

\*\*\*\*\*MAY 23, 2003\*\*\*\*\*

The Town Council of the Town of Signal Mountain held a special called budget work session open to the public on Friday May 23, 2003 at 3:45 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Those present were: Mayor James H Althaus  
Vice Mayor Bill Leonard  
Councilmember Rachel Bryant  
Councilmember Steve Ruffin

Also present: Town Manager Hershel Dick  
Town Recorder Diana Campbell

The Mayor called the work session to order. The following notes were taken from the work session.

The first department head to address the Council was Connie Pierce, Librarian. She presented various items of information regarding the Library Department to the Council. She stated there was a 3.5% increase in usage of the library with a total of 60,000 items checked out. She noted the library had 3,300 patrons including 75 from out of Town. The Council then asked questions regarding various items on the budget narrative and discussed changes from the current year to the next. The Council suggested adding a line item for school programs when the next budgets are prepared.

Next the Council met with William Sanders to discuss the budget for the Recreation, Parks and Building Maintenance Departments. The Council discussed the number of full time employees and inquired into part-time employees. The Council made several inquiries into the expenditures proposed.

Next the Council discussed with William Sanders, the Public Utilities Director, the budget for the Water Fund. They discussed several items including the cost of water purchases, the repairs and maintenance of the equipment and capital items proposed in the budget. They discussed the addition of an automatic control panel at the pumping station in the next year. The Council inquired into the number of employees and various other items.

Next the Council heard from Karen Shropshire, Director of the Mountain Arts Community Center, and Ken Gross, Board Member of the Mountain Arts Community Center. The Council made several inquiries regarding the classes and the expected revenue. Karen pointed out the proposed capital outlay for the building explaining that some cosmetic work needed to be done on the kitchen since it had become a source of revenue. She also informed the Council of the proposed landscaping including the paving bricks to fulfill the promotion from the initial fund raising effort in 1999. The Council made inquiries and discussed several items including the non-resident fees, contract labor and lease arrangements.

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Next the Council met with Larry Eddings, the Public Safety Director, to discuss the Police Department. The Council asked several questions including the structure of the department, part-time employees, overtime and various other items. Larry answered and explained each item. The Council discussed the sale of old vehicles, communication equipment and animal control.

The Council then briefly discussed the Drug Fund budget. Larry pointed out that there was approximately \$25,000 accumulated in the Fund.

After that the Council talked with Larry Eddings about the Fire Department. The Council inquired into various items of the department. Larry explained each item including the proposed gas monitor and the SCBA gear. He noted that the Fire Department had applied for a \$72,000 grant to purchase the new SCBA equipment.

The last department head that met with the Council for the evening was Scott Cook, the Recreation Director, to discuss the various recreational programs. First the Council discussed the swimming pool. They asked several questions and discussed various items including the number of lifeguard needed and the electricity costs.

Next the Council talked about the tennis program. The Mayor suggested that Poncho Sanchez, the tennis pro, be given an increase in his contract. He noted that Poncho was not a Town employee but was paid 40% of the court reservation fees, that was projected to be about \$1900. Scott informed the Council of the cracks that needed repaired and explained that he had \$8,000 in the budget for repairs.

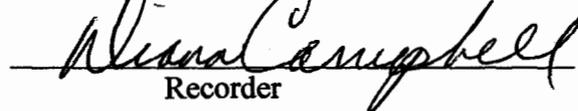
Next the Council discussed the budget for the ball field program. They discussed the employees assigned to the program and who should be directing them. Hershel noted that all purchasing should go through Scott. He explained that if Scott did not issue a purchase order, he would not pay the bill. The Council discussed the need to have the leagues acquire insurance coverage and name the Town as an additional insured. The Council put the \$50,000 for converting Hedges Field to a baseball field on hold for a later discussion.

Then the Mayor brought up the subject of the \$200,000 to spend to renovate the playground area behind the golf club. The Council voted unanimously to use the money left in the Sewer Fund to make improvements from the Playground Committee's recommendation.

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The final discussion of the evening was on the Day Camp Program. Scott Cook inquired of the Council whether they thought the Town should continue the summer camps. The Council suggested he make a recommendation.

  
JEFF ALTHAUS, Mayor

  
Recorder