

The Gatlinburg Board of Commission met in a virtual meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. The City Manager noted that the electronic meeting was being held in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 16, which temporarily allowed all members to meet via an electronic basis during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City Manager also conducted a roll call of the Commission and all members were present. Mayor Werner called the meeting to order and led the Invocation.

Mayor Werner then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of February 18, 2020. Vice-Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Smith and then unanimously adopted by a roll call vote.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT TO AUTOMATE THE OPERATIONS OF THE PARKWAY/MCMAHAN AND AQUARIUM PARKING GARAGES.

Item A under New Business was Discussion and consideration of approving the purchase of equipment to automate the operation of the Parkway/McMahan and Aquarium Parking Garages. Vice-Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the purchase, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith.

The City Manager said that the cost of full automation for both garages would be \$66,780 and, of the two (2) options provided to Commissioners, this option would allow for patrons to pay by either credit card or cash and would provide equipment consistent with the proprietary devices already installed in the City's parking Garages. The City Manager also noted that, if approved, the equipment would be delivered in 10 to 12 weeks and installation would take 2 to 3 days. She further explained that by automating the garages instead of using booth attendants to collect money, the parking revenue would no longer be subject to sales tax and that based on 2019 parking revenue figures, this would represent approximately a \$130,000 yearly savings to the City.

Vice-Mayor McCown asked when Garages would reopen to the public, as they had been closed during the pandemic. The City Manager replied that there would be decisions made in the coming weeks as there have been consistent meetings between the City Mayors, City Managers and County Mayor to help coordinate decisions and that there would be internal discussions and decisions made with Department Heads on how to best reopen Departments as the 'safe at home' order expires on April 30. The City Manager also noted that 33 employees had been laid off and 10 more had been furloughed during the pandemic. Commissioner Reagan asked if Option 2 would result in a total savings of \$237,400 annually. The City Manager said that the savings value would fluctuate annually and that it is anticipated that the annual savings will be at least \$100,000 per year.

A roll call vote was conducted and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SINGLE BID TO CHARLES BLALOCK AND SONS FOR THE MILLING AND PAVING OF HISTORIC NATURE TRAIL/AIRPORT ROAD, A PORTION OF RIVER ROAD AND A PORTION OF CHEROKEE ORCHARD ROAD.

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a single bid to Charles Blalock and Sons for the milling and paving of Historic Nature Trail/Airport Road, a portion of River Road and a portion of Cherokee Orchard Road. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the single bid, which was seconded by Commissioner DeSear.

The City Manager explained that the single bid for these Projects was received on April 9 for the following costs: Historic Nature Trail/Airport Road - \$245,971, River Road - \$255,969, and Cherokee Orchard Road - \$27,171 for a total cost of \$529,111 and that all Projects had been funded in the 2019-20 Fiscal Budget or in prior year Budgets. It was also explained that due to the low traffic volume, due to the pandemic, that this was a great opportunity to perform much needed work and construction on the roads in the downtown area.

Commissioner DeSear asked how long the projects would take. The Public Works Director explained that it would take an estimated two weeks, with work beginning promptly on April 22. Commissioner DeSear remarked that the projects would have little to no impact on businesses since most were not open, due to the pandemic.

A roll call vote was conducted and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SINGLE BID TO SUPERIOR PAVEMENT MARKING, INC. FOR THE STRIPING OF CITY STREETS.

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a single bid to Superior Pavement Marking, Inc. for the striping of City streets. Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the single bid, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Commissioner DeSear inquired about the dollar amounts for repainting and elixir in the bid. The Public Works Director replied that the majority of the striping would be done with paint.

A roll call vote was conducted and passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2547, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 830, BEING THE ZONING ORDINANCE AND FURTHER BEING AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE VIII, BEING THE AREA, YARD AND HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE R-3 (HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) DISTRICT TO INCREASE THE HEIGHT LIMITATION TO 48 FEET AVERAGE AND 60 FEET MAXIMUM, FIRST READING (Passed Planning Commission 3/19/2020).

Item D under New Business was Ordinance Number 2547, amending Ordinance No. 830, being the Zoning Ordinance and further being and Ordinance to amend Article VIII, being the area, yard and height requirement for the R-3 (High Density Residential) District to increase the height limitation to 48 feet average and 6- feet maximum, First Reading (Passed Planning Commission 3/19/2020). Commissioner DeSear made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading, which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown.

The Building and Planning Director explained that Article VII of the Zoning Ordinance establishes the various zoning districts area, yard and height requirements. The Building and Planning Director then noted a comparison between the R-2 and R-3 Districts stating that the R-2 District is a medium density residential zoning district and the R-3 is a high density residential zoning district. He then stated, that while the R-3 is a higher density zoning district, the allowable heights in the R-3 District are less than the allowable height limitations of the medium density residential R-2 District. The Building and Planning Director then noted that the significance of the different height limitations relates to the uses allowed in the districts with R-2 being designed for multi-family and multi-story type of development. He then stated that the Zoning Ordinance is considered progressive which ranges from lower density residential uses up to high density commercial uses and noted that in review of the current Article VIII height limitations, the discrepancy between the R-2 and R-3 Districts is that the higher density R-3 is allowed less height than the medium density residential and that the approval of the proposed Ordinance amendment would allow buildings in an R-3 District to have the same height as those in an R-2 District.

A roll call vote was conducted and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AUDIT CONTRACT WITH PUGH AND COMPANY, PC FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020.

Item E under New Business was approving an Audit Contract with Pugh and Company, PC for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the contract, which was seconded by Commissioner Reagan.

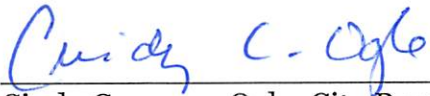
A roll call vote was conducted and passed unanimously.

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

A roll call vote was conducted and passed unanimously



Mike Werner, Mayor



Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder
/mp