

**MINUTES OF
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013, 4:30 P.M.
CITY HALL, PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE**

Present were Mayor Wear, Vice Mayor McClure, Commissioner Brackins, Commissioner Ogle, Commissioner Reagan, City Manager Teaster, City Recorder Clabo, City Attorney Gass, and interested parties.

Items discussed were as follows.

1. **Review and discussion of the upcoming 2012-2013 fiscal year audit** – Larry Elmore and Ashley Ogle were in attendance to discuss the planning components of the audit. Mr. Elmore stated that a risk assessment was done to determine the high risk areas. He stated the goal was to submit the audit to the state by December 31, 2013 and anticipated spending about three weeks for fieldwork and additional time for wrap up and the report.

Following discussion, no direction was given as this was for planning purposes only.

2. **Review and discussion of funding for Pigeon Forge Schools derived from mixed drink/wine taxes** – It was noted that approximately \$101,000 was available for each Pigeon Forge School based on taxes generated from mixed drink revenue.

Following discussion, council directed city staff members to work with school principals to coordinate the purchase and payment of requests and to put disbursement of funds request on upcoming agenda.

3. **Review and discussion of a pedestrian bridge from Three Bears Gift Shop to the City Parking Lot** – Norm Johnson representing owner of Three Bears Gift Shop stated that the suspension bridge would be approximately 230 feet long. It would have a clearance of approximately 7 feet from greenway and be 6 feet wide. He stated the total cost would be approximately \$150,000 and suggested the owners pay for the engineering and the City to pay for the construction. Commissioner Ogle said that there could be more interest from other businesses for additional bridges if approved. Parks and Recreation Director Wilbanks stated that a minimum clearance of 8 feet would be needed over greenway. Mayor Wear stated that a master plan may be necessary to determine if other bridges would be necessary or asked for.

Following discussion, council advised owner to continue to work on but city could not make a commitment..

4. **Review and discussion of Phase II of Jake Thomas Road and various City intersections** – Jeff Mize, Terry Grubb, and John Hunter were in attendance to discuss issues. Mr. Mize gave an overview of Jake Thomas Road showing current design with possibility for expansion. He stated an estimated cost of \$39 million which would include the section currently under construction. Regarding the intersections, the following comments were made: 1) Florence Drive and Wears Valley Road – The biggest help would be the Westside Connector. There isn't much else at this time that can be done to improve the intersection; 2) South River Road and Dollywood Lane – Possibility of a right in, right out only; 3) Island Drive and Parkway – Sign has been put up to direct traffic flow;

4) Music Road and Parkway – A new camera is being installed which should help; and 5) Teaster and Parkway – Adding another lane on Teaster which would allow for a double left could help.

Following discussion, no direction was given this time as it was primarily for information purposes.

- 5. **Review and discussion of school committee ordinance** - City Attorney Gass discussed and gave an overview of the ordinance. The board could consist of 7 members. The criteria discussed would be: one business member in Pigeon Forge, one Pigeon Forge resident, the City Manager or his/her designee, one commissioner, one school educator, one school board member, and one resident or business person in Pigeon Forge.

Following general discussion, council generally agreed to put on upcoming agenda for consideration.

- 6. **Review and discussion proposal study on hi mast light pole foundations** - Public Works Director Miller stated he would like to move forward with a proposal from Progression Electric to investigate the integrity and load bearing capabilities of the concrete foundation that support the existing hi mast poles to determine if they can be used for replacement poles.

Following general discussion, council generally agreed to put on upcoming agenda for consideration.

After general discussion, the meeting was duly adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CITY RECORDER