

**MINUTES OF
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 2010, 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL, PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE**

Mayor Whaley called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Vice Mayor McClure, Commissioner Brackins, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Wear, City Manager Teaster, City Recorder Clabo, City Attorney Gass, members of the press and interested citizens.

Mayor Whaley opened the meeting and Vice Mayor McClure led in the pledge of allegiance.

REGULAR MEETING

The minutes were unanimously approved following motion by Vice Mayor McClure and second to motion by Commissioner Brackins.

Mayor Whaley asked if there were any comments from citizens.

Charles Rhodes requested a public hearing regarding a booking engine for the City and also that his request be included as part of the minutes. See Attachment A. Mayor Whaley explained that there would be a work session regarding this issue.

No other comments were received.

The authorization for the payment of bills was presented for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Brackins, second by Vice Mayor McClure, it was approved to accept the bills as noted. Commissioner Robinson noted that he was for the normal bills but opposed items in question that are not bid.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Ordinance No. 913 to amend the Pigeon Forge Municipal Code by revising title 12, chapter 1, section 12-101, and section 12-102(2) as to amend the building, plumbing, and mechanical codes for one and two family dwellings not used as overnight rentals was presented for the first reading. City Manager Teaster explained that this ordinance revises language that brings the code current. On a motion by Commissioner Wear, second by Vice Mayor McClure, and with all voting "aye" the motion was approved on the first reading.

Ordinance No. 914 to amend the zoning map of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee by rezoning parcel B-2.00 of tax map 93H (located approximately 550 feet Northwest from

the intersection of Walden's Creek and Goose Gap Roads) from R-1 (low density residential) to C-3 (neighborhood commercial) district was presented for the first reading. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Brackins, and with all voting "aye" the motion was approved on the first reading.

Discussion and consideration of agreement for sewer and water availability for INVESTMENT INVESTORS, INC., RAST FAMILY PARTNERS I, L.P., a limited partnership, and T & C PARTNERS, a Tennessee General Partnership for property located on Sequoia Road was presented for approval. Commissioner Robinson asked how council knows what capacity is for the plant. Public Works Director Miller stated that much of the capacity issues are determined by the time of the year. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Brackins, it was unanimously approved to accept the request as presented.

Discussion and consideration of request from Sevier County Water to connect to the city's water system for water service along Sharp Hollow Road, Ellis Lane, and Mason Lane was presented for approval. Charles Priddy noted that this has been analyzed by engineers and it meets fire protection. On a motion by Commissioner Brackins, second by Commissioner Wear, it was unanimously approved to accept the request as presented.

Discussion and consideration of request from Sevier County Water to connect to the city's water system for water service along Wear's Valley Road to Lyons Springs Road was presented for approval. On a motion by Commissioner Wear, second by Vice Mayor McClure, it was unanimously approved to accept the request as presented.

Discussion and consideration to purchase GIS ArcInfo software off state contract for the Public Works Department was presented for approval. Public Works Director Miller noted that the software would be purchased from Esri at a cost of \$8,415. On a motion by Commissioner Brackins, second by Commissioner Wear, it was unanimously approved to accept the request as presented.

Discussion and consideration to amend the already awarded 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grant by \$20,465 to add equipment to the tanker for the Fire Department was presented for approval. Fire Chief Watson explained that a 10 percent match or \$2,046.50 would be required. He further noted that this would not delay the construction or affect the delivery date. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Wear, it was unanimously approved to accept the request as presented.

Discussion and consideration of bid from United Services Inc. for the replacement of the existing equipment for the Middle Creek Pump Station Control System was presented for approval. Martin Cross recommended low bid from United Services, Inc. in the amount of \$6,525. On a motion by Commissioner Brackins, second by Vice Mayor McClure, it was unanimously approved to accept the bid as presented.

