

TOWN OF CUMBERLAND GAP
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMAN
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
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The Board of Mayor and Alderman met in regular session on September 11, 2023 with Mayor Pucciarelli calling the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall building, 330 Colwyn, Cumberland Gap, TN.

Mayor Pucciarelli called for a roll call of the Board Members. Board Members answered as follows: John Douglas- here; Teresa Fuson-here; Camille Hall- here; Bill Linn-here; John Ravnum- here; Morgan Wheeler- here.

Mayor Pucciarelli called for a motion to approve the minutes. John Douglas made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Bill Linn. Mayor Pucciarelli called for a roll call vote. Board members voted as follows: John Douglas- yes; Teresa Fuson- yes; Camille Hall- yes; Bill Linn- yes; John Ravnum- yes; Morgan Wheeler- yes.

Mayor Pucciarelli next called for the Financial Report. Town Recorder, Linda Moyers, reported the balances of all the accounts. Mayor Pucciarelli called for a motion to approve the Financial Report. Bill Linn made a motion to approve the financial report, with a second by Morgan Wheeler. Mayor Pucciarelli called for a roll call vote. Board members voted as follows: John Douglas- yes; Teresa Fuson- yes; Camille Hall- yes; Bill Linn- yes; John Ravnum- yes; Morgan Wheeler- yes.

Mayor Pucciarelli directed the meeting to approval of the bills. Town Recorder, Linda Moyers, reported the total bills due for all the accounts. Mayor Pucciarelli called for a motion to approve the bills. Teresa Fuson made a motion to pay the bills, with a second by John Douglas. Mayor Pucciarelli called for a roll call vote. Board members voted as follows: John Douglas- yes; Teresa Fuson- yes; Camille Hall- yes; Bill Linn- yes; John Ravnum- yes; Morgan Wheeler- yes.

Planning and Zoning- The Planning and Zoning Commission meeting scheduled for earlier tonight was cancelled.

Mayor Pucciarelli reported that Gabreil Tejada was just hired as the building inspector to replace Don Nave.

He further reported that the town has signed a contract with East Tennessee Development District for a city planner. Starting next month, Harold Edwards will be attending the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings.

The date for the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting is October 2, 2023.

Finance- There was nothing to report.

Law and Order- There was nothing to report.

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Historical – The Historic Zoning Commission scheduled for September 12, 2023 has been cancelled. The date for the next Historic Zoning Commission meeting is October 3, 2023.

Streets – The street paving and striping has been completed.

There was considerable discussion regarding the flooding in town over weekend. One of the board members felt the new paving was the cause of the water entering a house on Pennlyn Street. He felt that the town needs to prioritize the issue. Mayor Pucciarelli responded that he was aware of the situation and has been researching ways to fix the problem.

Street Lights- Once a street light goes out, Powell Valley Electric will no longer be repairing the lights but replacing them with new LED ones instead. Since the LED lights are designed to shine on the street only and illuminates a broader area, his goal is to reduce the number of the lights in town (currently there is 76 street lights in town).

There have been complaints that the new LED lights were too bright. Mayor Pucciarelli explained there is a smaller LED light but the coverage is much smaller and wouldn't reduce the total number of lights in town.

The design of the lights was questioned. Mayor Pucciarelli replied that Powell Valley Electric only had two LED lights and both have the same design. It was stated that the town should have the option to choose and the lights should have a historic look. One of the board members reported that she would contact the historic town, she recently drove through, to ask where they purchased the historic lights they had.

A plan to replace/reduce lighting will be discussed further at the next agenda meeting.

Parks and Recreation- BlueCross Healthy Place Grant Program- Each year, starting August 1 – 31st, proposals are accepted to create healthy places in communities. Mayor Pucciarelli explained that by the time this grant was brought to the town's attention, we felt there wasn't enough time to apply. Mayor Pucciarelli wanted to let the board be aware of the grant and to be thinking about a project for next year.

