

**Gatlinburg City Commission**  
**February 17, 2026**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Room. All the members were present with the exception of Commissioner Jay Horner and Commissioner Chad Reagan. 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 February 3, 2026. Commissioner Randy Brackins 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 announce that February 21-28 will be National Pancake Week celebrated by the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau; and,
- (2) that he wanted to recognize that February 15 was National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day and that Officers Kinsey, Finchum, and Trotter are dedicated to the students, faculty, and staff at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School, Gatlinburg-Pittman Junior High School, and Gatlinburg-Pittman High School; and,
- (3) that he wanted to announce that Gatlinburg Wine Fest will be held on Saturday, March 14 from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. on the campus of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts; and,
- (4) that he wanted to announce that the Gatlinburg Firefighters Association Fit for Duty 5K and 10K is scheduled for Saturday, March 21; and,
- (5) that he wanted to congratulate the Gatlinburg-Pittman Junior High School girls basketball team for their recent TMSAA Class AA State Championship victory.

**Old Business:**

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 2649, AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2640, THE CAPTION OF WHICH IS AN ORDINANCE MAKING AND FIXING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR TH SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, SECOND READING (Passed First Reading 2/3/2026).**

Item A under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2649, amending Ordinance number 2640, the caption of which is an ordinance making and fixing the annual appropriation

for the several departments of the city for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 2/3/2026). Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading was unanimously approved.

#### **New Business:**

#### **DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT REGARDING THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT TO REFLECT THE NAME CHANGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK AND AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THE AMENDED CONTRACT.**

Item A under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an amendment to the construction contract regarding the Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project to reflect the name change of the construction manager at risk and authorizing the Public Building Authority to execute the amended contract. Commissioner Brackins made a motion to approve the Contract Amendment which was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. The City Manager explained that this item is regarding the name change of the Construction Manager at Risk for the Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project and that the company selected for this project has changed its name from Dugan and Meyers to Baker Water, LLC, therefore an Amendment to the current contract is needed. The City Manager also explained that the City Attorney advises that the Contract must be amended to properly reflect the name change and authorize the Public Building Authority to execute the amended contract and that the Public Building Authority will meet on Thursday, February 19 at 3:30 p.m. to handle this business item. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Contract Amendment was unanimously adopted.

#### **RESOLUTION NUMBER 1039, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GATLINBURG ADOPTING THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY AND RESILIENCY (C-PACER) PROGRAM.**

Item B under New Business was Resolution Number 1039, a Resolution of the Board of Commission of the City of Gatlinburg adopting the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency (C-PACER) Program. Commissioner Brackins made a motion to adopt the Resolution which was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Mayor Werner opened the Public Hearing and after no comments were made, he closed the Public Hearing. The City Manager explained that this Resolution follows the approval of the Intent Resolution at the February 3, 2026 City Commission meeting and that if this Resolution is adopted, Tennessee PACE, the company the City engaged at the February 3, 2026 City Commission Meeting to administer the program, can begin the implementation process for properties that wish to access the program. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 1040, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GATLINBURG ESTABLISHING AN EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES.**

Item C under New Business was Resolution Number 1040, a Resolution of the City of Gatlinburg establishing an Early Retirement Incentive Program for eligible employees. Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Brackins. The City Manager explained that this Program was discussed with Commissioners at the January 27 Mid Fiscal Year Review Meeting and is designed to provide financial assistance to City employees, who meet certain years of service criteria, who retire when reaching the minimum age of 60 and desire to retire before age 65 and officially retire through the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System to be eligible. The City Manager also explained that the \$1,000 per month payment is meant to assist with post-retirement expenses, such as medical insurance and that the effective date of the Program is retroactive to any employees who retire after January 1, 2026, and if approved, payments will begin in April 2026 for those who qualify. The City Manager also stated that the Finance Director and the City Attorney have both reviewed this program. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES FOR THE GATLINBURG COMMUNITY POLICE PROGRAM (GCOPP) ORGANIZATION.**

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Contract for Services for the Gatlinburg Community Police Program (GCOPP) Organization. Commissioner Brackins made a motion to approve the Contract for Services which was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. The City Manager explained this allows the City to allocate the \$5,000 which was approved by the City Commission during the 2025-26 Budget Process to allocate \$5,000 to this non-profit which performs community outreach programs for the Gatlinburg Police Department. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Contract for Services was unanimously adopted.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES FOR THE GATLINBURG FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION (GFA) ORGANIZATION.**

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Contract for Services for the Gatlinburg Firefighters Association (GFA) Organization. Commissioner Brackins made a motion to approve the Contract for Services which was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. The City Manager explained this allows the City to allocate the \$5,000 which was approved by the City Commission during the 2025-26 Budget Process to allocate \$5,000 to this non-profit which performs community outreach programs for the Gatlinburg Fire Department. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Contract for Services was unanimously adopted.

**UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:**

**Commissioner Randy Brackins**

- (1) Stated that he wanted to thank the Gatlinburg Police Department and Gatlinburg Fire Department employees for the work they do with the Gatlinburg Firefighters Association and the Gatlinburg Community Police Programs organizations; and,
- (2) Stated that he wanted to congratulate the Gatlinburg-Pittman Junior High School girls basketball team on their State Championship.

**Mayor Mike Werner**

- (1) Stated that he wanted to congratulate the Gatlinburg-Pittman Junior High School girls basketball team on their State Championship and recognize the boys' basketball team on finishing third place in the State.

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

  
Mike Werner, Mayor  
Greg Patterson, City Recorder

/sb