Discussion and consideration of recommendation for the two new appointments to the Citizens Advisory Board was presented for approval. Executive Director of Tourism Downey recommended the following seats be appointed as follows: Vacation Lodging Services (cabins/condos) – Brad Ivens, which also has the ability to represent the interest of the wedding chapel industry as his company owns Mountain Valley Wedding Chapel in Pigeon Forge; At-Large – Bruce Johnson. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Wear, it was unanimously approved to accept the request as presented.

Discussion and consideration to appoint Tom Garner as the City's representative on the Keep Sevier Beautiful Board of Directors was presented for approval. City Manager Teaster explained that Lila Wilson had been serving as representative until she left her position with the City. On a motion by Commissioner Wear, second by Commissioner Brackins, it was unanimously approved to accept the request as presented.

Manager's report included the following:

1. There will be a road closure on Old Valley Road for bridge repair between September 20, 2010 and May 31, 2011. In addition, the City may incur some expense for water relocation due to the project.
2. Need consideration for an agreement between the City of Pigeon Forge and East Tennessee Development District for administration services of the EECBG grant. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Wear, it was unanimously approved to accept the request as presented.
3. There will be a Planning Commission meeting on September 28, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the council room of city hall.
4. There will be a public hearing on ordinance 914 at the regularly scheduled meeting on October 11, 2010.
5. Need to remind council of trip to Murfreesboro and Nashville to review permit for wastewater facility on September 21, 2010 and September 22, 2010.

Mayor Whaley asked for comments from the board.

Commissioner Wear mentioned the passing of former police officer and firefighter Rodger Brackins. Vice Mayor McClure shared sentiment.

Commissioner Robinson asked about a possible work session. He noted he had questions regarding the state retirement plan and would like to have a representative from TCRS discuss retirement at a work session.

Executive Director of Tourism Downey recognized City Manager Teaster for being awarded the Governmental Tourism Leadership Award.

Mayor Whaley expressed his appreciation for City staff who worked so hard during car shows.

Having no other comments received, the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED: Kitt Whaley
MAYOR

ATTEST: D. Seel
CITY RECORDER

From: Charles Rhodes

To: Pigeon Forge City Commission

Date: September 13th, 2010

Subj: Official Request Public Hearing And Enclosure To The Minutes

Official Request for the Pigeon Forge City Commission to hold a public hearing in regards to the Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism's (PFDOT) intent to install a booking engine on the MyPigeonForge.com website. To further operate or contract operation of the web site booking engine in competition with area businesses and collecting fees for aforementioned booking services.

City Commissioners and legal staff are sure to recognize the importance in affording ALL local businesses that can or will be affected by the installation of a booking engine on the PFDOT web site, fair opportunity to discuss such action, ask questions, and receive proper responses in an open forum.

Considerations:

- City acting as a business with operation of a virtual storefront
- Who will be contracted to build, manage, and maintain the booking engine, is there conflict of interest doing so?
- What will happen to the leads generated from the booking engine?
- What policies and stop measures will be in place to guarantee participating businesses are exposed equally and fairly?
- What on-hand staff will be in place to answer consumer questions and complaints generated by the booking engine's presence on the web site?
- If the city were to sever services from the booking engine, for any reason, what would the impact be
- How will the booking engine seamlessly interface with over 100 various in-house and custom built reservations software systems utilized by the various businesses? What additional costs must businesses bare to tie their software into the booking engine for seamless real-time transactions?
- What is the initial cost and annual maintenance costs for said booking engine?
- If staff, offices, and equipment must be maintained to support this move, will we fill these jobs locally or farm them out of the area?
- Is the percentage to be paid deductible before taxes are taken out? If fees are collected by the city or its contracted staff, are taxes paid on such collections and by whom?
- Who is responsible for credit card fees?

These are but a few of the many questions up for consideration and with answers to these questions I'm sure more will surface.

Rest assured a public hearing would be most beneficial in easing the minds of business owners, operators, and tax payers alike. This topic is of the utmost interest to numerous licensed Pigeon Forge businesses eagerly awaiting the Pigeon Forge City Commission's carefully considered and attentive response for a public hearing on the above matter.

Respectfully,

Charles Rhodes

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