

*****October 22, 2012*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. 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 Carol White
See attached list for others present

Several new employees were introduced to the Council. They included MACC part-time Assistant Debbie Buck, Firefighter Brandon Powers, and Police Officer Dustin McCall. The Council welcomed the new employees to the Town.

Resolutions

The following resolution was presented:

1. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PURCHASE ONE (1) MSA EVOLUTION 5600 THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA AND KIT, IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 (\$7,850.00) DOLLARS TO BE USED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN."

Town Manager Honna Rogers explained that even though the camera does not appear to exceed the \$10,000.00 limit that requires Council approval, a resolution is necessary because this vendor will be exceeding the \$10,000.00 annual limit.

Chief Vlasis explained that a thermal camera senses body heat, thus allowing firefighters to locate people in danger through smoke, fog or darkness. The camera also has the capability to detect live embers and hot spots behind walls caused by faulty electrical outlets.

Councilmember Wallace motioned to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Allen. All present being in favor, the motion carried.

Michelle Michaud, Pinehurst Lane, spoke to the Council regarding the notice she had received from the Town informing her that she is in violation of the Animal Control Ordinance because of the honey bee hive located in her front yard. Ms. Michaud was given 14 days to move the hive.

Ms. Rogers informed Council that she had received two complaints regarding the location of Ms. Michaud's bee hive. The complaints dealt with the safety of children at a

nearby bus stop, approximately 15-20 feet from the hive, as well as that of pedestrians. While safety concerns may be an issue, the location of the hive violates a Town Ordinance that prohibits housing any type of animal in front yards. Under state law, honey bees are considered animals.

Ms. Michaud informed the Council that bees require morning sun to live and her front yard is the only location on her property that provides the required early morning sun light. She asked the Council to find a solution that would allow her to keep the bee hive in its current location. Colleen Laliberte, a neighbor, also spoke in favor of allowing Ms. Michaud to keep the hive and expressed a desire to find a way to educate residents to the fact that honey bees are not dangerous animals.

Councilmember Annette Allen stated that she had investigated how other communities addressed beekeeping from a public safety perspective. She stated that she had learned that while bees are not aggressive, they will sting when provoked and can prove fatal to those who are allergic to bee stings. Her investigation also revealed that several communities require a hive to be set back 20 feet from any property line or placed up against a 6 foot high solid wall to force the bees to fly up and out of the path of people.

The Council decided there are two main issues to consider regarding beekeeping in the town: safety and aesthetics. Following extensive discussions regarding the habits of honey bees and the mission of urban beekeepers, Councilmember Dick Gee made a motion for the council to learn more about beekeeping and to explore possible options to address beekeeping in the town as well as to consider a change in the current Animal Control Ordinance. Councilmember Allen seconded the motion. Councilmember Bill Wallace abstained from the vote. All other Council members being in favor, the motion carried.

Ms. Rogers was asked to bring information and suggestions to the next Council Agenda Session. In turn, she encouraged the Council to speak with residents on both sides of the issue to gain perspective.

The November 12, 2012 regular meeting agenda was discussed as follows:

- Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor
- Beer Board approval for El Metate
- Swearing in of Carol White
- A Resolution approving the TML Driver Safety Grant
- A Resolution recognizing David Lewis – TN APWA Award
- A Resolution recognizing the Women's Golf Team for the 4th straight State Championship

The swearing in of the Town Council Members elected in the November 6th election will be held on Saturday, November 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Rogers gave the Council an update on the water rate case. She informed the Council that their action to have the Town protest the proposed rates was a large part of the reason that Signal Mountain was exempted from the approved rate increase. She also stated that she had thanked Bobby Morrison with Signal Mountain Golf and Country Club and Robin Baschnagel with Alexian for speaking at the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Robertson made a motion to support the agreement. Councilmember Allen seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion carried.

Ms. Rogers updated the Council regarding an emergency water line inter-connection to WRUD at the corner of Miles and Taft. The Town was granted a temporary easement by the land owner. Some clearing of trees is required to facilitate the boring necessary for the project. She also explained that there will be a bid issued for the boring, and Council will be asked to award the contract at a future meeting.

Vice Mayor Robertson asked about the status of the water line down Signal Point Road to facilitate the Alexian. Ms. Rogers stated that the Alexian is still discussing options and has not yet responded.

