

**MINUTES OF
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL, PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE**

Mayor Wear called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Vice Mayor McClure, Commissioner Ogle, Commissioner Watts, Commissioner Whaley, City Manager Teaster, Assistant City Manager Brackins, City Recorder Clabo, City Attorney Rowell, and interested citizens.

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

PUBLIC HEARING 1

A public hearing to receive comment regarding annexing certain lands into the City of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee located at tax map 93, parcel 154.02, owned by Capital Investment Partners, Inc. and known as the Pigeon Forge Gem Mine.

There being no comments received, the public hearing was closed.

REGULAR MEETING

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

Mayor Wear asked if there were any comments from citizens.

Susan Rollins was in attendance and asked commission what can be done with housing situation in Pigeon Forge. She stated that there were many in the local community that need housing.

No other comments were received.

The authorization for the payment of bills was presented for approval. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Ogle, it was unanimously approved to accept the bills as presented.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Resolution No. 2023-932 to adopt a plan of services for Capital Investment Partners, Inc. (known as Pigeon Forge Gem Mine) located at 862 Wears Valley Road (tax map 93, parcel 154.02) was presented for approval. Community Development Director Taylor

presented. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Watts, and with all voting “aye” the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 2023-933 to annex certain lands into the City of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee located at tax map 93, parcel 154.02, owned by Capital Investment Partners, Inc. and known as the Pigeon Forge Gem Mine was presented for approval. Community Development Director Taylor presented. On a motion by Commissioner Ogle, second by Commissioner Watts, and with all voting “aye” the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 2023-934 to authorize the City of Pigeon Forge to participate in the Cyber-Security matching grant program was presented for approval. City Recorder Clabo presented. On a motion by Commissioner Whaley, second by Vice Mayor McClure, and with all voting “aye” the motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion and consideration of 2022-2023 fiscal year audit for the City of Pigeon Forge was presented for approval. Travis Lowe with Pugh CPAs was in attendance to present. On a motion by Commissioner Watts, second by Vice Mayor McClure, it was unanimously approved to accept the audit as presented.

Discussion and consideration of proposal from Compass Ventures, LLC for the LeConte Center expansion project was presented for approval. LeConte Center Facility Manager Campbell presented and noted that the services for programming and preliminary building design, footprint requirements, and rough site layout would not exceed \$20,000. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Whaley, it was unanimously approved to accept the proposal as presented.

Discussion and consideration to purchase a 2024 Chevy Blazer from Wilson County Motors utilizing the statewide contract was presented for approval. LeConte Center Facility Manager Campbell presented and recommended the purchase in the amount of \$35,309.40. On a motion by Commissioner Whaley, second by Commission Ogle, it was unanimously approved to accept the purchase as presented.

Discussion and consideration of the 2024 spring/summer media plan for the department of tourism was presented for approval. Brian Gilpatrick and Tony Gerstner with Bohan were in attendance to discuss and highlighted the engagement plan in the different markets. On a motion by Commissioner Watts, second by Vice Mayor McClure, it was unanimously approved to accept the plan as presented.

Discussion and consideration of request for condemnation for the Westside Connector Road Project for tract 22, located at 362 Ogle Drive was presented for approval. City Attorney Rowell presented. It was noted that the property was appraised at \$490,000 which was offered to owner for purchase of right of way for proposed road improvements. On a motion by Commissioner Watts, second by Vice Mayor McClure, it was unanimously approved accept the request as presented.

Discussion and consideration of a maintenance agreement with Flock Safety for the police department was presented for approval. Police Chief Catlett presented and recommended to accept the 5 year maintenance contract at a cost of \$27,500 per year. On a

motion by Commissioner Whaley, second by Vice Mayor McClure, it was unanimously approved to accept the agreement as presented.

Discussion and consideration of a Motorola maintenance agreement for our radio site and a maintenance agreement for our license plate reader. The agreement for the radio site is \$12,489.37 for the year and the cost for the maintenance agreement on the license plate reader is \$12,321 for the year. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Watts, it was unanimously approved to accept the agreements as presented.

