

*****October 3, 2011*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Monday, October 3, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Mayor Bill Lusk
Vice Mayor Susan Robertson
Councilmember Annette Allen
Councilmember Dick Gee
Councilmember Bill Wallace

Others present were: Town Manager Honna Rogers
Town Recorder Mark Johnson
Others (as noted)

Police Chief Boyd Veal was present to introduce new officers, Jonathan Schoap and Donnis Boochie, as well as new SRO Heath Gunter. Utilities Director William Sanders was present to introduce new water department employee Hayden Hicks. Fire Chief John Vlasis introduced new firefighter, Joey Anderson. Ms. Rogers introduced intern Rebecca Buxton.

David Bible and Brian Givens from Arcadis Engineering gave a presentation on the recent water system study. Mr. Bible explained that the primary purpose was to create a GIS-compatible map of the water system and evaluate any needed improvements or upgrades. He reviewed the Town's water pipe material, average water use, and performance targets. The overall assessment was that the current water system is adequate for current demand and no anticipated large growth in demand was expected. Also, the study noted that no major upgrades were needed. The study did note, however, that water loss was estimated to be 29% and a "water balance audit" was recommended to examine this issue further. Also, Hiddenbrook and Carriage Hill were identified as areas with chronic system breakages and Mr. Bible recommended that all cast iron piping in the Town should eventually be replaced with ductile iron piping. Finally, Mr. Bible reviewed areas for a potential interconnection with WRUD.

Ms. Rogers reviewed the new water department customer policies with the section on renter deposits removed due to confusion on legalities. Other minor changes were suggested. Ms. Rogers mentioned that she intends to establish a property developer water policy. The Council agreed to continue the discussion at the next agenda session.

Ms. Rogers opened a discussion on EPB's storm response, noting that she recently met with EPB representatives. She explained that EPB has 196 phone lines open to report outages. If these are busy, e-mail is the quickest means of notification. She also noted that EPB responds to the most severe situations first. Also, EPB is not always automatically aware of problems; therefore, citizens must take initiative in reporting downed trees and outages. She explained that the Town notifies EPB through dispatch of problems that citizens report. She said that following the last storm, staff has been

developing contingency plans. The Council discussed various options for communication and response during storms. Councilmember Wallace offered to assist in the development of these plans.

Loretta Hopper, Public Works Director, opened a discussion on a proposed public works facility location. She presented two options – building a new facility on Timberlinks Drive or rebuilding it on the current site. The Council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each option, which concerned location relative to annexed property, utility access, space needed for the salt bin, traffic flow, etc. Ms. Hopper recommended rebuilding on the existing site. The Council agreed to pursue this after more research is performed.

The October 10, 2011 regular meeting agenda was discussed as follows:

- Resolutions honoring the Mountain Education Foundation and SMHS Girls Golf Team.
- A resolution awarding the swimming pool renovation bid.
- Resolutions approving purchases of a Public Works department truck and road salt.
- A resolution approving a water hydrant contract with Chattanooga and WRUD.
- A resolution approving water department customer policies
- A public hearing on the request to change zoning language by *Poppy's Barbecue* and a related ordinance.
- Discussion of the proposed debt management policy.

Bill Gallagher, a representative of the adult softball league, was present to request that the left and center portions of Driver field be expanded by 30 ft to adult-team regulation size. The right field, however, would remain undersized to accommodate the SMGCC driving range. He recommended that fill dirt be brought in to expand the length of the field as opposed to erecting a fence to catch fly balls. Fill material components and costs were discussed as well as the possibility of using an existing regulation field on County property. The Council agreed to research this further.

Jarred Thompson, Recreation Director, was present and updated the Council on his research concerning a salt-based pool filtration system. He noted that he spoke with a potential vendor from Atlanta and the system itself would cost \$50,000 along with regular maintenance costs thereafter. The annual cost for salt verses the cost of chemicals would be a large savings. He said that the Health Department would have no issue with this as long as the system can adequately handle contaminants. Mr. Thompson agreed to research salt systems further and invite the vendor to come speak to the Council.

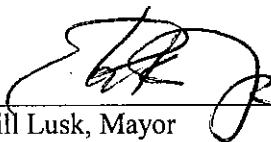
Ms. Rogers asked if the Council might want an ordinance to allow administrative hearings for building code violations by joining with other small municipalities to use the same judge. The council encouraged her to pursue this idea.

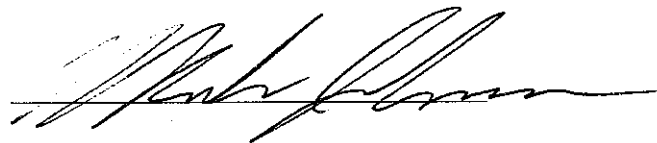
Councilmember Gee asked about the intersection at Anderson Pike and Shackleford Ridge Road, saying that a resident of the WindTree subdivision asked if this narrow intersection could be widened to accommodate the wide turning radii of school buses. Ms. Rogers said that any widening would be in the county right-of-way and also noted that there is a gas line in this area. Councilmember Gee suggested speaking with county officials.

Councilmember Gee mentioned that a meeting would be held this week with MACC Board representatives, Ms. Rogers, Barbara Storm, Sandra McCrea and Mr. Noblett on creating the proposed Town/Foundation memorandum of understanding.

Councilmember Wallace asked if brush pickup was only performed on certain days. Ms. Rogers explained that it is on continuous rotation. She said that recently the regular route was delayed due to the recent storm.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Bill Lusk, Mayor


Recorder