

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 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. Assistant City Manager Greg Patterson gave the Invocation.

Mayor Werner then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of July 18, 2023. Commissioner Chad Reagan made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Kirby Smith and then unanimously adopted.

Regarding Reports from Boards and Committees, Chad Netherland, Gatlinburg Convention Convention and Visitors Bureau President & CEO reported that in the second quarter he met with the DVL Sigenthaler regarding public relations and a 2024 television advertisement campaign, spoke at the 2023 e Tourism Travel Conference and met with the President of Dollywood regarding cooperative marketing efforts and workforce development initiatives. Mr. Netherland also reported that in the second quarter, visitors to Gatlinburg.com was slightly down compared to 2022, however, organic visitation to Gatlinburg.com was up 12 percent for the same time frame. During the second quarter, Visit Gatlinburg social media platforms reached 62 million combined followers and the Visit Gatlinburg mobile app had 3,000 new downloads. Mr. Netherland also reported that 14,000 Visitor Guides were downloaded and viewed online and 100,000 had been mailed out to date. Mr. Netherland also reported in the second quarter that the GCVB had hired five new employees, bringing the organization's total to 39 full-time employees with five part-time employees. Additionally, Mr. Netherland also reported that visitor's entering the Spur Welcome Center were up 16% compared to last year and that he attributed that increase due to the National Park's Park It Forward parking program. Finally, Mr. Netherland reported that there were 66 events at the Gatlinburg Convention Center in the second quarter of 2023, compared to 60 in the second quarter of 2022.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

- (1) that she would like to advise that status updates of the FY 2021-22 and 2022-23 Capital Projects have been placed at the podium for review; and,
- (2) that she wanted to announce that the Community Center reopened on Monday, August 7 after being closed last week for its annual maintenance week. She advised that during maintenance week the facility's wooden floors were cleaned and refinished, fresh coats of paint were applied, and many other various jobs were completed to make sure that the Center operates safely and efficiently. The City Manager also thanked the public for their understanding for the closure and the many Recreation Department employees for their hard work during this week.

Old Business:

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, PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING (Passed First Reading on July 18, 2023).

Item A under Old 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, and to carry forward appropriations for the prior year encumbrances, Public Hearing and Second Reading (Passed First Reading on July 18, 2023). Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Vice Mayor Mark McCown. Mayor Werner then opened the Public Hearing and, after no comments were made, the Public Hearing was closed. The motion to adopt the Ordinance was unanimously approved on second reading, as amended.

New Business:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2602, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 17-103, 17-106, 17-110, 17-111, 17-112, 17-204, AND 17-207 OF THE GATLINBURG MUNICIPAL CODE ADDRESSING REFUSE AND TRASH DISPOSAL, First Reading

Item A under New Business was Ordinance Number 2602, an Ordinance to amend Sections 17-103, 17-106, 17-110, 17-111, 17-112, 17-204, and 17-207 of the Gatlinburg Municipal Code Addressing Refuse and Trash Disposal, First Reading. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager explained that these changes were discussed at the July 24 Budget Workshop Meeting and that the major changes are related to the rates for commercial dumpsters being changed to a flat monthly fee of \$75.00 per dumpster, with the rate for commercial customers without dumpsters to a flat fee of \$15.00 per month. The City Manager explained that these increases would be used to support the purchase of 480 Bearicuda, Inc. dumpsters which are animal proof. The Public Works Director also explained that this Ordinance expanded the Animal Resistant Garbage Collection Zone area to include all of the downtown area and Highway 321 from Traffic Light No. 3 to the Roaring Fork intersection. Commissioner Jay Horner stated that he has heard possible issues with the openings in the dumpsters not being large enough to get boxes and garbage bags in it and the City Manager replied that City staff will look into these concerns and report back. After these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2603, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GATLINBURG MUNICIPAL CODE BY REPEALING SECTION 18-112 (1) IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADOPTING NEW SECTIONS 18-112 (1), (2) AND (3) IN LIEU THEREOF TO INCREASE USAGE CHARGES FOR SEWER SERVICE, First Reading.

Item B under New Business was Ordinance Number 2603, an Ordinance to amend the Gatlinburg Municipal Code by repealing Section 18-112 (1) in its entirety and adopting New Sections 18-112 (1), (2), and (3) in lieu thereof to increase usage charges for sewer service, First Reading. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The City Manager explained that the proposed Ordinance would increase Sewer and Water rates by 40%, with the first 20% being effective January 1, 2024, and the additional 20% on January 1, 2025. The City Manager also explained that the proposed Ordinance also states that any structure that is on the Tourist Residency Program will be billed at a rate at least equal to the rate of a 2" meter. Additionally, the City Manager also explained that the main reason for these needed increases is to cover the additional debt cost and depreciation associated with the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project, which was estimated to cost \$16.8 million and the actual cost of the Project is \$25 million. The Utilities Manager confirmed that the primary reason for the increase in Sewer and Water rates was the actual cost of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project and the depreciation associated with the Project once it is completed. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance was approved on first reading.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2604, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GATLINBURG MUNICIPAL CODE BY REPEALING SECTION 18-112 (1) IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADOPTING NEW SECTIONS 18-112 (1), (2) AND (3) IN LIEU THEREOF TO INCREASE USAGE CHARGES FOR WATER, First Reading

Item C under New Business was Ordinance Number 2604, an Ordinance to amend the Gatlinburg Municipal Code by repealing Section 18-112 (1) in its entirety and adopting new Sections 18-112 (1), (2), and (3) in lieu thereof to increase usage charges for Water, First Reading. Commissioner Horner made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A CYBERSECURITY POLICY FOR THE CITY OF GATLINBURG.

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of adopting a Cybersecurity Policy for the City of Gatlinburg. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Cybersecurity Policy which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager explained that the State is requiring municipalities that operate utilities implement this type of policy and the policy is based on the recommendations presented by the Comptroller of the State. The City Manager also explained that many procedures outlined in this plan are already part of the City's security strategy. The Utilities Manager explained that this Cybersecurity Policy is required to protect the organization against cyber threats. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Policy was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2605, A PROPERTY TAX LEVYING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024, First Reading.

Item E under New Business was Ordinance Number 2605, a Property Tax Levying Ordinance for the City for the Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, First Reading. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. Mayor Werner asked if there was no increase in the Property Tax and the City Manager confirmed that this does not reflect an increase in the rate from the previous Fiscal Year. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Ordinance was unanimously approved on first reading.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2606, AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE RATE OF COMPENSATION FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR OF THE CITY AND TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASES IN THE RATE OF COMPENSATION EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, First Reading

Item F under New Business was Ordinance Number 2606, an Ordinance to set the rate of compensation for the Board of Commissioners and Mayor of the City and to provide for increases in the rate of compensation effective October 1, 2023, and repealing all Ordinances in conflict herewith, First Reading. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on first reading which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan, with an amendment that the increase be retroactive to July 1, 2023. Vice Mayor McCown agreed to the amendment. The motion to adopt the Ordinance was unanimously approved on first reading.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

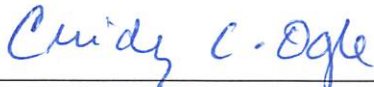
Commissioner Jay Horner

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

Vice Mayor Mark McCown

(1) Asked if the City could look into trimming the trees on the right-of-way at First Baptist Church, adjacent to US Highway 321. The City Manager said City staff would look into the issue and reply back to the Commissioners.

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.



Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder
/mp


Mike Werner, Mayor