Discussion and consideration to accept the Appalachia HIDTA grant for the police department was presented for approval. Police Chief Catlett presented and it was noted that the grant is in the amount of \$19,000. On a motion by Commissioner Watts, second by Commissioner Ogle, it was unanimously approved to accept the grant as presented.

Discussion and consideration to execute a quit claim deed with Ron and Betty Ogle for a portion of Old Middle Creek Road to be abandoned was presented for approval. Public Works Director Miller presented and stated that this was at the corner of Jayell Road and Veterans Boulevard. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Ogle, it was unanimously approved to accept the request as presented.

Discussion and consideration of bid to purchase chemicals for the water plant from Dycho Chemical Inc. was presented for approval. Public Works Director Miller presented and recommended the low bid in the amount of \$4.10 per gallon. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Watts, it was unanimously approved to accept the bid as presented.

Discussion and consideration of bid for poles and mast arms for traffic signals located at intersections along the parkway from Transportation Control Systems was presented for approval. Public Works Director Miller presented and recommended the low bid in the amount of \$189,736 with a delivery of 18 to 22 weeks. On a motion by Commissioner Whaley, second by Vice Mayor McClure, it was unanimously approved accept the bid as presented.

Discussion and consideration of a change order for Charles Blalock and Sons for the realignment of the Walden's Creek Road sewer line was presented for approval. Cory Newman with LDA Engineering presented and noted that with the change order, the total contract price would go from \$240,625 to \$356,385. The change order includes additional costs for sewer main installation under pavement, traffic control, two manholes, and offsetting the 12" water main at night. On a motion by Commissioner Watts, second by Vice Mayor McClure, it was unanimously approved to accept the change order as presented.

Discussion and consideration to purchase 4 new trolleys utilizing a previous bid for the mass transit department from Hometown Trolley was presented for approval. Mass Transit Director Wilhoite presented and noted that the trolleys were in the amount of \$473,431.40 each or a total of \$1,893,725.60. Grant 78-5311-S3-079 would be utilized to cover \$937,305 (federal - \$403,510; state \$375,126; and local \$158,669). The remaining balance would be funded through grant 78-5311-S3-081 in the amount of \$956,420.60 (federal - \$765,136.48; state - \$95,642.06; and local - \$95,642.06). On a motion by

Commissioner Ogle, second by Commissioner Whaley, it was unanimously approved to accept the purchase as presented.

Discussion and consideration to sell (1) trolley, (2) LED reader boards and associated hardware, old fare boxes and spare cash boxes from the mass transit department was presented for approval. Mass Transit Director Wilhoite presented. On a motion by Commissioner Whaley, second by Vice Mayor McClure, it was unanimously approved to accept the request as presented.

Discussion and consideration to purchase SBR mixing pump parts for the wastewater treatment plant from water and waste equipment was presented for approval. It was noted that this is a sole source item. Martin Cross with Veolia presented and recommended the purchase in the amount of \$26,949.58. On a motion by Commissioner Whaley, second by Commissioner Watts, it was unanimously approved to accept the purchase as presented.

Manager's report included the following:

1. The Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the city council room at city hall.
2. The beer board will meet on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in the council room at city hall.
3. City offices will be closed for Christmas and New Year's holidays on Friday, December 22nd, Monday, December 25th, Tuesday, December 26th, and Monday, January 1st.
4. The fire department will have their Christmas dinner tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the LeConte Center.
5. The city Christmas lunch will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at the LeConte Center.
6. The police department will have their Christmas dinner on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
7. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be on Monday, January 8, 2024.
8. We would like to ask permission to pay necessary bills that would normally be paid after the second council meeting in December. Since that meeting will be cancelled due to being close for Christmas, we would provide a report of bills paid and provided that with the normal bills at January 8th meeting. On a motion by Vice Mayor McClure, second by Commissioner Whaley, it was unanimously approved to pay bills as requested.

Mayor Wear asked for comments from the board.

Having no comments received, the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CITY RECORDER