The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at Gatlinburg City Hall. All members were present except for Commissioner Kirby Smith. Mayor Mike Werner called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Finance Director Robert Holt gave the Invocation.

Mayor Werner then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 21, 2023. Commissioner Chad Reagan made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Vice Mayor Mark McCown and then unanimously adopted.

Regarding Reports of Boards and Committees, the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau (GCVB) First Quarter Report was presented by President/CEO Chad Netherland. Mr. Netherland reported that during the first quarter key meetings were held, including a session with the Tennessee State Tourism team on adjusting the timeline for Spring Break advertising, a Legislative dinner in Nashville, a GCVB Board Retreat with media partners, Datafy, Designsensory and FINN, a meeting with Simpleview regarding a new website, and that he attended meetings to bring Southwest Airlines to McGhee Tyson Airport. Additionally, Mr. Netherland reported that in the first quarter, visits to the Gatlinburg.com website were just over 1.4 million, social media reached over 50 million users, the Visit Gatlinburg App had 5,100 new users and 25,000 vacation guides were mailed and 8,000 were downloaded from Gatlinburg.com. Mr. Netherland also explained that Gatlinburg was featured in a number of articles during the first quarter, including Southern Living and Good Housekeeping.

Mr. Netherland also reported that the Aquarium and Spur Welcome Centers hosted over 65,000 visitors in the first quarter and that the Spur Welcome Center had over 38,000 visitors, many inquiring about the Great Smoky Mountains National Park parking program. Additionally, Mr. Netherland reported that the Convention Center hosted 28 events during the first quarter.

The City Manager reported and/or requested:

(1) that she would like to advise that City Hall reopened for the City Manager's Office, Building and Planning Department, and the Public Works Department on Wednesday, March 29 and that the Finance Department will reopen in early May; and,

(2) 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,

(3) that on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. the Police Department will provide the public with an opportunity to rid their homes with potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs, as a part of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's National Prescription Drug Takeback Day. Individuals wishing to dispose of their unwanted prescription drugs can drop them at the receptacle inside the Police Department lobby; and,

(4) that she would also like to announce that the 16th annual Mountain Man March will be held in Gatlinburg on Saturday, April 22 and that the race begins at 8 a.m. at

Bishop Lane and travels on East Parkway towards Pittman Center.

New Business:

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SINGLE BID TO CHARLES BLALOCK AND SONS, INC. FOR THE SLOPE REPAIR ON WATER TOWER ROAD.

Item A under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a single bid to Charles Blalock and Sons, Inc. for the Slope Repair on Water Tower Road. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the single bid which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The City Manager explained that this was an unanticipated and a minor slope repair. The Public Works Director explained that this was a short section of road and that the repair is 48 feet in length. The Public Works Director also noted that this contract is in the amount of $183,600 and is a 30 day contract, with $100 in liquidated damages per day. The City Manager further explained that this is on the Agenda for action because it is a single bid and funds will be appropriated through a Year-End Transfer Ordinance. Following these comments, the motion to approve the single bid and appropriation was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF THE BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN.

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the renewal of the BlueCross BlueShield Dental Insurance Plan. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the renewal of the Insurance Plan which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The Finance Director explained that this plan has been offered to the City at a 4.38 percent increase, which increases the amount the City pays from $26.81 to $27.92 per employee, per month. The Finance Director also explained that there are improvements to the current policy, including the removal of the previous 12 month waiting period on special procedures and orthodontics. Following these comments, the motion to approve the renewal of the Insurance Plan was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF THE BASIC LIFE AND AD&D AND LONG-TERM DISABILITY (LTD) INSURANCE PLANS WITH MUTUAL OF OMAHA.

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving the renewal of the Basic Life and AD&D and Long-Term Disability (LTD) Insurance Plan with Mutual of Omaha. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the renewal of the insurance plans with Mutual of Omaha which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The Finance Director explained that the total cost to the City for Life and Accidential Death and Disability insurances is estimated to be as an increase of $5,329 over the present annual price and that the rate is guaranteed for two years and that there is no increase in the Long Term Disability insurance under this policy. Following these comments, the motion to approve the renewal of these Insurance Plans was unanimously adopted.

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

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving appointments to the Anna Porter Public Library Board. Commissioner DeSear made a motion to approve the recommended appointments of Beverly Waldron, Beverly Kenton Temple, and Sally Helton to the Anna Porter Public Library Board which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The motion to approve the recommended appointments was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MAKING A CITY COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT TO THE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU BOARD.

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of making a City Commission Representative Appointment to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board. Vice Mayor McCown nominated Commissioner Reagan to serve in the position. The nomination was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1004, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO JOIN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN AMENDING THE TENNESSEE STATE-SUBDIVISION OPIOID ABATEMENT AGREEMENT AND APPROVING THE RELATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.

Item F under New Business was Resolution Number 1004, a Resolution authorizing the city to join the State of Tennessee and other local Governments in amending the Tennessee State-Subdivision Opioid Abatement Agreement and approving the related settlement Agreements. Commissioner DeSear made a motion to adopt the Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The Finance Director explained that this was the second opioid settlement with pharmaceutical manufacturers and by passing a Resolution the City will be able to receive a share of the settlement amount awarded to the State. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS, FOR THE PURCHASE OF BODY CAMERAS.

Item G under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee, Office of Criminal Justice Programs, for the purchase of body cameras. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the Grant Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The motion to approve the Grant Contract was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON ENTERPRISES, INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF BODY CAMERAS AND THE RELATED COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR THE BODY CAMERAS.

