

Sevier County Commission

March 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A moment of silence was taken in observance Commissioner Ray Charles “Chuck” Godfrey III who passed away on February 28, 2024.

II. ROLL CALL

Quorum Present (24 present, 1 absent)

Present: Mayor Larry Waters, Ronnie Allen, Fred Atchley, Scott Catlett, Mike Chambers, Bryan Delius, Aaron Foster, Chuck 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: Gary Cole

III. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION 2024-03-01: RECOGNIZE CINDY CAMERON OGLE AND HER SERVICE TO SEVIER COUNTY.

Mayor Waters commended Cindy Cameron Ogle on the 45 (forty-five) years that they have known each other very few people have been a more dedicated public servant and has done more for the interest Gatlinburg.

Dr. Parton reflected on his experience as City of Gatlinburg Mayor with Cindy Cameron Ogle as City Manager, praises her focus on bring Gatlinburg towards what it is today.

A motion was made by J. Parton, and duly seconded by A. Foster. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION 2024-03-02: RECOGNIZE DR. DEBRA ANN CLINE AND HER SERVICE TO SEVIER COUNTY.

Mayor Waters spoke on how Dr. Cline has made a tremendous impact on this County and its education system, she has touched the lives in a positive

way of literally thousands of students across this town because she has dedicated her life to education.

Stephanie Huskey who is the current school director spoke of how great it has been to work with Dr. Cline and the impact it has been on the school system.

Dr. Cline reflected of how good it has been to work for the school system that serves its students and its teachers. How is has been wonderful to have several school boards and county commissions that have supported the education system and looking back over 45 (forty-five) years is thankful for working under 3 (three) superintendents and is thankful for the work that has been done to bring the school system to where it is currently. Wishes us well for the future.

Dr. Parton spoke of Dr. Cline being the true lynchpin of where Sevier County school system is today, always put children first. Kept him and others focused on the children and making sure they had the best resources.

A motion was made by M. Hillard, and duly seconded by K. Woods. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

V. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION 2024-03-03: RECOGNIZE THE SEVIER COUNTY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2024 TMSAA CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

A motion was made by M. Maddron, and duly seconded by F. Atchley. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION 2024-03-04: RECOGNIZE THE PIGEON FORGE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM FOR REACHING THE TSSAA STATE MEET.

A motion was made by B. Headrick, and duly seconded by M Maddron. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PRECIOUS COMMISSION MEETING.

Sevier County Commission Minutes from December 18, 2023

A motion was made by R. Ogle, and duly seconded by G. Haggard. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM COMMISSION COMMITTEES.

A motion was made by J. Parton, and duly seconded by D. Delius. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS, DIVISIONS, AND DEPARTMENTS.

Warren Hurst asked for updates on short-term rental convenience centers and internet.

Andrew Temple updated broadband access is currently in the works. Charter & Comcast are in discussion with the mayor's office about applying for the Bid program, that should be within the next couple of weeks. With the Bid program the companies will apply so they can come in and install new broadband access in underserved areas of the community. The whole program would take about 3 years and it should start sometime this coming summer or fall. Providers are currently putting out more coverage area within the County, current approximation of 111 miles covered in the last year and will continue doing so, so it would allow consumers to get access. Comcast, Charter, and AT&T are applying for this grant. Concerns have been raised of what the federal government was present for information, a census block is the current guidelines being used, so if one person in that block had broadband access it was assumed that everyone in that block had access, where some were using satellite services and was categorized as broadband

Chambers asked what the outcome if the company could not complete what was promised within 3-year time frame. Temple responded if company could not complete then they would be responsible for paying the grant fees back plus 30% (thirty percent) penalty cost.

Matt Rudder updated that construction on Centerview convenience center was started on March 4th Blalock won the bid they had 85 days to complete the project and then the highway department was going to come in and finish by paving the rest of the project. Been going up there every Friday to check the status and it had been reported that it was coming along really well. Allensville Rd convenience center has made significant process and was

about complete. The construction of Pigeon Forge convience center should start pretty soon, all the equipment was delivered and was just waiting to finish up some of the other projects to keep things moving.

Hurst asked about how the payment was going to be collected. Rudder responded that payment could be collected on site but there is also a software system being set up to payment accounts with Sevier County Solid Waste, cameras will be set up to monitor payment collection at the sites to provide some internal control.

A motion was made by C. Rauhuff, and duly seconded by H. Pitner. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

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

A. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

- No Comments made

B. PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONING ITEMS

- No Comments made

XI. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-01: AMEND THE ZONING RESOLUTION FOR SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE BY REZONING TAX MAP 114 PARCEL 70.02 FROM A-1, AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT AND R-1, RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-1, RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

A. ADDRESS: LITTLE COVE ROAD

B. REQUESTED BY: LILLIE TRENTAM

C. SEVIER COUNTY REG. PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION: FOR

A motion was made by F. Atchley, and duly seconded by K. Woods. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-02: AMEND THE ZONING RESOLUTION FOR SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE BY REZONING TAX MAP 018 PARCHELS 23.00, 24.38, AND 26.00 FROM

R-1, RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO C-2, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.

