

\*\*\*\*\*October 24, 2011\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Monday, October 24, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

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)

The Council discussed conservation easements recently proposed for Rainbow Lake and other parklands. Bill Fronk, Parks Board member, was present. Councilmember Allen presented a summary of a recent public input meeting that listed comments mostly in favor of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust holding conservation easements. Councilmember Gee noted that because of the meeting he had a better understanding of what was involved in conserving the parklands. For example, the Town would not be “giving away” its parks to an outside entity, and the parks would remain parks for recreational use by the community. But he questioned if those who attended the public meeting were perhaps biased and did not adequately represent the opinion of a majority of the public. Thus, he suggested that the Council consider additional methods for soliciting community opinion on parkland easements, including passing information through civic groups or holding a referendum. He also noted there is misunderstanding in the community and the role of the Trust, dimensions and value of the lands, and perpetuity of the easements and so on need clarification and further public discussion. Ms. Rogers agreed to research the idea of a referendum and other means of gathering public opinion.

Ms. Rogers noted that the pool building will be painted soon and asked the Council for an opinion on the suggested color – a shade of gray called “Briarwood”. The Council agreed to the color, but also deferred to the DRC’s opinion. Jarred Thompson, Recreation Director, was present for the discussion. He also mentioned that the tennis court bathroom is being repaired and agreed to further research the recent request by the adult softball league to expand the length of Driver field, although it still would not be regulation size due to the SMGCC driving range located in its right field.

The November 14, 2011 regular meeting agenda was discussed as follows:

- Resolutions approving police and fire vehicle purchases.
- A resolution approving a debt policy. Mr. Johnson reviewed the proposed policy, noting that changes may be communicated by the state in the near future. The Council discussed the Town’s current debt levels, particularly relating to the vehicle replacement fund and future needs.

- A resolution approving new street criteria. Loretta Hopper, Public Works Director, was present for a discussion of the suggested changes, which involved sidewalks, street width, impaction, and other dimensions.
- An ordinance to add an irrigation system reconnection fee to be effective next fall. Ms. Rogers informed the Council that she had researched other utilities and found mixed results; i.e., fees ranging from \$0 - \$50, but most only charged for reconnection, not disconnection. The Council agreed to disconnect for free, but to establish a \$25 reconnection fee through the ordinance. Affected parties would be notified by letter with plenty of notice.
- A beer permit request from *Pie Slings*.

Ms. Rogers opened a discussion on the memorial donation policy, asking if the Council wanted to approve all donations, including small, non-standard donations. The Council agreed to allow the Town Manager and the receiving entity discretion over smaller items. The proposed policy will be on the December Council agenda.

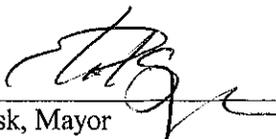
Ms. Rogers informed the Council that the recently publicized County growth plan requires that the Mayor be the appointee to the related meetings; however, the Council can vote on another designee if he does not want to serve.

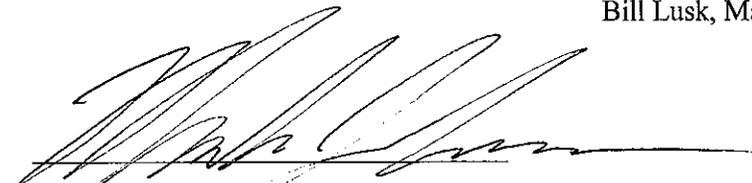
Ms. Rogers presented a request by non-residents who use the MACC to be assessed a reduced class rate if membership is obtained. The new rate would be that of a resident. She noted that it would encourage a sense of belonging to the MACC.

Ms. Rogers noted that there are many open positions on Town boards and said that they will be advertised. Board attendance was discussed. Ms. Rogers also noted that Glenn Showalter, the Playhouse representative on the MACC Board, has elected not to be reappointed. Ms. Rogers and Councilmember Gee explained that a playhouse representative might be better suited to serve on the Recreation Board. The Council agreed to discuss this again after further research.

Councilmember Wallace noted a request by the Garden Club to plant more daffodils near the Town Hall. The Council agreed to the request.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Bill Lusk, Mayor

  
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Recorder