

Sevier County Commission Meeting

May 20th, 2024 at 6P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Quorum Present (25 Present, 1 Absent)

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

Absent: Mike Chambers

III. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION 2024-05-01: RECOGNIZE THE GATLINBURG-PITTMAN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM ON ADVANCING TO THE 2024 TSSAA CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Chairman Larry Waters requested that this Proclamation to be postpone and placed on June County Commission Agenda due to conflict of scheduling of Gatlinburg-Pittman High School Graduation being on the same night. No objections were made.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COMMISSION MEETING

A motion was made by M. Hillard, and duly seconded by A. Foster. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

V. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM COMMISSION COMMITTEES

A motion was made by C. Rauhuff, and duly seconded by G. Haggard.
Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

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

- PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS
 - I. No public comments
- PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONING ITEMS
 - I. Sandy Owens requested that Resolution 2024-05-01 be removed from agenda, till further planning and inspections can be completed.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-05-01: AMEND THE
ZONING RESOLUTION FOR SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE BY
REZONING TAX MAP 93 PARCEL 117.02 FROM R-1, RURAL
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO C-1, RURAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.

- ADDRESS: 3280 LOST BRANCH ROAD
- REQUESTED BY: DON AND SANDRA OWENS
- PIGEON FORGE REG. PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION: AGAINST

Director James Temple stated agreement on postponing this resolution to a further date. It would be brought back at a later date by the planning commission.

A motion was made to postpone by D. McGill, and duly seconded by J. Parton. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-05-02: AMEND THE
ZONING RESOLUTION FOR SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE BY
REZONING TAX MAP 27 PARCEL 30.02 FROM R-1, RURAL
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO A-1, RURAL AGRICULTURAL
DISTRICT.

- ADDRESS: 465 ALDER BRANCH ROAD
- REQUESTED BY: KENNETH SPENCER
- SEVIERVILLE REG. PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION: AGAINST

Director James Temple stated this lot is currently in a residential subdivision, the owner is looking to set up an agricultural business on the corner of the property. The city of Sevierville considers this spot zoning, planning department is in agreement.

Commissioner Delius asked what the acreage is, Director Temple stated it was 9/10th acres.

Commissioner Hurst asked what do the owners currently do on the property. Director Temple responded that they live on the property, the area they are requesting to change is currently a drain field on the property. The owners were looking to build a store with parking to sell the food they grew on the property. It wasn't a big enough lot for what they were looking to put on it the lot.

A motion to DENY was made by G. Haggard, and duly seconded by H. Pitner. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-05-03: CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS TO COMMITTEES OF THE SEVIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Larry Waters clarified that resolution will allow Commissioner Mellissa Godfrey to fill in the empty seats left by the late Commissioner Chuck Godfrey.

A motion was made by G. Cole, and duly seconded by R. Ogle. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

X. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-05-04: SET SPEED LIMITS ON CERTAIN SEVIER COUNTY ROADS

A motion was made by R. Allen, and duly seconded by C. Rauhuff. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

XI. NOTARIES

37 (thirty-seven) applications up for approval to become Notary Public at Large.

A motion was made by G. Cole, and duly seconded by B. Headrick. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

XII. MOTION TO PLACE AN EMERGENCY ITEM ON AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Delius to place an emergency item on tonight agenda to name the new courts building after Judge Rex Henry Ogle. And other names would be listed on June Commission Meeting.

A motion was made by G. Cole, and duly seconded by K. Woods. Passed by roll call vote 24 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

XIII. MOTION TO NAME COURTS BUILDING AFTER JUDGE REX HENRY OGLE; OTHER AREAS TO BE NAMES IN JUNE COMMISSION MEETING.

A motion was made by B. Delius, and duly seconded by J. Parton. Passed by voice vote 24 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Hurst asked for an update on the Internet providers. Director of Grants and Special Projects Andrew Temple spoke that since the last intragovernmental meeting, that they have spoken to Charter Spectrum and Comcast on this matter, both providers have expressed that Sevier County is a priority to them and they are continuing to see what they can do. Charter Spectrum has been able to put internet in over 4,000 (four thousand) homes in the last 24 (twenty-four) months. With the funds from the last grant. Comcast was not able to give an exact number but estimated be close to around the same. The bead challenge map is now open so we can now go in and look at each address to see what service is provided if any all. With the map it allows us to get a more accurate understanding of what the community is being served with and what areas are currently underserved. The service providers will be able to sign up for the grant through the state legislation to get access to these funds, once they get the fund's they would

have a 3 (three) year time limit to use the funds and put them into homes, community centers, etc. It should be awarded this calendar year.

Commissioner Parton asked if these funds were being allocated by the state or the federal government. Director A. Temple responded that yes it was believed to be the middle mile or the last mile but couldn't remember which. But that was from the initial band of money that came out shortly after Covid in 2020 – 2021. They took that meaning you got internet here and you got internet there, here in the middle kind of connecting those two areas. The County wasn't eligible for it at that time, since it was based off the census track map that has now gone away. The old map was showing that 98% (ninety-eight percent) had internet, based on all forms of internet providers. Clarified that the meaning of being underserved community, based on if the household has under 50 (fifty) megabytes of upload and download speed, to be considered a served community it has to be over 100 (one hundred) megabyte speed. So out of the roughly 800 (eight hundred) million being issued to the State of Tennessee, it would go to the underserved communities first and any funds left would go to the served communities.

Chairman Larry Waters updated that next Commission Meeting will not be held at the regular schedule time, it will be a Special Called Meeting on June 24th at 6 P.M.

Mayor Waters wished Commissioner Chad Ogle a Happy Birthday.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Michael Grizzell spoke before the board as a member of Veterans Coalition of Sevier County bring forward information put together by Jess Inman. Currently the Sevier County veteran's office see 100 (one hundred) people a day on average and processes 1,000 (one thousand) forms a day on average, currently we are seeing thousands of more not being seen or calls being answered. Asking the board of commissioners to please consider when looking at the budget for the upcoming year to look into hiring more administrative help for the veteran's office. Due to recent federal legislation the veteran's office is seeing an increase of veterans looking for help, and are having to

turn to lawyers who charge when the office is able to help the veteran's and/or spouses at no cost to them to get access to these legislations.

- Perry Rucker spoke before the board about his experience as a veteran. His father-in-law veterans during the World War II battle of the bulge, returned home physically and mentally broken. He came home and tried to readjust to civilian life, he called the VA office desperately seeking help but couldn't get through and took his own life. The people who come to the center could be looking for a copy of their DD214 or looking for someone to talk to. Please keep the veterans in their thoughts as the board looks into and considers the proper manning and funding of the service center.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by G. Cole, and duly seconded by K. Woods. Passed by voice vote 24 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.