A. ADDRESS: 2640 DOUGLAS DAM ROAD

B. UT AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

C. REQUESTED BY; D&S LAND DEV. LLC

D. SEVIER COUNTY REG. PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION: FOR

A motion was made by C. Rauhuff, and duly seconded by H. Pitner. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

- XIII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-03: AMEND THE ZONING RESOLUTION FOR SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE BY REZONING TAX MAP 41 PARCELS 29.02 AND 29.04 FROM R-1, RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT AND C-2, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO C-2, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.

A. ADDRESS: NEWPORT HIGHWAY

B. REQUESTED BY: OFIR MARSIANO

C. SEVIER COUNTY REG. PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION: FOR

A motion was made by M. Chambers, and duly seconded by B. Delius. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

- XIV. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-04: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTIONS OF THE ZONING RESOLUTION FOR SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

A. SEVIER COUNTY REG. PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION: FOR

B. PIGEON FORGE REG. PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION: FOR

**C. SEVIERVILLE REG. PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION: FOR**

James Temple clarified this resolution was to fix some technical errors that were made over the last few years where as the department failed to take some amendments to our zoning resolutions to the Pigeon Forge and Sevierville planning commissions as required by law. The amendments were brought forward to the commission but didn't get the recommendation from Sevierville or Pigeon Forge. There were five amendments to discussed and was cleared up that it was no new changes to the current guidelines, just making sure all done correctly. This resolution is amending the whole book.

A motion was made by C. Rauhuff, and duly seconded by C. Ogle. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XV. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-05: CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER.

Reappointing Dr. Jerry Bradley who is the current medical examiner and Dr. Vincent Tolley who is the assistant medical examiner. Whose term will expire March 31st 2029.

A motion was made by F. Atchley, and duly seconded by B. Delius. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XVI. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-06: AUTHORIZE AND EXECUTE APPLICATION TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECTS.

Mayor Waters clarified that this will authorize the mayor to sign the applications for the block grant program will commit the county to match the local match on the project that have been approved through the water committee. Hurst updated the grants the water committee is recommending to apply for. The grant has been applied for many times and is pretty extensive, if approved this will reach more low-income housing areas, currently looking out of Kerr road. near Douglas Lake. It could have been \$500,000 to \$600,000 (five hundred thousand dollars to six hundred thousand dollars) but this grant is currently sitting at \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) if awarded then it would free up some money that we have from the federal grants that can be used for other projects.

A motion was made by M. Maddron, and duly seconded by J. Parton. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XVII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-07: REQUEST
BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS REMITTED TO STATE TREASURER
UNDER UNCLAIMED PROPERTY ACT.

Brooke Huffaker clarified that these are unclaimed balances from 2022 that was sent to the State they have to hold on to it for 18 (eighteen) months and then we are able to request back anything that is still unclaimed.

A motion was made by R. Whaley, and duly seconded by F. Atchley. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XVIII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-08: ADOPT A FEE
SCHEDULE UPDATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Mr. Gary Loveday updated that over the last 18 (eighteen) to 20 (twenty) months the county has seen installed it has been noticed a sharp increase of failures of those inspections and having to return to reinspect. Causing a hold up on properties needing to be inspected when the office is having to go back and reinspect previous properties. This resolution is implementing a \$100.00 (one hundred dollar) reinspection fee that was adopted by the State back in 2008.

A motion was made by R. Ogle, and duly seconded by T. Watts. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XIX. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-09: ADOPT THE
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CODE, 2018 EDITION.

Head of Buildings Department Mr. Chris Jenkins explained that the commission had already adopted the 2018 energy code. The state during the audit process didn't like the way the wording was made to match the energy code exemption to match our residential book, so under recommendation of the state this resolution is changing the language of the code that was already adopted to match the State Fire Marshal's language.

A motion was made by G. Haggard, and duly seconded by J. Parton. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XX. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-10: SET SPEED LIMIT ON CERTAIN SEVIER COUNTY ROADS.

A motion was made by R. Ogle, and duly seconded by M. Chambers. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XXI. CONSIDERTAION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-11: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF STATE AID IN RESURFACING ROADS.

Highway Superintendent Mr. Jonas Smelcer clarified that this is required by the state that use of state funds be approved by the county commission. These funds will be going towards resurfacing Goose Gap Road from the pigeon forge city limits over to the white's community

A motion was made by B. Delius, and duly seconded by G. Haggard. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XXII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-03-12: A RESOLUTION TO CLASSIFY COUNTY ROADS FOR THE SEVIER COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM.

A motion was made by M. Maddron, and duly seconded by C. Rauhuff. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XXIII. NOTARIES

One Hundred and Six (106) applicants up for approval.

A motion was made by R. Ogle, and duly seconded by H. Pitner. Passed by roll call vote 23 yes, 1 absent.

XXIV. OTHER BUSINESS

- Recognition for Reed Bull Senior of Seymour High School, doing an internship with the County Court House.

XXV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Jay Martin – No show
- Jerry Grubb – Spoke about the confusion of where the short-term rental inspection program started and where the funds were going. Address his displeasure of the response he had gotten from his district

commissioner, mayor's office, and fire department when looking for answers to these questions. Addresses taxes and questioned where those tax dollars are going if not back into the community for infrastructure.

II. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by T. Watts, and duly seconded by K. Woods. Passed by voice vote 23 yes, 1 absent.