

*****May 12, 2008*****

The Town Council of the Town of Signal Mountain held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 12, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Mayor Paul Hendricks
 Vice-Mayor Hershel Dick
 Councilmember Annette Allen
 Councilmember Bill Lusk
 Councilmember Susan Robertson

Also present were: Town Manager Honna Rogers
 Town Attorney Phillip Noblett
 Town Recorder Mark Johnson
 See attached list for others present

Mayor Hendricks called the meeting to order and initiated the pledge of allegiance. Reverend Sally Ensley of Signal Mountain Baptist Church gave the invocation. Roll call found all Council members present.

Prior Meetings' Minutes Review

Minutes of the April 14th regular meeting and April 28th agenda meeting were discussed. Councilmember Robertson requested that the following changes be made to the April 14th minutes: (1) that language be added to the fourth resolution discussion indicating the Sheriff candidates should be contacted about providing an *additional* Resource Officer along with the officer the Town funds itself; (2) under "Other Discussions", the road name Sam Powell *Trace* be changed to the correct Sam Powell *Trail*; (3) under the last paragraph of "Other Discussions", the title *Board of Zoning* be changed to *Board of Zoning Appeals*; (4) under the first paragraph of "Other Discussions", the phrase "Mayor Hendricks then noted a *set* precedent..." be changed to "Mayor Hendricks then noted *setting* a precedent..."; (5) under the first paragraph of "Other Discussions", Rachel Miller's address, which was listed as *Candlewick Ct.*, be changed to the correct *James Boulevard*; (6) under the third paragraph of "Other Business", the spelling of the last name *Jakoway* be changed to *Jacoway*. Councilmember Allen noted that, in the MACC departmental report in the April 14th minutes, the language stating "The 'Go Green' series will be *initiated* on May 3rd should be changed to The "Go Green" series will be *completed* on May 3rd". Councilmember Robertson requested the following changes to the April 28th minutes: (1) in the second paragraph, the words "In *relation* to..." be changed to "In *reference* to..."; (2) on page two, within the paragraph describing an invitation by officials of the MACC to Ms. Rogers to be an ex-officio member, the words "The Council *had also been* invited..." be changed to "The Council *was* also invited..."; (3) in the same paragraph, in the last sentence, the word *would* be replaced with *will*, to indicate future tense. Mayor Hendricks requested that, in the same paragraph, in the second sentence, the word *meeting* be changed to the correct word, *member*. Upon motion by

Councilmember Robertson and second by Councilmember Allen, the minutes, as amended, were approved unanimously.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were presented:

1. "A RESOLUTION HONORING THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN LIBRARY ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN ITS CURRENT LOCATION". Karin Glendenning, Librarian, commented on the anniversary celebration to be held on May 17th. Councilmember Allen moved, and Councilmember Lusk seconded, the resolution be approved. The motion passed unanimously.
2. "A RESOLUTION HONORING PRINCIPAL JEAN TROHANIS FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN AND FOR HER DEDICATION TO EDUCATING THE CHILDREN OF THIS TOWN WHO HAVE ATTENDED SIGNAL MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY AND THRASHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS". Mayor Hendricks summarized Ms. Trohanis' contributions and history with the Town. Councilmember Lusk moved, and Vice-Mayor Dick seconded, the resolution be approved. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Hendricks presented Ms. Trohanis with an award and she thanked the Council for their support of the schools.
3. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SHELL FLEET WHICH WILL ALLOW FLEET GASOLINE PURCHASES FROM SHELL GAS STATIONS." Ms. Rogers explained that due to increasing gas costs, monthly bulk gasoline purchases were impractical as gaining approval for large amounts; i.e. - those over \$10,000, was difficult due to the nature of gasoline purchases. Town personnel will be able to purchase gas on an as-needed basis from stations. The Town will only purchase gasoline in this manner; diesel purchases will still be purchased on a monthly basis. Councilmember Robertson asked if this method provided a discount. Ms. Rogers said there would be a discount of 2%, and taxes would also not be paid since the Town is a non-taxable entity. Ms. Rogers noted some information had been received from three different vendors, with Shell providing the lowest-cost option. Councilmember Lusk asked if the total fuel usage and cost would be about the same and therefore bring up the approval issue again, to which Ms. Rogers replied the approval of the resolution would make purchase approval easier as it was approving a fuel purchase contract for an entire year. Councilmember Allen moved, and Councilmember Robertson seconded, the resolution be approved. Mayor Hendricks felt this will make obtaining gas more efficient and Councilmember Robertson and Ms. Rogers noted it will make recordkeeping easier and more cost-efficient. Councilmember Lusk asked what