Vice Mayor Robertson informed the Council that she had taken two issues to the Planning Commission for review. The first was a proposed amendment to make the height restriction in High Density Residential zoning districts consistent with the other 11 zoning districts in the Town. The second issue was a request that the revised subdivision regulations address subdivision entrance architectural features by requiring them to be designated on the subdivision plat out of Town right-of-ways, sight triangles, and setbacks.

Councilmember Allen stated that the Planning Commission recommended that the Council pass an Ordinance changing the height restriction. Ms. Rogers will prepare an Ordinance for Council approval at the December meeting.

Councilmember Allen informed the Council that in a recent Planning Commission meeting regarding subdivision regulation, they addressed the matter of a yield plan. The planning commission has been looking for a fair and reasonable way to determine how many lots a developer can get per our 1/2 acre zoning in order to translate that into smaller lots with set asides of conservation land. The Commission came up with a formula that all members felt was fair.

Additionally, Councilmember Allen informed the Council that the Planning Commission was close to wrapping up the revision of the subdivision regulations. She stated that the regulations had been reviewed by the Planning Commission, by developers, by the Town Attorney Phil Noblett, by the Regional Planning Agency, and by a conservation land use planner. Once finalized, the next step will be to have a public meeting to explain them to the residents.

Councilmember Allen showed a video of a crosswalk in Collegedale with a motion sensor to activate flashing lights.

Ms. Rogers told the Council that the Public Works Director Loretta Hopper has spoken to TDOT regarding a crosswalk on Taft Highway. TDOT has requested a full engineering study before they will consider this project for TIPS funding.

Vice Mayor Robertson asked if the Town would qualify for streetscape grants to fund street lights and crosswalks. Ms. Rogers replied that there was a new application process to apply for these grants which will now be awarded by region instead of state-wide.

Ms. Rogers reminded the Council that she had sent them an e-mail from Sheriff Hammond regarding purchasing tables at a luncheon. Proceeds of the sale of the tables are to go to a new fund he is establishing called the Sheriff's Foundation Fund. When sufficient reserves have been established, the fund will distribute the funds among police departments in the county through a grants process. Chief Veal explained that there are currently no guidelines on how the funds are to be spent or on the procedures to monitor the funds. Ms. Rogers explained that the Town has been asked to purchase three tables at \$200.00 each. After further discussions, Council elected not to purchase the tables.

Ms. Rogers informed the Council that Fire Chief Vlasis will be retiring effective December 14th. Advertisements for his position will be placed next week; however, she does not believe that a replacement will be hired prior to his departure. Ms. Rogers is working with the MTAS Fire Consultant who is putting together an Assessment Panel. The Council stated that Chief Vlasis has set an excellent standard as Fire Chief.

Ms. Rogers informed the Council that letters would be going out to current board members whose terms are expiring to ask if they would like to continue. The goal is to have any re-appointments and new appointments on the December agenda.

Ms. Rogers stated that the Town's employee Christmas luncheon will be held on December 14th at the MACC.

Councilmember Gee updated the Council regarding the Christmas Train. It is currently being re-constructed, but some of the damage parts will not be repaired in time for the holiday season. The parts of the train that are repaired will be up in November.

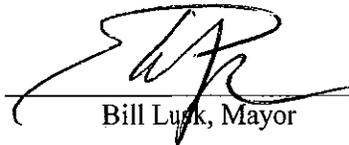
Councilmember Gee requested that a memorandum of agreement be drafted to include the employee Christmas fundraisers and the Fire and Policeman fundraisers and the town before they begin to request donations this year. Ms. Rogers stated that she was working on a draft and would work with the representatives to have one signed.

Councilmember Gee updated the Council on the WWTA's rate increases. He presented a chart (copy attached) that shows the WWTA existing rate is the lowest in the surrounding communities. The current rate results in a negative cash flow for the WWTA. Mr. Gee stated that an outside consultant had performed a study that resulted in two different

scenarios. In the first scenario, a higher rate increase would allow funding of future operating costs and would immediately re-establish a viable cash reserve. The second scenario's proposed lower rate increase will require additional periodic increases. The WWTa chose the second scenario so residents on sewer need to prepare themselves for the current increase as well as future increases.

Councilmember Gee requested that the Council have a discussion in the near future regarding where donations to the MACC should be sent. He suggested that funds earned through future concerts and events such as the Hodgepodge be sent to the Community Foundation fund. Guidelines and procedures need to be established by the Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lusk, Mayor



Recorder

Residential Monthly Bill Comparison – 5,000 gallons

