

*****July 29, 2013*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held an agenda meeting on Monday, July 29, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Those present were: Mayor Bill Lusk
Vice Mayor Susan Robertson
Councilmember Bill Wallace

Others present were: Town Manager Chris Dorsey
Police Chief Boyd Veal
Sherry Morrison
See attached list for others present

ORDINANCES

1. "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE GENERAL REVENUE THEREOF FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014, HEREINAFTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE GENERAL REVENUE ORDINANCE FOR SAID YEAR."

Town Manager, Chris Dorsey explained to the Council that due to the re-appraisal of property values this year, the tax rate could not be set as part of the regular budget process. Instead, the Town had to wait to get the certified rate from the assessor. This new rate is set so that the Town has a revenue neutral tax assessment. Signal Mountain's property values increased; therefore, the tax rate decreased. This equates to a new tax rate of 1.5684 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation.

Mr. Dorsey explained that Phil Noblett, Town Attorney had changed Section 3, 6th through 8th lines to read: *"upon every \$100.00 in assessed value of such taxable and personal property within the corporate limits of the Town of..."*

Mr. Dorsey further informed the Council that \$0.30 of the tax rate is dedicated to payment of obligations for the Signal Mountain Middle High School bond debt. This rate is the same as was approved in the prior year.

The Mayor read the ordinance caption. Vice Mayor Robertson made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance as amended. Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the first reading of this ordinance was passed.

2. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND CLARIFY LANGUAGE IN THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE, TITLE 14, CHAPTER 5, "SIGN REGULATIONS," RELATING TO "LIGHTED SIGNS"."

Vice Mayor Robertson explained that the definition for "lighted signs" needed to be amended to include all types of lighted signs not just "gaseous neon types". Additional discussion resulted in changing Section 2, Subsection (29) to read: "(29) Lighted window signs except as allowed by Section 14-509(c) (ii), one (1) lighted, but non-moving, blinking or flashing "Open" sign of a type not prohibited by this ordinance that shall not exceed four (4) square feet and shall be counted as a percentage of the interior sign allowance."

Vice Mayor Robertson made a motion to approve the first reading of this ordinance as amended. Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the first reading of this ordinance was passed.

DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Dorsey introduced David Holloway, a tenant of Ron Parimore, who owns property on Palisades Road. Mr. Dorsey reminded the Council that they had requested that Mr. Parimore have the water lines on his property tested for leaks by a licensed plumber. Included in the packet is a note from DJ Roden, L.L.C. who tested the interior water lines and did not find any leaks. The Town's water department has performed frequent checks of the current water meter and it was found to be performing within acceptable parameters, and appears to indicate normal water consumption.

After discussion, Mayor Lusk made a motion to waive penalties and to adjust the billing to reflect the town's water cost of \$222.24 as well as an average of Mr. Holloway's quarterly billing including sewer of \$186.47 plus tax of \$20.56 for a total of \$429.27. Vice Mayor Robertson seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed. Mr. Holloway was informed that Mr. Parimore would need to request an adjustment to the sewer billing from WWTA.

Mayor Lusk informed Council that the proposed contract with Christopher J. Dorsey, Town Manager is consistent with the contract that was signed with the prior Town Manager, Honna Rogers. Mayor Lusk explained that the car allowance of \$450.00 without fuel reimbursement is comparable to that of private companies.

Vice Mayor Robertson requested that Section 16 be revised to indicate that the Council *will* review the performance of the Town Manager instead of *may* review.

After some discussion, the Mayor recommended adding a section titled Residency. Mr. Dorsey stated that this didn't need to be added since the requirement already exists in the Town charter. This section would require the Town Manager to find a residence within the town limits within one year. Mr. Dorsey requested the Council consider a relocation allowance. The Council agreed to delay a decision to approve the contract until all members were present.

Vice Mayor Robertson expressed her desire to the Council to have the grounds of Town Hall kept in a neat and clean manner. Jarred Thompson, Recreation Director, explained

that the Town had recently spent funds to put in grass and some landscaping bushes. Additionally, he explained that he has assigned the maintenance of the landscaping to the permanent parks employees instead of to the young temporary gym attendants. It is his belief that the grounds will now be properly maintained.

In addition, Council asked staff to assure the proper drainage of rain water from around the Town Hall building. Recent rains have shown that the previously installed drainage system for rain run-off was no longer working. Mr. Dorsey said that he will look into resolving this matter.

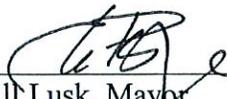
Jarred Thompson told Council that there were only 10 children enrolled in the summer day camp program this year. The previous Town Manager had set a minimum requirement that was needed to assure the camp would pay for itself. This year, the camp program was cancelled due to low enrollment. Vice Mayor Robertson stated that there were now more summer youth activity options available from other entities in the Town such as churches, the MACC, Bachman and others and suggested that the Council might discontinue playground camp entirely. It was decided to leave it the budget for now and review the program during next year's budget discussions.

Councilmember Wallace asked that there be a revision to the traffic flow at the recycling center. He stated that he often sees accidents caused by cars backing into other cars. Mr. Wallace feels that a one way drive-through traffic pattern would be preferable.

Mr. Dorsey informed Council that the job descriptions for the approved Hodgepodge Manager and Volunteer Coordinator positions have been completed. These positions will be posted for one week. Discussions regarding the beer garden proposed for this year's Hodgepodge determined that the Council would need to amend an ordinance to allow alcohol consumption on town property.

Barb Storm will get information from S. Pittsburg where they serve beer during their Cornbread Festival. Mr. Dorsey will have staff check with TML regarding liability coverage for a beer garden and with MTAS and other towns that sponsor similar events.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lusk, Mayor



Recorder