Tourism/Events- Upcoming Events include:
White Lighting Trail Festival- September 16, 2023; Hank Fest- September 23, 2023;
Harvest Moon- September 30, 2023; Mountain Fiesta- September 28- 30, 2023.

Water- The water loss for the month of August was 17%.

Utility Training- The required 12 hours of utility training is due to be completed by November 2023.

Sewer – There was nothing to report.

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Fire Department- There was nothing to report.

The department will host a cook-out on Thursday to welcome all new members.

OSHA Safety Director- A representative from Tennessee OSHA will be here on September 12, 2023 for an inspection.

Litigation- There was nothing to report.

Mayor Pucciarelli called for Old Business:

TN Downtown Grant Update- Guardians of the Gap- The contract has been signed and is effective as of October 1, 2023.

Colloredo and Associates (the marketing firm that Guardians are engaging to develop our tourism logo, brand, visitor map, signage, etc.) will be visiting the Gap on Tuesday September 26, 2023.

Updates will be given at the monthly Board of Mayor and Alderman meetings.

On Bike Share System- The Olde Mill B & B has agreed to pay for five (5) bicycles and one rack for the new bike share program. In exchange they ask to be able to advertise their business on the bikes and/or rack and the town to pay the yearly fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The new bikes/racks have an electronic lock/unlock mechanism and each bike includes GPS tracking.

John Douglas made a motion approving the yearly fee, with a second by Teresa Fuson. Mayor Pucciarelli called for a roll call vote. Board members voted as follows: John Douglas- yes; Teresa Fuson- yes; Camille Hall- yes; Bill Linn- yes; John Ravnum- yes; Morgan Wheeler- yes

Citizens Comments- There was no citizen comments.

Mayor Pucciarelli called for Old Business:

Special Event Permit Application- LMU Homecoming Parade

The special event application, LMU Homecoming Parade, was submitted by Blaze Bowers/LMU and is scheduled for October 14, 2023.

A representative from LMU was present and asked for an adjustment to the start time, from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

John Douglas made a motion to approve the special event application, with a second by Morgan Wheeler. Mayor Pucciarelli called for a roll call vote. Board members voted as

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follows: John Douglas- yes; Teresa Fuson- yes; Camille Hall- yes; Bill Linn- yes; John Ravnum- yes; Morgan Wheeler- yes.

Employee Evaluations- A packet with the following attachments was submitted to the board to be reviewed:

- Job Descriptions- City Recorder, Operations Manager, Laborer, Building Inspector, and City Judge
- Salary Surveys- City Recorder and Operations Manager
- Tennessee State Government Office Closures- Cumberland Gap recognizes eight (8) of the fourteen (14) listed. Any additions would require an ordinance approval.
- Evaluation Sheet

Mayor Pucciarelli asked that the board review the packet before the next agenda meeting.

Trash- The bears have been out and getting into garbage cans. Despite the announcements, residents are placing their garbage out prior to garbage pickup day, Mondays.

Mayor Pucciarelli suggested two possible solutions to the problem:

- Contract out the garbage service.
- Require residents to purchase a bear proof garbage can, as Gatlinburg does.

National Park Superintendent- Lisa Baldwin, the new National Park Superintendent, was present to introduce herself.

The National Park will be enlisting community input for the implementation of a Five Year (5 year) Strategic Plan and the update to the Long-Range Interpretive Plan.

Superintendent Baldwin also reported that funding has been awarded to repair the Gap Creek Walking Bridge. The project will begin in Spring 2024.

Announcements- The following announcements were made:

Agenda Meeting- Monday September 25, 2023

Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting – Monday October 2, 2023

John Douglas made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Morgan Wheeler. Mayor Pucciarelli called for a roll call vote. Board members voted as follows: John Douglas- yes; Teresa Fuson- yes; Camille Hall- yes; Bill Linn- yes; John Ravnum- yes; Morgan Wheeler- yes.

Mayor

Recorder