

*****March 30, 2009*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Monday, March 30, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

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

Also present were: Town Manager Honna Rogers
Town Recorder Mark Johnson
Town Attorney Phil Noblett

The following ordinance was read: "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE, TITLE 6, TO ADD A NEW SECTION 6-104, ENTITLED 'SPECIAL EVENT POLICE SERVICES AND FEES'". Councilmember Allen moved and Councilmember Dick seconded that the ordinance be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

The agenda for the April 13th regular meeting was discussed as follows:

- Approval of the March 9, 2009 regular meeting and March 30, 2009 agenda meeting minutes.
- An honorary resolution recognizing "Paint the Town Purple", an event sponsored by Relay for Life to be held on May 8th and 9th.
- An honorary resolution celebrating MTAS's 60th anniversary.
- Reappointment of Willis Murdock to the Health, Educational and Housing Board.
- Appointment of Karen Rennich to the Design Review Commission (DRC).
- Appointments to the Transportation Committee.

Dr. Bob Spaulding and Chuck Gearhiser, Building Inspector, were present and participated in a discussion of Dr. Spaulding's speed limit sign on Shackelford Ridge Road as a result of citizen complaints. Dr. Spaulding explained he erected the police surplus sign as a matter of safety and to reduce incidents of speeding. The Council discussed whether the sign violated the sign ordinance and what ramifications, if any, existed. Matters such as technical aspects of the sign, whether it is used for advertisement, the nature of the complaints it generated, the positioning of the sign, and what particular ordinance it is subject to were discussed.

Mr. Noblett noted a sign ordinance in the Code in 2000 was updated with very few changes in 2007. Ms. Rogers noted the use of the sign may constitute a legal non-conforming" use, described in each ordinance, and therefore may be allowed a grace period of several years or more. Mr. Noblett agreed that Dr. Spaulding's sign is under a

grace period, though the length of time is not clear. The Design Review Commission is in the process of reviewing the sign ordinance, and the Council agreed any determination on the sign should be decided after the outcome of that process.

Karen Shropshire, MACC Director, and Bill Wallace, Chairman of the MACC Board, were present and participated in a discussion regarding requests for permitting alcohol use at the MACC. MACC personnel have received several requests from citizens in recent years to be allowed to serve alcohol during certain events such as wedding receptions, anniversary celebrations, etc., which could be held at the MACC to generate income. The Council discussed possible requirements for a new ordinance to allow serving alcohol at the MACC under certain circumstances as well as liability and zoning issues, the use of off-duty police officers, and possible financial benefits to the Town. The Council agreed to discuss these issues at its April 13th regular meeting.

A second reading of a memorial policy amendment in reference to Honor Trees was discussed. Vice Mayor Robertson mentioned she had re-thought the proposed amendment and suggested instead that the requirements for tree donations be placed in the tree ordinance since the Honor Tree Program is a requirement for becoming a "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation. Such a designation for the Town will qualify it to apply for grant money to support and develop an urban forestry program. The Council agreed to place tree donation requirements in the Tree Board ordinance and to add a new section to the memorial policy ordinance referencing these requirements there. Vice Mayor Robertson moved and Mayor Lusk seconded to table the second reading of the memorial ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council then discussed an appointment to the Planning Commission. Various applicants were considered as were the number of members needed on the Commission and its demographic makeup. Councilmember Dick moved and Councilmember Hendricks seconded the appointment of Cheryl Graham. The motion passed unanimously. A formal resolution to that effect was presented later in the meeting, which read as follows: "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHERYL GRAHAM AS A MEMBER OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN PLANNING COMMISSION". Councilmember Hendricks moved and Mayor Lusk seconded that the resolution be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the February 23rd agenda meeting minutes was discussed. Ms. Rogers noted that after reviewing the tape of the meeting, the result of the discussion regarding removing the ban on climbing was that Vice Mayor Robertson moved not to rescind the ban. Councilmember Hendricks amended the motion not to rescind the ban until such time as evidence that would alleviate staff concerns could be presented. Vice Mayor Robertson moved and Councilmember Allen seconded that the minutes be approved subject to a language change as follows: "Vice Mayor Robertson moved not to rescind the ban on climbing. Councilmember Hendricks amended the motion not to rescind the ban until evidence can be presented that would alleviate staff concerns". The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rogers presented an update on the fiscal year 2008-2009 budget. Various costs, revenue items and Town services were discussed as well as options for cutting costs, and the outlook for the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget.

Ms. Rogers briefed the Council on her trip to the TML legislative conference. She noted that the state of Tennessee's financial status was reviewed.

Ms. Rogers opened a discussion of the Police department's need of a new car. She said it would be beneficial to purchase the car during the current year as the Police Department's expenditures are under budget. Councilmember Dick moved and Councilmember Hendricks seconded that the purchase be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council discussed individuals to be approached for service in the Consumer Connection program for the Town.

The Town's 90th anniversary and possible ideas for its celebration were discussed. One idea was an large event which could coincide with the Fourth of July and/or having several small events.

Ms. Rogers exited the meeting, at which time the Council discussed increasing her salary to the minimum amount for a Town Manager per the Town's current pay structure to become effective on her one-year anniversary. To date, Ms. Rogers has been the only Town employee working below minimum. The Council agreed to the increase unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Recorder


Bill Lusk, Mayor