



SEVIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget Committee – Special Called: January 2024
January 23, 2024 4:00 PM

Members

Gary Cole
Mike Chambers
Warren Hurst
Ronnie Whaley
Fred Atchley
Bryan Delius

Others

Mayor Larry Waters
Vice Mayor Bryan McCarter
Assistant County Mayor/Senior Director of
Finance & Administration Brooke Huffaker

Assistant County Mayor/Senior Director of
Community Planning and
Development/Government Services Matt
Rudder
Director of Grants and Special Projects
Andrew Temple
Director of Public Affairs and
Communications Tyler Basler
Sheriff Michael Hodges
Chief Deputy Nathan Carr
Director Rick Valentine
Jeff Farrell

- I. Call to Order
- II. Old Business
- III. New Business
 - A. Sevier County Classification and Compensation Plan – Compression Adjustment
 - B. Short and Long Term Parking Solution
 - C. Land Purchase – Fair Grounds
- IV. Other Business
- V. Adjourn

Commissioner Atchley called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Mayor Waters and Vice Mayor McCarter presented Sevier County Classification and Compensation Plan – Compression Adjustment. Vice Mayor McCarter gave examples of the adjustment between department and emergency services personnel. The Compression Adjustment formula will be done for all employees. Mayor's Office will continue to look at the Plan each year.

Mayor Waters presented the short and long-term parking issues for Courthouse employees and customers. The short-term issue is the number of spots for employees and customers. Approximate current parking numbers: County Spots – 185 (could rearrange to 200), County Employee spots – 170, after Courts Building construction – 250. Long-term issue is to establish a task force to advise City of Sevierville and County on options such as a parking garage or more surface lots. Since the start of the Courts Building, employees and customers have been utilizing currently owned County lots as well as two (2) surface lots owned by Citizens National Bank (CNB). City of Sevierville has taken the lead on discussions with CNB about leasing that property



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for a short-term parking resolution in the Downtown Sevierville area. The initial proposed lease was for \$200,000 over two (2) years. The City has agreed to the potential split of the lease with the County. Commissioner Delius requested that the task force also conduct a study of logistics and placement of parking and future County department relocations. Commissioner Atchley requested a member of the Budget Committee be on the task force. Commissioner Hurst made a motion for the Mayor's Office to enter into discussions with CNB and City of Sevierville for a short-term solution by allowing the County and City to lease the two (2) surface lots and to inquire about the vacant gross lot between the two (2) surface lots and the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Delius seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Waters informed the Committee of attendance at the Sevier County Fair over the last few years. The County has hired Mike Smelcer to look at the current buildings at the Fair Grounds and to present a long-term plan. Commissioner Atchley presented a proposition from Mr. Ron Ogle about purchasing the parcel of land that separates the Sevier County Jail (Annex) and the property of the recently constructed Archives Building and the under-construction Sevier County Animal Shelter. Mr. Ogle has allowed the County to use his land for parking during the week of the Fair, however 2023 was going to be the last year of that agreement. Mr. Ogle has offered to sell the lot to the County for \$1,500,000.

Commissioner Hurst asked for an update on the Heritage Museum. Director Temple informed the Committee the Sevierville Commons Association has applied for multiple grants to renovate the property and he would update the Committee at the next meeting on the status of those grants.

Commissioner Hurst asked for an update on broadband. Director Temple informed the Committee of conversations with Spectrum and Comcast that both companies have been expanding services in the County. Mayor Waters added one of the difficulties and differences between Sevier County and neighboring counties is that the local electric utility board, at this time, is not going to add broadband/fiber to their services.

Commissioner Atchley made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Delius seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM.