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, First Reading.

Item G under New Business was Ordinance Number 2652, appropriating an amount sufficient to cover the necessary expenses of the various departments, office and boards of the city pending the Fiscal Year 2026-27, First Reading. Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2653, AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 2025, AND ENDING June 30, 2026, First Reading

Item H under New Business was Ordinance 2653, amending the Appropriation Ordinance

for the Fiscal year beginning July 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, 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 on first reading was unanimously approved.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Jay Horner

- (1) Stated he wanted to wish Maureen Parton a Happy Birthday; and,
- (2) Stated that he wanted to thank the Gatlinburg Fire Department and Gatlinburg Police Department for their help during his recent fall.

Commissioner Randy Brackins

- (1) Stated that he wanted to extend his congratulations to the Gatlinburg-Pittman High School Class of 2026 on their graduation; and,
- (2) Stated that he wanted to congratulate the Gatlinburg Fire Department on their recent ISO rating and thank them for their donation to Gatlinburg-Pittman High School; and,
- (3) Stated it was good to see Commissioner Horner back at the City Commission meeting; and,
- (4) Stated he wanted to wish Maureen Parton a Happy Birthday.

Commissioner Chad Reagan

- (1) Stated that he too wanted to wish Maureen Parton a Happy Birthday; and,
- (2) Stated it was good to have Commissioner Horner at tonights meeting; and,
- (3) Stated he wanted to congratulate the Gatlinburg-Pittman High School soccer team on its season and to congratulate the accomplishments of the graduating class.

Vice Mayor Kirby Smith

- (1) Stated that he too was glad to see Commissioner Horner; and,
- (2) Stated that he wanted to thank everyone for their work on the recent resurfacing of Parkway.

Mayor Mike Werner

- (1) Stated that he too wanted to wish the Gatlinburg-Pittman High School soccer team good luck in this week's State Tournament; and,
- (2) Stated that he was glad to see Commissioner Horner at tonight's meeting; and,
- (3) Stated that he wanted to wish Maureen Parton a Happy Birthday.

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



Mike Werner, Mayor


Greg Patterson, City Recorder

/sb