Item H under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an Agreement with Axon Enterprises, Inc., for the purchase of body cameras and the related computer hardware and software for the body cameras. Commissioner DeSear made a motion to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The City Manager explained that this Agreement includes the purchase of the cameras, along with related computer hardware, software, and technical support and that the cost of the agreement is $296,284.06. The City Manager further explained that the first year cost due is $101,107.01 with $48,497.01 due per year for the next four years and that the entire costs of the first year will be covered by the Violent Crime Intervention Fund grant. Commissioner Reagan asked how long the cameras are anticipated to be in working condition and the Police Chief replied that it depends on weather and other conditions and that most cameras last between five to six years. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Agreement was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A CONSULTING AND BROKERAGE AGREEMENT WITH BARNES INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Item I under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Consulting and Brokerage Agreement with Barnes Insurance Agency, Inc. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The City Manager explained that this is a one year agreement, not to exceed $150,000. The Finance Director explained that Barnes Insurance Group was involved with negotiating the City's health insurance plan for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year with no increase and that the firm would also be negotiating with carriers, supporting the City in open enrollment, help to field employees' questions and insure that the City is in compliance with State and Federal regulations. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Agreement was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH CONNEXIONZ LIMITED FOR THE AUTOMATED VEHICLE LOCATER SYSTEM/TROLLEY VEHICLE ITS DEPLOYMENT.

Item J under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an Agreement with Connexionz Limited for the Automated Vehicle Locater System/Trolley Vehicle ITS Deployment. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Commissioner DeSear. The Finance Director explained that this is a grant funded purchase in which the City's match is 25 percent. The Mass Transit Manager explained that the Automated Vehicle Locator System will allow for the public to see real-time information on the locations of Trolleys, as well as estimated times of arrival, audio alerts for passengers boarding and disembarking from Trolleys, a mobile phone app, text message alerts, and a website. The Mass Transit Manager also explained that the system will also allow for an analysis of the number of passengers boarding at specific Trolley stops. Following these comments, the motion to approve the Agreement was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1005, A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY INTO THE CITY BY OWNER CONSENT, SAID PROPERTY BEING 15.25 ACRES, TAX MAP 117, PARCEL 129, LOCATED AT 1274 JOHNS BRANCH ROAD.

Item K under New Business was Resolution Number 1005, a Resolution calling for a Public Hearing on the proposed annexation of territory into the City by owner consent, said property being 15.25 acres, Tax Map 117, Parcel 129, located at 1274 Johns Branch Road. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Resolution which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The City Manager explained that this Resolution schedules a public hearing at the June 6 City Commission meeting and that this is a request for annexation by owner consent. The City Manager also explained that this item was reviewed and approved by the Gatlinburg Municipal Planning Commission at its February 16, 2023 meeting. The Building and Planning Director explained that the owner of the property has requested to annex 15.25 acres into the City and that the proposed purpose for this is to develop apartments for residents and create more residential housing in the corporate limits of the City. Mayor Werner asked if adjacent property owners were notified and the Building and Planning Director explained that they were not required to be directly informed and that this information would be published in The Mountain Press, at the property, and at Gatlinburg City Hall. Commissioner DeSear asked how adjacent property owners are notified on rezoning requests and the Building and Planning Director explained that they are notified via certified letter. Following these comments, the motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Ryan DeSear

(1) Stated that he wished to express sympathy to the families of Charles Earl Ogle, Jr., Buddy Parton and Bill Maples, who all recently passed away and that all three individuals will be missed; and,

(2) Stated that this meeting is likely his last meeting serving as a Commissioner as his job at Ripley's Entertainment is requiring him to move to Florida. He further noted that he has enjoyed serving with his fellow Commissioners, has learned a lot from the City Manager, that it has been a pleasure to serve in this role and that Gatlinburg is a wonderful place and that he will miss it very much; and,

Commissioner Chad Reagan

(1) Stated that he too wished to express sympathy and condolences to the families of Charles Earl Ogle, Jr., Buddy Parton and Bill Maples; and,

(2) Stated that he would like to congratulate Captain Ronnie Barrett, who was recently

announces as Gatlinburg's next Police Chief and that he would also like to congratulate Chief Randy Brackins for his 49 years of service to the City.

Vice Mayor Mark McCown

(1) Stated that he wanted to recognize the April birthdays of the City Manager and Mayor Werner; and,

(2) Stated that he wanted to express his condolences to the families of Buddy Parton, Bill Maples, and his brother-in-law, Charles Earl Ogle, Jr.; and,

(3) Stated that he wanted to wish Commissioner DeSear well and noted that he has had a very successful tenure in his role as a City Commissioner; and,

(4) Stated that he wanted to wish Chief Randy Brackins well in his retirement and that he wanted to congratulate Captain Ronnie Barrett for his new role of Police Chief.

Mayor Mike Werner

(1) Stated that he wanted to offer his congratulations to Captain Ronnie Barrett for his new role of Police Chief and to offer his congratulations to Chief Randy Brackins on his retirement; and,

(2) Stated that he wanted to offer his sympathies and condolences to the families of Charles Earl Ogle, Jr., Buddy Parton, and Bill Maples, all of who he stated are synonymous with Gatlinburg; and,

(3) Stated that it has been a pleasure to serve alongside Commissioner DeSear and that he did a great job to represent the City.

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

Mike Werner, Mayor

Cindy C. Ogle

Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder
/mp