

\*\*\*\*\*March 26, 2012\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Monday, March 26, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. Those present were:

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

Others present were: Police Chief Boyd Veal  
Town Recorder Mark Johnson  
Others (as noted)

Chief Veal opened a conversation on 911 mapping, noting that the federal government is converting to a next-generation method of mapping addresses called "point to point", which makes use of GPS coordinates. He said that recently constructed homes make use of this method, but an 18-month process will be required to convert older homes to the system. He explained that Hamilton County 911 Emergency Communications District would pay one-third of the cost, leaving a maximum potential cost to the Town of approximately \$15,000. He said that a letter of intent to participate in the program from the Mayor is needed. After discussing the federal government's mapping capabilities and the current 911 contract, the Council agreed to invite Hamilton County 911 representatives to the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to explain the program.

The Council discussed the MACC sprinkler system project. Chief Veal explained that the engineers need water flow estimates before the system can be appropriately designed, and it was discovered that the MACC would not have sufficient water flow from nearby hydrants to power the system and allow for fire department use of hydrants during a fire. He recommended that a 12" water main be placed across the MACC property, that the hydrant in front of the building be replaced and relocated to a nearby but more appropriate location, and that an additional fire hydrant be added behind the property. He noted that the total cost would be approximately \$20,000, which the water department budget could absorb. He also explained that this would benefit the area surrounding the MACC property. The Council discussed previous water studies of this area, limited use of the surrounding hydrants, and sprinkler system issues relative to the MACC's ceiling structure; i.e., whether to remove the drop-ceiling prior to initial repairs. The Council agreed to have MACC Director Barbara Storm collect as much information as possible on the ceiling issue. Also, Vice Mayor Robertson moved and Mayor Lusk seconded that the water system be modified so that the 12" main be extended across the MACC property and that any adjacent hydrants in need of additional water flow be attached.

The April 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting was discussed as follows:

- A presentation by Tree Board Chairman Noah Long on a recent tree canopy study by the state urban forestry department.

- A resolution for one MACC Board appointment.
- A resolution recognizing Earth Day.
- An update on the fiscal year 2012-2013 budget process.
- A resolution approving a gift of an American Chestnut tree and related contract by the American Chestnut Foundation.

Chief Veal updated the Council on lease negotiations with Signal Mountain Athletic Club. He noted that since the last regular meeting, the Club had changed insurance carriers and it can now carry the appropriate insurance. Therefore, there is no *need* for the Town to enter the lease; however, the lease will still be discussed because it may prove useful to the Town. He said that one concern that arose was the need for additional parking if organized events are to be held on the property. Town staff is getting estimates on the costs of potentially partnering with the Club to build a gravel parking lot.

Councilmember Gee noted that he recently observed several cars parked on property that used to be a playground along Maryland Avenue. He said that there was a gravel path nearby that may have been used to get to that property and he inquired about the safety of having that path open. Chief Veal said that it has been much safer since much of the surrounding brush was cleared.

Councilmember Gee said that he noticed a commercial sign along Timberlinks Drive in what he thought was a residential area. Chief Veal said that that one small area was designated as "commercial" many years ago.

Mayor Lusk opened a discussion of a recent e-mail by Tom Francescon concerning the fire/police Christmas fund. Mr. Francescon oversees the fund every year and posed the question of whether the Council needed any information from him concerning the fund after he read a recent news article concerning memorandums of understanding with other fund raisers for the Town. The Council discussed Town procedures, responsibility and accountability for donations, and whether a formal agreement and/or policy is needed. Chief Veal recommended that a Town policy be developed.

Chief Veal thanked the Council for its donation of an honor tree in memory of his father who recently passed away.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Recorder



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Bill Lusk, Mayor