The Gatlinburg Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at Rocky Top Sports World. All members were present except for Commissioner Ryan DeSear. 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 February 21, 2023. Commissioner Chad Reagan made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Kirby Smith and then unanimously adopted.

Regarding Reports of Boards and Committees, the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau (GCVB) Fourth Quarter Report was presented by President/CEO Chad Netherland. Mr. Netherland reported that in the fourth quarter that GCVB staff held meetings with the State Tourism Commissioner on American Rescue Plan Act grant funding, as well as with other tourism leaders from Sevier County on the 2023 cooperative marketing plans. Mr. Netherland also reported that in the fourth quarter, the Convention Center revenues were up over fifty percent from the same period in 2021.

Mr. Netherland also explained that in the fourth quarter, Gatlinburg.com received over 6.9 million visitors, accounting for an increase of 17 percent compared to 2021. He also noted that in the fourth quarter that the social media platforms reached 211 million individuals and that the Visit Gatlinburg app had 1.2 million sessions and 26,000 new users. Mr. Netherland also reported that Gatlinburg was featured in a number of publications in the fourth quarter, including National Geographic and USA Today. The GCVB also held several fourth quarter events, including the 33rd annual Chili Cook Off, the Veterans' Day Observance, the Festival of Lights Christmas Parade, and the New Year's Eve Celebration. Mr. Netherland also reported that the Gatlinburg Welcome Centers hosted 99,832 individuals in the fourth quarter and that the Convention Center hosted 23 events, five of which were new.

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 would also like to advise that a status update on the City Hall Restoration Project is at the podium for review and that City Hall is reopening for business on Wednesday, March 29 with the City Manager's Office and the Building and Planning Departments moving back into the facility and the Finance Department returning in early May; and,

(3) that she wanted to announce the Gatlinburg Firefighters Association Fit for Duty 5K and 10K is scheduled for Saturday, March 25 and that registration for the race is underway and that anyone interested in information can contact the Gatlinburg Fire Department; and,

(4) that she would also like to announce that the second annual Gatlinburg Spring Trout Tournament and River Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 1 at Mynatt Park and that in lieu of an entry fee, individuals must pick up a garbage bag of litter and present it at the weigh-in; and,

(5) that she would like to announce the Gatlinburg Community Police Programs will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Mynatt Park on Saturday, April 8 and that the Egg Hunt is open for children ages 1-12 and begins at 1 p.m.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2598, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2595 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, 2022, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, Second Reading (Past first reading on 2/21/2023).

Item A under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2598, an Ordinance amending Ordinance Number 2595 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, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, Second Reading (Past first reading on 2/21/2023). Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second reading which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion to adopt the Ordinance was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF THE HUMANA MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 1, 2023 TO MAY 30, 2024. (Deferred on 2/21/2023).

Item B under Old Business was discussion and consideration of approving the renewal of the Humana Medical Insurance Plan for the period of June 1, 2023 to May 30, 2024 (Deferred on 2/21/2023). Vice Mayor Mark McCown made a motion to approve the renewal of the Medical Insurance Plan which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan. The City Manager explained that this item was deferred at the last City Commission meeting and that Barnes Insurance Company has been very involved in the process of renewing the City's Medical Insurance Plan. The City Manager also explained that Humana agreed to renew for the City's policy period with a zero percent increase, after previously presenting a 7.5 percent increase before the deferral of the item at the February City Commission meeting. After these comments, the motion to renew the Humana Medical Insurance Plan was unanimously adopted.

New Business:

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SUB-LEASE TERMINATION AGREEMENT AND AN AMENDMENT TO THE GROUND LEASE WITH RIPLEY'S ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

Item A under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Sub-Lease Termination Agreement and an Amendment to the Ground Lease with Ripley's Entertainment, Inc. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Sub-lease Termination Agreement and an Amendment to the Ground Lease which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager explained that this request is from Ripley's Entertainment, Inc. to reacquire the Visitors Center space at the Aquarium, which would allow the Aquarium to expand into that footprint and that the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau has been advised of this request and were in agreement with it. After these comments, the motion to approve the Sub-Lease Termination Agreement and Amendment to the Ground Lease was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A RIGHT-OF-WAY USE REQUEST LOCATED AT 541 CAMPBELL LEAD ROAD FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A FENCE (Requested by Boyne USA, Inc.).

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a right-of-way use request located at 541 Campbell Lead Road for the installation of a fence (requested by Boyne, Inc.). Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the right-of-way use request which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The Building and Planning Director explained that the request was to install a fence, which would serve as a boundary to keep the SkyBridge property inaccessible to the public from Campbell Lead Road. Commissioner Reagan asked if there would be any road closures during the installation of the fence and the Building and Planning Director explained that there would not be any closures. After these comments, the motion to approve the right-of-way use request was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A TROLLEY SERVICE CONTRACT WITH GREENBRIER CAMPGROUND.

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a Trolley Service Contract with Greenbrier Campground. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the Contract which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager explained that this is a renewal of Contract providing Trolley service to the Greenbrier Campground from April through October 2023 and that Greenbrier will pay the sum of $500 per month to the City. After these comments, the motion to approve the Contract was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SINGLE BID TO FREYLIT USA, INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW WASH PAD AT THE GOLF COURSE.

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a single bid to Freylit USA, Inc., for the construction of a new wash pad at the Golf Course. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the single bid which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. The City Manager explained that this item is a single bid in the amount of $125,810 and that there was $140,000 budgeted for the Project. The Golf Course Manager explained that this wash pad is for cleaning of maintenance equipment and that it uses a closed loop system designed to save 125 million gallons of water over five years in addition to removing chemicals from the water. Vice Mayor McCown asked where the wash pad would be located and the Golf Course Manager replied that it will be near the maintenance building at the Golf Course. After these comments, the motion to approve the single bid was unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE GATLINBURG AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of making appointments to the Gatlinburg Airport Authority Board of Directors. Vice Mayor McCown nominated Lisa Reagan to be reappointed and Albert Werner to be appointed to the Gatlinburg Airport Authority Board of Directors. The nominations were unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1003, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FUND (LPRF) GRANT APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT MILLS PARK.

Item F under New Business was Resolution 1003, a Resolution authorizing the submission of a Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) Grant Application for improvements at Mills Park. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to adopt the Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The City Manager explained that this Grant Application was reviewed with Commissioners at the Mid-Fiscal Year Review meeting and that the Project would create a path which would form a loop more than a mile long to connect the various facilities at Mills Park. The Recreation Director explained that the estimated cost of the Project is $1.8 million and that this Resolution would commit the City to providing $850,000 in funding for the matching portion of the Grant if awarded. The Recreation Director also explained that this Project would provide over one mile in trails and allow for safer travel in and around the Mills Park area. After these comments, the motion to adopt the Resolution was unanimously approved.

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

Mike Werner, Mayor

Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder
/mp