would be done with the current Town gas tank. Loretta Hopper, Public Works Director, stated the diesel fuel will be moved from its current tank to the gasoline tank. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

Mayor Hendricks invited citizens to present any comments or concerns. There were none.

Ordinances

The following ordinances were presented:

1. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 2, CHAPTER 5, SECTION 2-508, OF THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE RELATIVE TO THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS". Mr. Noblett summarized the ordinance stating there had been principles and standards set forth by the Design Review Commission (DRC) for several years and although the Council has the authority to approve of the standards, no records could be located to that effect. He also explained what issues the standards generally covered such as applicable structure types and issues related to construction and demolition. Mayor Hendricks noted there was language in the standards that related to signs and asked if this effectively acted as another sign ordinance, to which Mr. Noblett replied the standards did not govern what kinds of signs were allowed, only how they were affixed to commercial buildings. Mr. Noblett and Mayor Hendricks also pointed out an ordinance does a good job of giving the standard rule of law so they can be enforced, and those committing infractions could ultimately be cited to court. Chuck Gearhiser, Building Inspector, said even though most businesses had been cooperative overall with design regulations, an ordinance would make his work easier. Mayor Hendricks suggested the ordinance be made law now, with the understanding that the DRC could review the standards, which are very old and in some cases, vague, and request an amendment later, if necessary. Ms. Rogers noted that article 1-201 of the Municipal Code, provides that in the event of conflicting information among the various resolutions and ordinances, those with more restrictive language are followed. Noah Long, Woodcliff Circle, indicated support for making this law now, saying it was a good start; although, at this point the standards are very general. He noted there had been a public forum, with both positive and negative input, and asked that there be a joint effort of the committees to review the standards. Councilmember Allen noted she had spoken with Karen Rennick of the Regional Planning Association (RPA), who agreed to work with the DRC in reviewing the standards. Councilmember Robertson moved, and Vice-Mayor Dick seconded, the ordinance be approved. Mr. Noblett and Ms. Rogers noted some minor typographical errors in the ordinance, but Mayor Hendricks said they could be corrected by the second reading. The motion passed unanimously.

2. "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 2, CHAPTER 5, OF THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE, TO INCLUDE NEW SECTIONS 2-512 THROUGH 2-519, REGARDING THE 'SIGNAL MOUNTAIN ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND MEMORIAL DONATION POLICY'." Councilmember Robertson explained this was the result of a policy drafted a few years ago by the DRC, and it basically involved combining infrastructure needs of the Town with the wishes of citizens who want to memorialize or honor groups or individuals. Councilmember Lusk moved, and Councilmember Allen seconded, the ordinance be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

3. "AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE RATE OF TAXATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS THE 'FY 2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE' TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN DURING THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2008, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2009 AND APPROPRIATING SAME TO THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT DURING SAID FISCAL YEAR; FIXING THE RATE OF TAXATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 AND THE TIME TAXES AND PRIVILEGES ARE DUE, HOW THEY SHALL BE PAID, WHEN THEY SHALL BECOME DELINQUENT; AND PROVIDING FOR INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON ALL DELINQUENT TAXES AND PRIVILEGES OWED TO THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN AND APPROPRIATING SAME TO THE PAYMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT DURING SAID FISCAL YEAR." Mayor Hendricks summarized the budgeting process, noting the Town Manager and department heads had worked on this together. He also noted the property tax rate remained unchanged. Ms. Rogers explained a proposal for an increase in stormwater fees, noting increasing costs mandated by the State made current revenue rates insufficient. Councilmember Robertson asked how long laws mandating stormwater functions had been in place. Chuck Gearhiser said the latest amended versions had been in place since the late 1990's. Ms. Rogers noted there was no proposed increase in water fees. Councilmember Robertson moved, and Vice-Mayor Dick seconded approval of the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously. The Council thanked Ms. Rogers and the department heads for their work on the budget.

Other Discussions

Mayor Hendricks announced May 13th was the scheduled date for the Waste Water Treatment Association (WWTA) public meeting and briefly explained its purpose.

Mayor Hendricks commented on the May 7th and 8th public meeting regarding the Signal Mountain Middle School (SMMS) property. He thanked all participants.

Councilmember Robertson reminded everyone that forms were still available for suggestions in the lobby of Town Hall. She said there were several ideas given.

Ms. Rogers discussed the animal control contract proposed by the Humane Society. There was no increase in fees; however, the Town is still exploring alternatives because there is an issue with the amount of service being provided by the Humane Society in regards to the cost of service.

Ms. Rogers discussed an issue regarding the Town's credit cards. Recent events revealed that the only authorized signers on the cards were the former Town Manager and two former Council members. Mr. Noblett said the Mayor and Vice Mayor would need to sign a corporate resolution from SunTrust Bank authorizing Ms. Rogers and Recorder Mark Johnson as signers. Councilmember Lusk moved, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the authorization by the Mayor and Vice-Mayor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Noblett discussed an issue regarding the Health and Educational and Housing Facilities Board. Three Board members' terms will end on May 13, 2008, and new or renewed appointments were needed for the June meeting. The Board is typically used to obtain bond financing at lower rates than could normally be obtained in the market. It was agreed this will be discussed further in the future.

Mayor Hendricks opened a discussion of a possible referendum allowing liquor sales in the Town. Mr. Noblett mentioned a referendum for such is required under State law. Councilmember Robertson asked if a referendum could be passed now and kept outstanding until such time as the need arises; i.e. – could a referendum be passed now and serve as authorization in future years. Mr. Noblett indicated it could, but the referendum is definitely a requirement. He also said zoning for a liquor store would be an issue to be dealt with, and that the State regulates liquor licensing. Noah Long indicated he was in favor of the idea. Police Chief Boyd Veal said there should be no significant adverse effect since liquor stores exist on both sides of the mountain already. Ms. Rogers said a resolution related to this would be presented at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Hendricks invited Noah Long, as Chairman of the Mountain Vision Committee, to comment on the possibility of having a Tree Board. Mr. Long said there had recently been a meeting of the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council, held in the Town, as well as a subsequent workshop. One item discussed was the purpose of a Tree Board. Such a Board typically serves as an advocacy and education group. Mr. Long felt having a Tree Board, comprised of citizens and landscaping professionals, would be a benefit to the Town, and offered to forward more information to the Council on its benefits. He also noted the Board can be instituted in different ways – by ordinance, via committee, etc. Mayor Hendricks noted the first step is to develop proper incentive for the project. The Council agreed to allow Mr. Long to work with Mr. Noblett on this issue for the next meeting.

Lou Oliphant then presented a report on activities of the Planning Commission. She noted there were two meetings – one on April 15th to discuss subdivision regulations and one on May 1st for the regular meeting. During the May 1st meeting subdivision ordinances were discussed. Also, an issue regarding a request by a citizen to separate her property into two separate properties was discussed. Ms. Oliphant also noted a public meeting is to be held on May 15th with developers to discuss their opinions on subdivision regulations.

Department Reports

Fire Department:

Ms. Rogers presented the Fire Department report for Fire Chief John Vlassis, who was absent. She noted he will be signing a memorandum of understanding regarding rural fire defense, which serves as a mutual aid agreement with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division. The agreement says the Town will assist the State agency in the event of fire in surrounding areas. Mr. Noblett said a provision was made such that Town resources would first be used for Town needs and then for State assistance. Ms. Rogers also noted Captain Chuck Nichols had informed the Town he will be terminating his employment.

Police Department:

Police Chief Boyd Veal presented his report. The new police cars had arrived and their equipment was being installed. He thanked everyone who helped drive the cars from the vendor to Town. Background checks have been completed and interviews will soon be conducted for a new officer. Three slots have been secured for field officer training in Chattanooga. With school winding down, the department will be planning community events and activities.

Library:

Karin Glendenning presented her report. The recent "Poetry Night" was successful with several people attending and future poetry nights are being planned. The summer reading program is being planned and there should be as many or more attending than last year. There will be a launch party for a book about Signal Mountain on June 12th. A new "green" section of the library has been developed, focusing on books related to environmental issues. Councilmember Allen thanked Karin for her work and complimented the library on its services.

Building Inspection:

Chuck Gearhiser presented his report. He stated that inspections are going well, school construction is on track, and new building permits are being issued. Stormwater issues

are under control. He also noted that the grass on the football fields at the high school has been killed so sod can be put in place.

Water:

William Sanders, Director of Utilities, gave his report, noting more than 25,000,000 gallons of water had been pumped during the month. There were two major leaks. A motor at the pump station was repaired. Also, several water meters were read, 84 work orders had been produced, a meter was installed, 15 water samples were taken, and certain water lines were replaced.

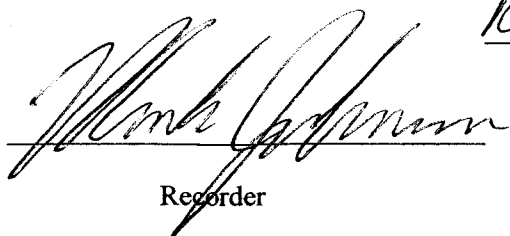
Public Works:

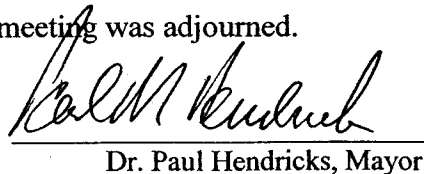
Loretta Hopper presented her report. The recent "Relay for Life" event went well. Paving work for Signal Road has been delayed because of upcoming work by the WWTAA. As a result, road surveys were reviewed in conjunction with sewer maps to see what roads are in poor condition and have no sewers so that paving could be done for them instead. Councilmember Lusk asked if the 100 through 300 block of James Boulevard could be examined as part of this process. Ms. Hopper replied that she recently discussed the issue with a contractor and noted various options for repairing the concrete while maintaining the rails. Councilmember Robertson asked how much repairs would cost. Ms. Hopper said an estimated cost had not been developed yet. Ms. Rogers mentioned the Town was looking into the historical significance of the rails to see if grant money can be obtained for repairs. Councilmember Lusk asked about the progress of correcting a timing issue with a traffic light at Palisades Drive and Mississippi Avenue. Ms. Hopper said she would revisit the issue. In relation to said light, Ms. Hopper mentioned that a citizen suggested to her the use of LED lighting as it would be more cost-effective. Replacing the older lights with LED would not be difficult. The Council agreed to allow Ms. Hopper to go ahead with an LED lighting project. Some wind damage occurred recently, which knocked down four trees that damaged power lines; however, EPB made repairs and cleaned up the area quickly. Also, mowing and trimming has begun.

Other Business

Vice-Mayor Dick thanked Mr. Noblett for his services.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Recorder


Dr. Paul Hendricks, Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-38

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN LIBRARY ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN ITS CURRENT LOCATION.

WHEREAS, the Town of Signal Mountain Library first opened in 1970 and moved to its current location of 1114 James Boulevard on April 16, 1988; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Signal Mountain Library currently houses a collection of more than 26,000 books, provides patron computers, and hosts story time for toddlers and various other community organization meetings ; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Signal Mountain Library continues to provide an important service to all the residents of Signal Mountain; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. a birthday party for the entire community will be held on the back patio of the Library and all citizens are invited to attend.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TENNESSEE, that the Town of Signal Mountain Library is hereby recognized for its 20th Anniversary at its current location and for its importance to the citizens of Signal Mountain.

Paul W. Kuebel
MAYOR

Mark Johnson
RECORDER

5/12/08
DATE

5/12/08
DATE

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-39

A RESOLUTION HONORING PRINCIPAL JEAN TROHANIS FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN AND FOR HER DEDICATION TO EDUCATING THE CHILDREN OF THIS TOWN WHO HAVE ATTENDED SIGNAL MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY AND THRASHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, Jean Trohanis will retire as Principal of Thrasher Elementary School following the 2007-2008 school year; and

WHEREAS, Jean Trohanis is has served the children of Signal Mountain for many years as a teacher and administrator; and

WHEREAS, Jean Trohanis has served as a teacher at Bachman and Thrasher Elementary, as Principal of Signal Mountain Elementary School from 1989-1999, and as Principal of Thrasher Elementary from 1999-2008; and

WHEREAS, Jean Trohanis has received many honors and awards for her service to the parents and children of this Town including being named 1999-2000 Outstanding Principal of the Year by the Tennessee Congress of PTA and 2000 Educator of the Year by the Signal Mountain Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, under her direction Thrasher Elementary has received many school awards and honors including being named a Blue Ribbon National School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education in 2004 and being named an Allied Arts School for the school year 2004-2005; and

WHEREAS, under Jean Trohanis' leadership Thrasher Elementary has received a new gym, has supported remodeling of the interior and exterior of the school, and has updated technology; and

WHEREAS, Jean Trohanis is known and respected in this community as the wife of Bill Trohanis for 27 years and as the mother of one son, Wil.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TENNESSEE, that Principal Jean Trohanis is hereby honored for her many years of outstanding and dedicated service to the citizens and children of the Town of Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

Paul M. Kudach
MAYOR

Mark Johnson
RECORDER

5/12/08
DATE

5/12/08
DATE

RESOLUTION NO 2008-40

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SHELL FLEET WHICH WILL ALLOW FLEET GASOLINE PURCHASES FROM SHELL GAS STATIONS.

WHEREAS, the Town Manager has recommended that it would be more efficient for Town fleet vehicles and equipment to receive their gasoline purchases from Shell gas stations located on the mountain rather than by purchasing gasoline in bulk and pumping town gasoline out of town owned tanks; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager has advertised and offered the purchase of fleet vehicle gasoline purchases without any response and the annual purchase of the gasoline for one fiscal year for all fleet vehicles and equipment of the Town will exceed \$10,000 and is estimated at \$173,000 at current gasoline prices; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that gasoline is needed in order to operate all Town fleet vehicles and equipment and the Town Manager recommends that a Shell Fleet agreement which may enable purchases from Shell Gas Stations on Signal Mountain is the most efficient way to refuel Town fleet vehicles and equipment.

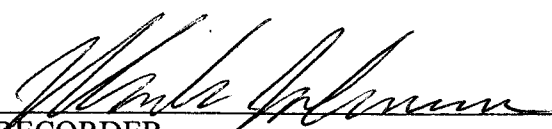
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE, that the Town Manager is authorized to enter into an agreement with Shell Fleet for gasoline purchases to refuel Town fleet vehicles and equipment.



MAYOR

5/12/08

DATE



RECORDER

5/12/08

DATE