

*****NOVEMBER 13, 2004*****

The Town Council of the Town of Signal Mountain held a special called meeting on Saturday November 13, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Mayor William O. Leonard III
 Vice Mayor Stephen Ruffin
 Councilmember Lizetta Paturalski
 Councilmember Robert V. Linehart Jr.

Also present:

Town Manager Hershel Dick
 Town Recorder Diana Campbell
 Town Attorney Phil Noblett

The Mayor called the meeting to order and talked about the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service's (MTAS) programs called the Elected Official's Academy. He explained to the other Councilmembers the benefits and experience received from attending the academies.

After that each person attending, the Town Attorney, the Councilmembers, the Town Manager and the Town Recorder gave a brief synopsis of their background and work experience.

Next the meeting was turned over to the Town Attorney, Phil Noblett, for an in-depth presentation on the Town's Charter, the Town's Municipal Code, the State of Tennessee's open records laws, and the State of Tennessee's public meetings laws. He explained each of the subjects and how they affected the Town's operations. During the discussion, the Attorney answered numerous questions from Councilmembers regarding applicable municipal law governing actions of elected officials in the State of Tennessee. Specific sections of the Town Charter and Tennessee Public Meeting requirements were discussed to assist Councilmembers in the performance of their duties as elected officials. No deliberation of any public business occurred during this legal presentation.

After the presentation, the Council then considered an ordinance for first reading, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND A 1987 ORDINANCE KNOWN AS THE 'THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE', AS AMENDED IN 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, AND 1998, BY MODIFYING THE OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS AND PROVIDING FOR REGULATION OF GASOLINE DISPENSING FACILITIES." After some discussion on the ordinance, Vice-Mayor Ruffin made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Paturalski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Town Recorder passed out copies of a pen and ink drawing by Glen Showwalter of the Town's seal that is hung in the Council chambers. The Council decided to use the drawing with slight modifications to be in line with the seal hanging in the chambers.

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Next the Council discussed at great length the speeding problem on Hampton Road, Mayer Road and Ault Road. During the discussion, the Town Attorney suggested using a traffic engineer to make recommendations based on the "Uniform Traffic Control Devices Manual." Also Councilmember Linehart suggested lowering the speed limit to 30 mph on Taft Highway in the congested area. After the discussion, Councilmember Linehart made a motion to 1) put a stop sign on Hampton Road at Mayer Road, 2) place speed signs for 25 mph on Ault Road, Hampton Road and Mayer Road, 3) consult the Uniform Traffic Control Devices Manual", 4) make a study after the signs are in place to gauge results, and 5) ask for law enforcement to follow up on the problem. Then Councilmember Ruffin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

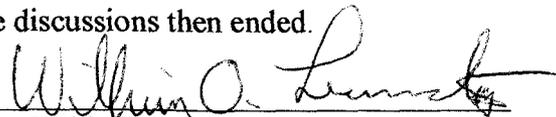
Councilmember Linehart then brought up several subjects that he would like the Town to address. The first item that he suggested was to improve relations with the Town of Walden. He suggested scheduling a joint meeting with Walden. Phil Noblett brought up the Interlocal Agreement on the High School and suggested that subject might be a start. It was decided that the Mayor would call Peter Hetzler the Walden Mayor to request a meeting.

The next issue that Councilmember Linehart brought up was the condition of the highway down the mountain and the Tennessee Department of Transportation's (TDOT) part in making some repairs. Mayor Leonard explained that he had previously met with Ray Rucker, the TDOT official in this area, and new guardrails would be installed on the right side of the road going down the mountain probably in the spring. He also explained that he and Mr. Rucker had walked the area examining the erosion problem and TDOT was aware of the problem that something must be done. He further stated that Senator Fowler had written Gerald Nicely, head of the Transportation Department regarding the highway. Councilmember Linehart requested that Mr. Rucker come up and inform the Council on the status of the highway.

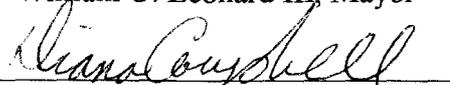
The third item Councilmember Linehart discussed was the Adopt a Highway program of the State. He said he knew different companies that would like to adopt parts of Taft Highway. He suggested the Town could help by leading the companies to the right person at the State.

Next there was a general discussion about overgrown lawns. The Mayor suggested if any Councilmember received questions regarding overgrown lawns, they should call the Town Manager and pass the information to him. The Town Manager explained that the Code Enforcement Officer, Bill Wagner, would write a letter to the homeowner. If that did not get results, the Town would mow the lawn and send a bill to the homeowner.

There being no other items before the Council, the discussions then ended.



William O. Leonard III, Mayor



Diana Campbell, Town Recorder