

**MINUTES OF
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2009, 3:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE**

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

Items discussed were as follows.

1. **Request from Darby Campbell to change a tri-vision billboard located at the CVS pharmacy to a digital billboard** – Darby Campbell and Mike Fleming discussed request which included moving back of sign located at O’Charley’s to empty back at Red Carpet Inn Pin Oak across the Titanic and also change the tri-vision billboard located at CVS to a digital billboard. There was discussion about ensuring that no new structures would be built.

Following discussion, council agreed to put on agenda for next council meeting for consideration.

2. **Request from Mr. Moore to relocate two billboards on Dollywood Hill to other locations** – Charlie Moore noted that he had discussed situation with Building Inspector Dunn and was informed that per a city ordinance, all billboards are required to have a state license tag. Mr. Moore asked for an exception to this rule since his billboards had never been required to have a state tag since they were not on a state road.

Following discussion, council asked the public works department to investigate further and bring back to future meeting for discussion.

3. **Discussion of requests for traffic signalization on the Parkway** – Terry Grubb with Wilbur Smith discussed proposed traffic signal at Sunset and Plaza Drive and noted that study that had been prepared and indicated that a signal is not warranted at the location.

Mr. Grubb next discussed the proposed signal at the entrance to the Titanic business. He stated that the study done indicated the location does meet signal warrants. Mr. Grubb stated that the next step for council would be requesting permission from the State. An estimate of the cost for the traffic signals ranged from \$150,000 to \$200,000. He said that there would be a lead time of four to six months for completion of signal. David Fee discussed projected visitors for the Titanic for the first year and stated he thought that there was definitely a need. Council discussed funding options since this was not appropriated in the current budget and discussed options for funding participation from affected businesses.

Following discussion, council agreed to put on agenda to request approval for permit from state and asked staff to look at the revenues for the area.

4. **Review of traffic studies for Pine Mountain Road at Progress Hills Boulevard and Dollywood Lane at River Road Intersection** – Terry Grubb and Jeff Mize discussed the results of the study and summarized as follows: The intersection of Pine Mountain Road and Progress Hill Boulevard does not warrant a multi-way stop. It was noted that a problem may be occurring at the intersection due to traffic exceeding posted speed limits.

Regarding intersection of Dollywood Lane and River Road, based on study traffic accidents do warrant a signal. However, issues exist such as signal being too close to the parkway, a traffic signal being needed during off peak times, ability to add turn lanes on River Road, and adding left turn lanes to Dollywood Lane would be very costly and ability to operate signal without turn lanes.

Following general discussion from council, no action was taken but Wilbur Smith did agree to check data results at Pine Mountain Road at Progress Hills Boulevard since there were some questions related to measurements taken during study.

5. **Review of funding options for City Park renovations and Greenways construction** – Parks and Recreation Director Wilbanks discussed three awarded grants that were outstanding and faced the possibility of revocation if the money was not used by a specific time. The three grants are related to City Park Phase I, Riverwalk Phase II, and Riverwalk Phase III. Wilbanks emphasized that the park grant must be completed by November 14, 2011 or lose any portion of grant not requested for reimbursement. He stated that appropriations needed in the current budget were in the amount of \$214,780.

Following discussion, council agreed to continue discussion at a later meeting regarding these projects.

6. **Review of Tourism Advisory Board Ordinance** – Tourism Director Downey discussed the need for two more board members that would be members at large to ensure flexibility of adequate representation of both the citizens and business community. Further, City Attorney Gass discussed recommendation of making City Manager position and Tourism Director position a non-voting member position. Council members discussed trying to ensure that all businesses were represented on the board.

Following discussion, council decided to get feedback from community to ensure that their concerns were addressed before moving forward with ordinance.

7. **Review and discussion of site selection for the new wastewater treatment plant** – Sam Harrison with SSR discussed seven site options. He noted that the site needed approximately 14 acres. Each site was discussed noting advantages and disadvantages. Council asked that language be included on contract that if archeological and other studies are done on a particular site and the property is deemed useless, the city does not have to purchase.

Following lengthy discussion, council asked for staff to work toward getting a price for site 2 (Kennedy Auction Property on Chapman Highway) and site 5 (old Fairground Site).

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

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CITY RECORDER