

**MINUTES OF
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010, 4:30 P.M.
CITY HALL, PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE**

Present were Vice Mayor McClure, Commissioner Brackins, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Wear, City Manager Teaster, City Recorder Clabo, City Attorney Gass, and interested parties. Mayor Whaley entered the work session prior to direction from council on item 2.

Items discussed were as follows.

1. **Review and discussion of request to change billboards** – Mike Fleming requested that the agreements regarding the billboards located at Burger King and Sonic be amended so that the owner may operate a tri-vision or digital billboard.

Following discussion, council directed City Attorney Gass to work on agreements and put on upcoming agenda.

2. **Review and discussion of Ordinance 897 regarding the rezoning of property from R-1 (Low Density Residential) to C-2 (Tourist Commercial)** – Vice Mayor McClure asked for those in attendance to acknowledge if they were for or against the rezoning. David Tipton, attorney on behalf of the owner spoke and noted some reasons why he recommended approval including: the decision has to be reasonable, planning commission has already approved, consistent with C-2 that is already there, and a decision of opposition could result in legal action. City Attorney Gass commented that the City would be greatly challenged with precedence set by prior rezoning of property there to C-2. Community Development Director Taylor spoke briefly of existing commercial tracts.

Following discussion, council agreed to put on agenda for Monday night.

3. **Review and discussion of proposed booking engine on mypigeonforge.com** – Executive Director of Tourism Downey said that Majority Opinion Research had done a survey to determine the need to integrate a booking engine with the website. It was noted that the City is in the early stages of the process and is seeking input from council, the advisory board, businesses, and visitors to determine what is needed. There was lengthy discussion from many businesses regarding pros and cons of the booking engine and the impact it could have. Kenny Maples added that we need to listen to our customers and they are telling us that they want online booking.

As this was for information purposes only, no direction was given by council.

4. **Review and discussion of mission statement and booking policy for proposed events center** – Mike Wilds presented and discussed that this is one of the first things that must be done to determine the direction of the events center. There was general discussion between business representatives and Mike Wilds and council regarding the City not competing with existing convention centers in Pigeon Forge or existing events.

Following discussion, council agreed to put on upcoming agenda.

After general discussion, the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Included with these minutes is an attendance log for the meeting.

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CITY RECORDER