

The Gatlinburg City Commission met in a virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 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 Finance Director Robert Holt led the Invocation.

Mayor Werner then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 21, 2020. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner DeSear and then unanimously adopted by a roll call vote.

Mayor Werner then called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of May 7, 2020. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner DeSear and then unanimously adopted by a roll call vote.

Ordinance Number 2545, AN ORDINANCE TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL CHAPTER TO TITLE 10 OF THE GATLINBURG MUNICIPAL CODE AND FURTHER BEING AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR PRESCRIBED GRAZING FOR KUDZU ERADICATION, SECOND READING (Passed First Reading 2/18/2020).

Item A under Old Business was Ordinance Number 2545, an Ordinance to add and additional chapter to Title 10 of the Gatlinburg Municipal Code and further being an Ordinance to provide for prescribe grazing for kudzu eradication, Second Reading (Passed First Reading 2/18/2020). Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Ordinance which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown.

The Building and Planning Director explained that the proposal added a Chapter to Title 10 of the Municipal Code and establishes permit requirements and parameters associated with the prescribed grazing that allows for sheep and goats to eradicate kudzu and allows private property owners to use those animals in a controlled environment.

A roll call vote was held and the motion to approve the Ordinance was then unanimously adopted.

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, PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING (Passed First Reading 4/21/2020 and Passed Planning Commission 3/19/2020).

Item B under Old Business was 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-2 (High Density Residential) District to increase the height limitation to 48 feet average and 60 feet maximum, Public Hearing and Second Reading (Passed First Reading 4/21/20 and Passed Planning Commission 3-19-2020).

Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to approve the Ordinance, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Mayor Werner then opened the Public Hearing and asked the Public Information Officer if there had been any correspondence or comments received for the Public Hearing, to which he reported there had not. Mayor Werner then closed the Public Hearing.

A roll call vote was held and the motion to approve the Ordinance was then unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF CONTINUING THE EXTENSION OF SIDEWALKS ON PARKWAY.

Item A under New Business was discussion and consideration of continuing the extension of sidewalks of Parkway. Commissioner DeSear made a motion to discuss the sidewalk extension, which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown.

The City Manager advised that they had memorandums from the Public Works Director and Police Chief with information regarding the past two sidewalk extensions on Parkway in agenda packages.

Commissioner Reagan asked if the barricades and sidewalk extensions had been used by the public. The City Manager said that the Police Chief's memorandums points out that vehicular traffic did back up both weekends and that pedestrian usage of the additional lanes was described as being sparingly used. Chief Brackins said Officers who observed the closures took photos at various times through town and the usage was sporadic, except for periods of time between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Vice Mayor McCown asked about the impact on vehicular traffic during both weekends the sidewalks were extended. Chief Brackins said traffic was much heavier the second weekend and traffic was impacted heavily during the late afternoon, with a backup that extended past the entrances to the Gatlinburg Bypass in both directions of travel. Commissioner Reagan verified that the traffic was backed up onto the Spur on Saturday afternoon.

Commissioner DeSear noted that you can give people the tools to social distance, and that you cannot enforce or require social distancing and that if individuals are not using the extended sidewalks, there is no reason to continue it, and that he was proud that the City tried the experiment to keep individuals safe and healthy. He also noted that the sidewalk extension was used by some individuals. Commissioner DeSear also asked that the Commission take the pulse of the citizens to see what they want. He also said that no one has been in the midst of a pandemic before and everything done is new and that the Commission is using the information they have at the moment to make the best possible decision that they can and that he would not continue to push the idea.

Mayor Werner said he was glad the City tried the sidewalk extension and that, in the future he would not continue to promote the idea and that if there is a need for revisiting the issue, the Commission could explore the idea again. Mayor Werner also asked that the City continue its messaging regarding social distancing, including the signage that has been installed.

Vice Mayor McCown asked about TDOT's stance of closing lanes on Holiday weekends. The City Manager said that the partial closure of Parkway was noticed by TDOT and became a factor in conversations and TDOT would not allow closures on a holiday weekend.

Vice Mayor McCown made a motion to not extend sidewalks which was seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Commissioner DeSear questioned the timeline of Vice Mayor McCown's motion, which he responded that the idea could come back before Commission. The City Manager asked for clarification that it would not only apply to the upcoming weekend, as well as in the near future. Commissioner Reagan said that until it was necessary to have a special called meeting that there was no need to have the decision to extend sidewalks on a weekly basis.

A roll call vote was held and the motion to not extend sidewalks was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL BOARD OF ZONING.

Item B under New Business was discussion and consideration of making an appointment to the Municipal Board of Zoning. Commissioner Smith nominated Mr. Jay Horner to the position. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to appoint Jay Horner to the position, which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. A roll call vote was held and the appointment of Jay Horner was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A REQUEST FROM THE GATLINBURG FARMER'S MARKET TO UTILIZE THE CITY PARKING LOT LOCATED BETWEEN THE GATLINBURG POST OFFICE AND THE AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING.

Item C under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving a request from the Gatlinburg Farmer's Market to utilize the City Parking lot located between the Gatlinburg Post Office and the American Legion Building. Commissioner Reagan made a motion to approve the request which was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner DeSear noted that it was a well-thought out plan in terms of health and sanitation. A roll call vote was held and the request was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN ON-PREMISE CERTIFICATE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER FOR BYRON STANGA, D/B/A BURG STEAKHOUSE, 738 PARKWAY, SUITE 5.

Item D under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an On-Premise Certificate of Good Moral Character for Byron Stanga, D/B/A Burg Steakhouse, 738 Parkway, Suite 5. Commissioner DeSear made a motion to approve the Certificate of Good Moral Character, which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. Mayor Werner asked about the location, to which the City Manager replied that this was the former Pizza Hut located on Parkway. A roll call vote was held and the Certificate of Good Moral Character was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN ON-PREMISE CERTIFICATE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER FOR GERALD WOLAVER, RRW, LLC D/B/A THREE JIMMY'S GOODTIME EATERY, 1359 EAST PARKWAY, SUITE F.

Item E under New Business was discussion and consideration of approving an On-Premise Certificate of Good Moral Character for Gerald Wolaver, RRW, LLC D/B/A Three Jimmy's Goodtime Eatery, 1359 East Parkway, Suite F. Commissioner DeSear made a motion to approve the Certificate of Good Moral Character, which was seconded by Vice Mayor McCown. A roll call vote was held and the Certificate of Good Moral Character was unanimously approved.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS:

Commissioner Ryan DeSear:

(1) Said that there has been a good effort by the Public Information Officer to disseminate information and communications from the City during the COVID-19 pandemic, and thanked him for those efforts.

(2) Stated that he was glad that Attractions across the City will be reopening on Friday, May 22.

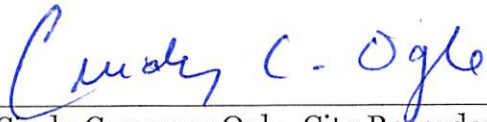
Commissioner Chad Reagan:

(1) Said that he wanted to commend City employees for their work the last two weekends to help with the sidewalk extension in the downtown area, especially Police, Fire and Public Works Departments.

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, Commissioner DeSear made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and passed unanimously



Mike Werner, Mayor



Cindy Cameron Ogle, City Recorder
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