

**MINUTES OF  
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011, 4:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL, PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE**

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

Items discussed were as follows.

1. **Review and discussion of establishing a parks foundation** – Bill Koegler with Koegler Consulting Group discussed the opportunities for the City of Pigeon Forge to establish a Park Foundation. He stated that the intent is not to replace tax dollars but instead to support the park. It would take approximately one year for the foundation to be up and running. Once an endowment is established, interest income can be used for purchases. The Foundation would be a separate entity from this City as it has its own trustees. Elected officials cannot serve on board. A foundation attorney would be needed. An advisory board would be appointed to select a group of trustees ranging from 5 to 15 individuals. Normally there are five, seven, nine, or eleven trustees. The foundation attorney names the list of trustees but the decision is made by elected officials. A memorandum of understanding would be established between the foundation and the city.

Following discussion, council agreed to put on upcoming agenda.

2. **Update on the status and progress of the new City Park** – Steve Fritts with Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon gave an update on the new park. He discussed new technology for lighting which should be better for neighbors as the lights will be focused and not spill over on neighborhood and campground. It is anticipated that plans will be finished in September and bid project with construction projected to be started in November 2011. Commissioner Reagan asked about installing conduit around trail during construction for future lighting. Mr. Fritts said that he would look at that option.

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

3. **Review and discussion of proposed business behind Wonder Works** – Robin Turner with Wonder Works along with Jerome Ciacomoni, President of Aerophile, and Toddy Jolley, pilot for Aerophile were in attendance to discuss proposal. The ride will be a tethered helium balloon attraction that flies to a height of 450 feet. The tethered balloon stands approximately 105 feet when not in flight. Mr. Turner noted that when stationary, the attraction would be in compliance with the code. Community Development Director Taylor added that currently the height limit in C-5 is 150 feet. Mr. Ciacomoni said that the climate here made the City a good location. Mr. Jolley said that an FAA waiver would have to be obtained which notifies airplanes in the area that a balloon is present. Mr. Turner said that if the attraction was approved, it would take about 2 months

to make the balloon and 4 months of construction time with a projected opening of Easter 2012.

Following discussion, City Attorney Gass and Community Development Director Taylor were directed to work on and bring back to council with recommendations.

4. **Review and discussion of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan** – Community Development Director David Taylor gave a brief overview of the plan. He noted that it was divided into four phases: 1) Planning phase; 2) Risk Assessment; 3) Mitigation strategy; and 4) Implementation. He added that once approved by city council, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Tennessee Emergency Management Agency would also have to accept.

Following discussion, council agreed to put resolution on upcoming agenda.

5. **Review and discussion of truck purchase for the wastewater treatment plant** – Martin Cross with Veolia stated that the City purchased a 1982 dump truck in 1992 to haul sludge from the wastewater plant to the compost plant. The truck is currently in need of significant repair in order to continue using. An estimate obtained to make repairs is \$19,000. Mr. Cross has looked at a used 30 yard tandem dump truck that can be purchased for approximately \$74,000.

Following discussion, council directed Mr. Cross to find a truck through the bid process and also look at purchasing in secondary market.

6. **Review and discussion of the Dry Fork sewer project** – Public Works Director Miller stated that project was estimated at \$800,000. Miller said that a 40 foot temporary easement would be necessary for construction and a 15 foot permanent easement for future access. An appraiser would be needed to value the easement. An alternate option would be rehabilitation to the pump station at a cost of approximately \$200,000.

Pam Ogle spoke and said concern citizens had would be getting an agreement that a public street will not exist through the property and a section of road would need paving.

Following discussion, council directed staff to draft agreement for property owners to review before bringing back to council for further consideration.

7. **Other** – Commissioner Brackins stated she thought the donation to Sevier County Economic Development should be reconsidered and put back in budget. Following discussion, no direction was given by council.

Commissioner Robinson discussed the building between the City of Pigeon Forge and First Baptist Church possibly being divided. He stated he would like for the City to donate its half to the Church if both still own. Following discussion, staff was directed to find out details from when land was purchased from the Church.

Vice Mayor McClure mentioned that he thought an Animal Control Officer was needed. Following discussion, staff stated they would look into further including costs for position.

After general discussion, the meeting was duly adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY RECORDER