

*****October 5, 2009*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Monday, October 5, 2009 at 12:30 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

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

The agenda for the November 12, 2009 regular meeting was discussed as follows:

- Approval of the September 14th regular meeting minutes and the October 5th and July 31st agenda meeting minutes.
- Honorary resolutions for Emma Bell Miles, Van Bunch and Corinne Giagnorio.
- A presentation on photo traffic enforcement by a vendor representative. The Council discussed what would be presented and related speed enforcement concerns.
- A resolution approving the GHSO traffic enforcement grant.
- Resolutions approving engineering services contracts for ARRA funds and the James Boulevard sidewalk project.
- Discussion of directional signs to the high school.
- A presentation on a proposed local sales tax increase. The Council discussed whether to hold a special election to raise the tax rate from 2.25% to 2.75% before the state elects to collect this additional tax and disperse it to Tennessee municipalities based on population. Costs and anticipated revenues were discussed. The Council instructed Ms. Rogers to make a presentation at the October 12th meeting.

Ms. Rogers noted a recent discovery that significant portions of the MACC's crawlspace between some ceilings and the roof contain a buildup of raccoon feces and urine. She noted that MACC Director Barbara Storm is getting estimates on cleanup and repair costs, and that this is a serious issue that must be dealt with promptly.

Representatives from EPB were present to discuss their proposed cable franchise agreement, which will serve as a possible alternative to the Town's current agreement with Comcast. Various issues were discussed, including the interrelation of EPB's various services, infrastructure needs, use of easements, costs, etc. The Council agreed to have Town Attorney Phil. Noblett review their draft proposal and suggest any necessary revisions.

Ms. Rogers recapped a recent ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability conference she attended in Atlanta. She said several recycling and energy efficiency initiatives were discussed.

In light of recent proposals for commercial development, Councilmember Allen asked if the Council would request the Design Review Commission (DRC) to review commercial design standards for opportunities to not only improve and update them but also to require environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing development. The Council agreed to invite Greg Goodgame, the DRC Chairperson, to the next agenda session to discuss the issue.

The Council discussed the most recent Planning Commission meeting, particularly consultant Randall Arendt's proposal to use a piece of private property within the Town as a model for a conservation design subdivision site plan. It was noted that Glenn Baird offered 180+ acres of his family's property on Shackleford Ridge for the project and suggested that the Town fund it. The Council discussed concerns over whether private property could be used and who would be responsible for the cost. Councilmember Paul Hendricks stated that he supported the idea as long as the Bairds would agree to reimburse the Town should they actually use Mr. Arendt's plan to build their subdivision. He thought such a project would benefit the Planning Commission. Mayor Bill Lusk and Councilmember Allen, who also serve on the Planning Commission, thought it was an interesting proposition, but unnecessary and inappropriate. Should the Town fund a site plan for one developer, it would need to fund site plans for all developers. Vice Mayor Susan Robertson and Councilmember Dick agreed. It was noted that any decisions on Mr. Arendt's proposal were under the purview of the Planning Commission and that the Council would only become involved should the Commission seek funding for such a project from the Town.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lusk, Mayor
Recorder