

*****August 28, 2009*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Friday, August 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Mayor Bill Lusk
Councilmember Annette Allen
Councilmember Hershel Dick
Councilmember Paul Hendricks

Others present were: Town Manager Honna Rogers
 Town Recorder Mark Johnson

Loretta Hopper, Public Works Director, was present for and participated in a discussion of erecting guardrails along North Palisades Drive. Ms. Rogers noted that recent communication from the state indicated that the Town must finish installing guardrails there or the related \$24,500 grant the Town received would be rescinded. The Council discussed material types and price options, as well as options for communication of the issue with the public. Ms. Rogers noted that this should be completed in conjunction with other safety projects by spring.

Ms. Rogers opened a discussion on the Town's stimulus funds. She noted that, because of stringent requirements to maintain eligibility, some municipalities are hiring engineers to oversee the process. She noted the stimulus funds do not reimburse the cost of the engineer. The Council agreed to allow the Town to interview candidates for this position.

Ms. Rogers noted TDEC is proposing new legislation that would require municipalities to reduce waste by 20% by diverting it to recycling services. She said a rough estimate by Town staff indicated the Town could meet this requirement.

Members of the Mountain Business Association (MBA) were present for and participated in a discussion of recent citizen complaints regarding placement of items by businesses on their front sidewalks. Sidewalk safety and wheelchair accessibility concerns were discussed. The Council and the MBA members agreed that a permit for use of the sidewalks in such a manner, subject to certain conditions, would be an appropriate way to allow retail use of sidewalks.

Ms. Rogers read thank-you notes to the Town from citizens and outside organizations for various services.

Police Chief Veal made a presentation on a continuing problem with speeding. He noted that equipment improvements, overtime hours and GHSO grants have made an impact on reducing it, but there are still issues, as indicated by a recent analysis. He reviewed roads where there are particular problems. The results indicated similar speeding issues on many roads. He noted that stationary radar monitoring by officers decreases patrol time, and temporarily removes the officer from the monitoring point. He said traditional traffic

enforcement will continue, but new methods are needed and suggested the use of mobile traffic cameras. He presented a report on American Traffic Solutions system, a company currently used by Red Bank that provides this service. The Council agreed to discuss this at the regular meeting and have Chief Veal give his presentation at the meeting. The Council discussed budgetary and operational considerations. The Council also agreed to communicate this with the whole Town through other means.

Ms. Rogers noted Vice Mayor Robertson, who was out-of-town, had requested that the reading of the Board Ordinance be postponed until her return.

Councilmember Allen said the subdivision regulations referenced the "Greenway" program. She said she had spoken with Rick Wood, Director of the Chattanooga Trust for Public Land, regarding creating a loop system for trails within Town and asked if it's worth the Transportation Committee's attention. Councilmember Allen agreed to attend the next Transportation Committee meeting to discuss the issue.

Ms. Rogers said that Anne Davis, a citizen, requested that October 18th be designated as Emma Bell Miles Day. Councilmember Hendricks noted she was an artist and writer. The Council agreed to designate it as such.

Ms. Rogers asked if the rain barrel could be placed on the right side of Town Hall to prevent erosion of the plants there. The Council agreed to allow this.

Ms. Rogers noted that the estimate she received for a new Town meeting sign was approximately \$400, which is not budgeted; therefore, other options are being researched.

Ms. Rogers asked if the Town should research the possibility of increasing the local sales tax. The Council agreed to communicate to the public the need to do this. Ms. Rogers said she would provide more data at the next agenda session.

Ms. Rogers noted that several Hamilton County municipalities had been asked to make a TCMA donation of \$150 to \$200 to produce a gift of metal water bottles for Town Managers. The Council agreed to make the donation.

The ordinance rezoning 315 Ault Road was discussed. Challenges facing the potential buyer, Mr. Poteet, were discussed, as well as Town and County concerns. The Council feels that the deed restrictions restrict the Council's ability to rezone the property in the future. Mr. Noblett agreed to ask the County Commission to adjust the language in the deed to be more general as to the deed restrictions.

The following ordinance was read:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE RATE OF TAXATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS THE "FY 2009-2010 BUDGET ORDINANCE" TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE TOWN OF

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN DURING THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2009 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2010, AND APPROPRIATING SAME TO THE PAYMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT DURING SAID FISCAL YEAR, INCLUDING NECESSARY BOND FINANCING REPAYMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL WITHIN THE TOWN; FIXING THE RATE OF TAXATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 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. Councilmember Hendricks moved and Councilmember Dick seconded that the ordinance be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

The agenda for the September 14, 2009 regular meeting was discussed as follows:

- July 31st agenda meeting and August 3rd regular meeting minutes' approval.
- A resolution commending Van Bunch and Corinne Giagnorio for their efforts to recycle electronics to keep them out of the landfill.
- A resolution commending Dick Gee for his donation of benches to the Library.
- A resolution to renew the Humane Society contract.
- A resolution authorizing truck purchases for the Recreation and Water Departments.
- Second reading of an ordinance to adjust the property tax based on the County reassessment.
- Chief Veal's presentation on speeding.

The Council discussed and commended Town employees' efforts toward working on the playhouse.

Ms. Rogers noted that there is a developer interested in property owned by Frank Powell who wishes to host a public meeting at Town Hall in September regarding its use.

The next agenda session was scheduled for October 5th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lusk, Mayor

Mark Johnson

Recorder