

*****February 25, 2013*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Monday, February 25, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Those present were:

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

Others present were: Town Manager Honna Rogers
 Town Recorder Carol White

Honna Rogers introduced Todd Phillips, President of Scenic City Football. Mr. Phillips requested that the Council lift the restriction on Scenic City Football League children ages 9 and older from using town practice fields. Last year the Council only approved children ages 8 and under for a one-year trial because of potential practice field conflicts with the Signal Mountain Tackle league.

Mr. Phillips explained that Scenic City Football would like to be available for all age groups this year since last year was successful. He explained that there are several children currently in the Scenic City league that will be advancing into the 9 and older bracket who wish to stay with Scenic City. The Recreation Board denied their request.

Mr. Phillips further explained that the Signal Mountain Tackle League mixes age groups to form enough teams to compete. Additionally, these teams only compete against each other. The Scenic City league competes against teams throughout the entire metro area and does not mix age groups.

Mayor Lusk asked if there was a potential for the Signal Mountain league to lose members. Jarred Thompson, Recreation Director, informed him that it is possible they will.

Mayor Lusk asked if there was any conflict over practice fields this year. Mr. Thompson explained that there is sufficient space available for all the teams to have practice fields.

Vice Mayor Robertson stated that the Council's role is to determine if there are sufficient practice fields. Should there be interest in the community to participate in Scenic City Football then it is up to the community to determine whether it wants to or not. The Council can't favor one league over the other. They need to let the residents choose.

After further discussion, Vice Mayor Robertson motioned to allow field use by the Scenic City Football League up to age 12. Mayor Lusk seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

Ms. Rogers informed Council that baseball practice will be starting soon and some of these practices will be at Norris Field. Mr. Thompson assured the Council that the coaches were all informed about the guidelines for using this field.

The March 11, 2013 regular meeting agenda was discussed as follows:

- Public Hearing – Rezoning Tax Map #089-0600 (proposed Wild Ridge subdivision) from RE to LDR
- Public Hearing – Amending Section 613 of the Zoning Code (Planned Unit Developments)
- Resolution regarding Conservation Easements
- Resolution appointing a CMFO Designee
- Resolution thanking Board Members
- Resolution appointing a DRC Member
- First reading of an Ordinance rezoning tax map #089-060 (proposed Wild Ridge subdivision)
- First reading of an Ordinance to adopt a new PUD
- First reading of an Ordinance to rezone Windtree and Fox Run to LDR

Ms. Rogers introduced changes to the stormwater ordinance based on an MTAS model approved by the state. The changes are necessitated by the fact that the Town has a new stormwater permit containing new rules and regulations.

Councilmember Allen noted that the definitions section also includes requirements. This represents a change in the normal format.

Mayor Lusk requested that all references to “his” be changed to “his/her”.

Ms. Rogers explained that one of the biggest changes is the penalty amount that is allowed. It’s been increased to a maximum of \$5,000.00 per day.

After further review and formatting, the stormwater ordinance will be discussed at the March work session, with the first reading scheduled for the Council’s April meeting.

Ms. Rogers asked Council to consider alternative methods for leaf collection. The current method is expensive, it creates hazardous road conditions, and stormwater issues. Some of the alternative methods discussed included outsourcing and requiring biodegradable bagging.

Mayor Lusk asked Ms. Rogers to get information from Red Bank and Collegedale regarding their leaf pickup programs. Councilmember Allen asked Ms. Rogers to look into the cost of bagging. Ms. Rogers will provide further information to Council at future meetings.

Councilmember Allen asked that back door garbage collection be discussed during the budget process. She also requested a look at treating garbage collection as a separate utility.

Ms. Rogers explained that there were some changes necessary in the TIPS application for the sidewalks in Old Towne. Due to conflicting instructions from TDOT and local authorities, there has been a delay in implementation of the project. Therefore, this project will roll over into the new TIPS cycle.

Ms. Rogers informed Council that engineering has begun on the James Boulevard project. The Taft Highway bike/pedestrian path is over cost and will be re-submitted as part of the new TIPS cycle. There is currently no intention to add additional projects in the next TIPS cycle as the workload associated with these projects is very staff intensive.

Mayor Lusk asked Ms. Rogers to set up a meeting with the five jurisdictions affected by the Highway 127 improvements. Ms. Rogers will schedule a meeting for late March.

Ms. Rogers told the Council that Jim Queen, the new director of CARTA, had contacted her. The Care-A-Van program has been shuttling Signal Mountain residents, but has neglected to bill the Town for the service they have provided since 2009.

Mayor Lusk made a motion to discontinue the CARTA service with a 30-day notice and to provide users of the service with names and options for other modes of transportation available in this area. Vice Mayor Robertson seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion carried.

Ms. Rogers asked Council to consider changing the current water department policy regarding late payments. The current policy allows residents a two-week grace period beyond the due date for water bills or an option to set up a payment plan. However, there is no allowance in the water policy for an extension beyond two weeks. After discussion, Council instructed Ms. Rogers to have staff abide by the policy as written.

Ms. Rogers asked for input from the Council on hiring a collection attorney to collect past-due property taxes. Currently the Town Attorney has been fulfilling this function. However, there is a need to have a separate attorney for this role. Ms. Rogers contacted the Wagner firm, but they don't wish to perform this duty. Council members supplied several names of qualified firms and suggested Ms. Rogers contact them to determine their interest.

Vice Mayor Robertson asked the Council to authorize a \$200.00 donation to the MBA. This donation would help purchase a furniture quality bookcase that would be used as a brochure cabinet in Town Hall. Councilmember Allen made a motion to donate \$200.00 to the MBA for a wooden, furniture quality bookcase. Mayor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rogers introduced MACC Board Chairperson Sandy McCrea and MACC Director Barb Storm. Ms. Rogers explained that when the roof was replaced on the MACC a large amount of slate was recovered with an estimated value of \$2,500. The Council was asked to donate the salvaged slate to the Community Foundation. In turn, the Community Foundation will sell the slate and deposit the net amount of the funds into the MACC's account.

Mayor Lusk motioned to approve the donation of the slate to the Community Foundation. Councilmember Allen seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

Ms. Storm presented a 3-D display of the heating system at the MACC. She explained to the Council that there are currently numerous leaks in the steam heating system and extensive malfunctions in various radiators throughout the facility. Her research has revealed that the Town has spent \$15,000 in repairs in the last three years, with \$50,000 spent since 2009. She has investigated alternative methods of heating the MACC and requested input from the Council as to how she should proceed to solve the heating problems in the building. After some discussion, the Council requested a cost/benefit study of providing a forced air system that would be housed on the roof of the building.

Ms. Rogers asked Council's preference with regard to maintaining the Town's General Sessions Court. Should Council decided to remove the Sessions Court, a change to the Town Charter would be required prior to the next election in 2014. Council authorized Ms. Rogers to investigate the option with the Town's legislative representatives.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Recorder



Bill Lusk, Mayor