

Sevier County Commission

October 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Quorum Present (23 Present, 3 Absent)

Present: Mayor Larry Waters, Ronnie Allen, Fred Atchley, Scott Catlett, Mike Chambers, Gary Cole, Bryan Delius, Aaron Foster, Greg Haggard, Brandon Headrick, Dale Hill, Todd Humble, Warren Hurst, Michael Maddron, Don McGill, Chad Ogle, Ray Ogle, Frank Parton, Jack Parton, Harold Pitner, Tommy Watts, Dustin Weaver, Kent Woods

Absent: Mike Hillard, Carroll Rauhuff, Ronnie Whaley

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COMMISSION MEETING

September 16, 2024 County Commission Minutes

A motion was made by G. Cole, and duly seconded by H. Pitner. Passed by roll call vote 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM COMMISSION COMMITTEES

A motion was made by R. Ogle, and duly seconded by A. Foster. Passed by roll call vote 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS/PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONING REQUESTS

- PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS
 - No comments made
- PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONING ITEMS
 - No comments made

VI. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-10-01: AMEND THE ZONING RESOLUTION FOR SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE BY REZONING TAX MAP 110E GROUP A PARCEL 25.00 FROM A-1, AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT AND C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO C-1, RURAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.

- ADDRESS: 4543 EAST PARKWAY
- REQUESTED BY: ALEX HATZOPOULAS
- SEVIER COUNTY REG. PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION: FOR

A motion was made by G. Cole, and duly seconded by G. Haggard. Passed by roll call vote 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-10-02: ESTABLISH THE SEVIER COUNTY BUILDING AND FIRE BOARD OF APPEALS AND CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD

Fire Chief David Puckett spoke before the board in regards to the fire inspection program adopted in January 2024. This board is being set up for the general public that may want to challenge or question one of the decisions made during an inspection. This board will be used by the building department and the fire inspection program.

A motion was made by F. Atchley, and duly seconded by R. Ogle. Passed by roll call vote 22 yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-10-03: INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED

TEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$10,000,000) OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, OF SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Senior Director of Finance & Administration Brook Huffaker spoke before the board to clarify this resolution is the initial resolution to issue the bonds for the 2024 calendar year, this will start the twenty (20) day protest period. November will have the breakdown of the bonds and then sell the bonds in December. Chairman Waters stated that this will be the last bond issue for the court's buildings. We pay off about ten million (\$10,000,000) and issue about ten million (\$10,000,000) so we haven't really increased our debt.

A motion was made by R. Ogle, and duly seconded by H. Pitner. Passed by roll call vote 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.

IX. CONSIDERTAION OF RESOLUTION 2024-10-04: UPDATE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE

Director of Emergency Medical Services Rick Valentine spoke before the board in regards to the fee updates. This resolution would increase the fee structure for ambulance transports, this has not changed in seventeen (17) years. In collaboration with Gatlinburg Fire Chief Charlie Cole worked to keep fees similar due to being the two primary ambulance services in the county. Both services use the same third-party billing company and our department solicited them to do a survey and a study of our fees compared to other ambulance services. With the data of twelve (12) other ambulance services within our sixteen (16) county region and in Tennessee as a whole were able to determine that the fees in this county were below average in most every category. Medicare also raised their fee schedule to a certain degree so with that the county losing guaranteed money on federal transports of Medicare patients. This fee schedule will cover all twelve (12) services in the county going with a reasonable fee increase that would be acceptable to the people who use the services.

A motion was made by B. Delius, and duly seconded by J. Parton. Passed by roll call vote 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.

X. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-10-05: APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO MOUNTAIN WAYS AND MOUNTAIN TOUGH IN RESPONSE TO THE HURRICANE HELENE FLOODING

Director of Emergency Management Agency Joe Ayers spoke before the board in regards to the response to the historic flooding that took place on Friday September 27, 2024. The EMA was able to put in place technology to track flooding in real time to give early flood warning. The department was also able to partner with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a flood simulation product that is still in development but was able to utilized during this event and the National Weather Service advised that the County could see over ten (10) inches of rain. The emergency operation center was opened Thursday (Sept. 26, 2024) after it started raining and remained opened till Friday (Sept. 27, 2024) when the rain had subsided. Fortunately for the county the only floods were in areas that were accustomed to flooding unlike the counties to the northeast. Douglas Lake was also very inflated and rising due to the flooding of surrounding tributaries. Tennessee Valley Authority informed EMA that there will be additional flooding as the dam spillways will release water on Saturday (Sept. 28, 2024) to bring it down to post-summer levels. Evacuation was recommended in areas downstream that were already facing flooding as a precaution to additional water coming. Homeowners were able to go home Sunday (Sept. 29, 2024) afternoon after assessments made it clear that it was safe to do so.

Chairman Waters spoke in regards to the resolution and what it entails. Sevier County native Dolly Parton pledge Two Million (\$2,000,000) towards the victims of the floods in neighboring counties and had done so through an existing organization called Mountain Ways that was set up a year ago by Joe and Jesse Baker. This resolution has two different organization first being the Mountain Ways and second being Mountain Tough which was an organization that was created in 2016 to help the victims of the fire. It stayed active in case of another disaster which it would be needed. There are some monies coming from the Dollywood Foundation but was undetermined of the amount. This resolution would appropriate up to One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) to Mountain Tough should it be necessary. The county and the cities of Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, and Gatlinburg have also agreed to appropriate up to One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand (\$125,000) each to a

sum of Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000) towards our neighboring counties in need. Two Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) towards Cocke County and Two Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) to be divided among other counties in need.

A motion was made by G. Cole, and duly seconded by M. Maddron. Passed by roll call vote 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-10-06: AUTHORIZE COUNTY MAYOR TO EXECUTE LEASE AGREEMENT AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR PARCEL 049JB 037.00

Chairman Waters informed the board that this resolution has been through two (2) committees, the intergovernmental committee and the budget committee, this resolution authorizes the county mayor to execute a lease on what is presently the Carl Hatcher Furniture Store building. Some of the things that has been discussed in regards to what will go in this building is the probation department, currently they are in two houses that are leased the property owner is not going to renew the lease come summer 2025. Additionally, the tax assessors have 40-50 filing cabinets that will be stored there, and a portable trailer for the assessor's office. The maintenance department for storage space, offices for the IT department, and potential space for the ambulance service facility in the future.

A motion was made by M. Maddron, and duly seconded by J. Parton. Passed by roll call vote 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-10-07: RECOGNIZE SEVIER COUNTY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATORS AS FIRST-RESPONDERS

Director of Central Dispatch E911 Andrew Whaley spoke before the board about this resolution and what it would do. It would show law makers on the state and federal level know that the county supports the move to recognize the emergency telecommunicators as first-responders when concerning bills and legislation that would affect emergency telecommunicators. This would be the third time it's been done in our state.

A motion was made by B. Delius, and duly seconded by B. Headrick. Passed by roll call vote 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.

XIII. NOTARIES

Thirty-five (35) notary public applications up for approval

A motion was made by G. Haggard, and duly seconded by G. Cole. Passed by roll call vote 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Jeremy Grubb spoke about the response of Hurricane Helene and crowd control around places being evacuated. Also spoke about complaints against attendants at the convenience centers and lack of care of keeping the area around the trash bins safe.

XVI. ADJORNMENT

A motion was made by G. Cole, and duly seconded by M. Maddron. Passed by roll call vote 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent.