

\*\*\*\*\*January 27, 2009\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Monday, January 27, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

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

Also present were:

- Town Manager Honna Rogers
- Town Recorder Mark Johnson
- Town Attorney Phil Noblett

Jarred Thompson, Recreation Director, presented a memo that summarized a recent request by the Recreation Board to change Sunday free-play hours in the gym as follows:

Previous schedule: 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Proposed schedule: 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. for individuals who are at least 15 years old  
 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. open to all ages

Councilmember Hendricks moved and Mayor Lusk seconded that Mr. Thompson's request be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

The following ordinance was presented: "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE SECTION 8-106, REGARDING THE LOCATION OF ANY LIQUOR STORE AND/OR ESTABLISHMENT SELLING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITH MORE THAN FIVE (5%) PERCENT ALCOHOL CONTENT WITHIN THE TOWN AND PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF INSPECTION FEES AND CERTIFICATES FOR ALCOHOL SALES WITHIN THE TOWN." Councilmember Hendricks and Mr. Noblett noted grammatical errors in the amendments in Article Three that were approved in the last regular meeting. Mayor Lusk moved and Councilmember Allen seconded that the ordinance be approved, subject to the appropriate revisions. The motion passed unanimously.

The agenda for the February 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting was discussed as follows:

- Appointments to the Transportation Committee and Clean Streams Task Force.
- The reappointment of Jeff Duncan to the Parks Board.
- Discussion with Pavement Technologies representative John Calvert regarding citizen complaints about the recent Reclamite application.
- First reading of the ordinance permitting fowl ownership.

Mr. Noblett referred to a citizen's complaint about a political message written on a neighbor's front window. He and Ms. Rogers agreed that an issue exists over whether window writing constitutes a "sign" as defined under the ordinance governing sign usage. Mr. Noblett and Mayor Lusk agreed to speak with the citizen.

The Council discussed other applications for Board membership.

Patrick Hagan was present and participated in a discussion of the Town's ordinance banning fowl. The Council members had performed their own individual research, and they discussed issues such as enclosure size and type, dangers posed by dogs, code enforcement, distance restrictions, limits on the number of chickens, feces disposal, slaughtering, etc.

Ms. Rogers noted she had been reviewing the Town's franchise contract with Comcast in comparison to similar agreements in other towns.

Dr. Richard Casavant was present and participated in a discussion of the WWTA; the status of the sewer moratorium; the lateral project as well as associated costs; and, county and state levels of authority. The Council agreed to contact WWTA representatives to discuss these issues further.

Ms. Rogers reviewed a report on the recent water department study performed by MTAS. She noted three significant recommendations: 1) a possible interconnection for emergency water supply with WRUD for which stimulus package funding may be available; 2) eliminating the Town's water department in favor of a new combined authority with Walden's Ridge Utility District; and 3) SCADA, an automated system of water tank maintenance and security. The Council indicated they would be in favor of having preliminary discussions with WRUD regarding a new authority. Also, they indicated support for funding an interconnection and the SCADA system.

Councilmember Allen opened a discussion of "Earth Hour", a global event sponsored by the World Wildlife Foundation. On March 28, for the hour between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 pm, people are asked to turn off non-essential lights and appliances. The Council agreed to promote this initiative to the Town with a resolution at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Rogers opened a discussion on court operations. She noted costs had been exceeding revenues due primarily to case dispositions. Police staffing issues and morale were discussed, as well as the option of phasing out a Town court. Ms. Rogers agreed to send monthly financial reports to Judge Rotheberger, and Mayor Lusk agreed to speak with him about the issue.

Councilmember Allen opened a discussion on the "Greening Mountain Businesses Program", a program that encourages local businesses to use environmentally-conscious practices. She noted that the Mountain Stewards are sponsoring the program, and asked if the town would partner with the Mountain Stewards in promoting this program 1) by resolution and 2) by greening town hall by switching from Styrofoam to paper cups,

using "green" cleaning products, etc. The Council indicated they would support this initiative.

Ms. Rogers asked if the recycle center schedule could be adjusted to allow it to open on Mondays or Tuesdays, creating a five day/eight-hour per day weekly schedule instead of the four day/ten hour existing schedule. The Council agreed that this idea should be researched and considered.

Ms. Rogers noted the next TML legislative conference will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The upcoming Municipal Administration Program (MAP) schedule from MTAS was also reviewed.

Ms. Rogers reviewed the current fiscal year revenue projections. She noted an expected \$90,000 shortfall in the general fund. She also anticipated that the next fiscal year would include spending cuts due to further revenue declines. She asked that the Council submit funding priorities to her by the next month.

Ms. Rogers noted she recently spoke with a representative at the TPO, who indicated it is likely that the sidewalk project will be considered for an economic stimulus grant.

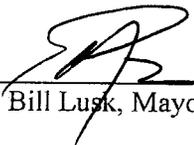
The next agenda session was tentatively scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Rogers asked that minor revisions to the Board ordinance be submitted to her during the next month. Any significant changes could be discussed at the next agenda session.

Ms. Rogers noted there is a new TCA that modifies how Planning Commission members are appointed in Signal Mountain.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Recorder

  
Bill Lusk, Mayor