

\*\*\*\*\*November 11, 2013\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 11, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Mayor Bill Lusk  
Vice Mayor Susan Robertson  
Councilmember Annette Allen  
Councilmember Dick Gee

Also present were: Town Manager Chris Dorsey  
Town Attorney Phillip Noblett  
Town Recorder Carol White  
See attached list for others present

Mayor Bill Lusk led the pledge of allegiance. Phillip Noblett, Town Attorney, gave the invocation.

### Minutes

The minutes for the October 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were presented. Vice Mayor Robertson requested two changes to the minutes. The first change is to move the quotes from page two, first paragraph, end of the sentence to the first line on page 2 behind the word disability. The second correction is on page 4, fourth paragraph, third line so that the correction reads "by his unavailability." All present being in favor, the minutes were approved as amended.

The minutes for the October 28<sup>th</sup> special agenda meeting were presented. There was one minor correction due to a typographical error which did not change the substance of the minutes. The minutes were approved with this correction.

Mayor Lusk welcomed County Commissioner Jim Fields to the meeting.

### Citizen Comments

Mayor Lusk invited comments from the audience.

Barbara Womack approached the podium, Mayor Lusk thanked her for all the work she has done for the Town.

Ms. Womack of Wingfield Court informed the Council that the COMMUNITY NEWS reported that the Council was considering merging funding for three projects in order to borrow money. Ms. Womack stated that she objects to linking these projects. In case of a referendum she would like to see each of the projects listed separately.

Ms. Womack stated that the first project, the public works facility, is necessary to preserve services and to provide a safe working environment for Town employees. She added that the second project, resurfacing James Boulevard, is a necessity, but the

replacement of the trolley tracks is not. She stated that the replacing the rails to preserve the historic nature of the Town is an amenity.

Ms. Womack said the third project, MACC renovations, is also an amenity. She questioned the number of people who use the MACC and whether it is self-supporting. She also asked if the improvement costs are going to exceed the value of the building. Additionally, she questioned if the mission of the MACC is too narrow to appeal to a broad range of citizens. She explained that Bachman Community Center only receives \$7,000.00 annually from Walden's Ridge and self-funds a \$100,000.00 annual budget.

Kevin Rogers, Operations Manager for the Tennessee American Water Company, addressed the Council regarding the expired contract between the Town and his company. He stated that TN American has reached out to the Town for renewal of the contract on several occasions, most recently by a letter sent on August 30<sup>th</sup>. He stated that there has not yet been a response from the Town. Mr. Rogers further stated that last fall the state consumer advocate questioned how Tennessee American Water could offer special contract rates, as it has for the Town, without a contract.

Vice Mayor Susan Robertson asked if TN American was seeking a new or renewal contract. Mr. Rogers replied that the contract would be a renewal and would guarantee the Town the rate it is now paying for three years.

Mayor Lusk asked Mr. Rogers if he had a time frame in mind for the completion of the contract. Mr. Rogers replied that they would like to have it completed in the next few weeks. Mayor Lusk replied that it might be possible to get something accomplished early in the next quarter, but did not believe it would be possible in the next few weeks. Mr. Rogers replied that if a contract was not in place soon, Tennessee American would have to charge the Town a wholesale rate instead of the current discounted rate.

There being no further comments, the meeting resumed.

### Resolutions

1. "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO ARE ALSO TOWN EMPLOYEES."

Mayor Lusk read the resolution. Three of the honored employees were present: Jane Phipps, Lewis Thatcher and Jonathan Schoap. Councilmember Gee motioned to approve the resolution. Councilmember Allen seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

2. "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN GREEN GIANTS SWIM TEAM ON ITS CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON."

Mayor Lusk read the resolution. The Green Giants Swim Team presented the Council with their 2013 Chattanooga Area Swim League Championship Trophy, which the Town will display until next summer when it is returned to the City of Chattanooga.

Councilmember Gee made a motion to approve the resolution. Vice Mayor Robertson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALEXANDRA RICKS AS A MEMBER OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN'S MOUNTAIN ARTS COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD."

Councilmember Gee read the resolution. Councilmember Gee made a motion to approve the resolution. Mayor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR PLANNING STAFFING SERVICES IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$12,500.00) PER YEAR."

Mayor Lusk read the resolution. Town Manager Chris Dorsey informed the Council that the Southeast Tennessee Development District will be providing planners to provide staffing assistance in areas such as new developments, planning commission assistance, subdivision regulations, etc. He stated that the \$12,500.00 cost is a very good price and is an approximate savings of one-fourth the cost of hiring a full time planner.

Councilmember Allen made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Gee seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Ordinances**

1. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 5 OF THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE TO ADD A NEW SECTION 5-506, PRORATION OF ANNUAL FEES."

Mayor Lusk read the ordinance. Councilmember Allen made a motion to approve the second reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Gee seconded the motion. The motion to approve the second reading of the ordinance passed unanimously.

### **James Boulevard Resurfacing Alternatives**

Mr. Dorsey gave the Council a spreadsheet reflecting the costs associated with various options for the James Boulevard resurfacing project (copy attached). He further explained that since there has been no engineering work performed at this time, any cost estimates for the total project are preliminary estimates only.

Loretta Hopper, Public Works Director, informed the Council that she had spoken with Maria Hunter, TDOT representative for Local Programs. Ms. Hunter confirmed that there is \$46,000.00 still obligated from the 2011-14 TIP cycle along with approvals for the new 2014-17 TIP cycle. The funds that are allotted by TDOT for this project are:

Previous 2011-14 TIP cycle allotment	\$ 46,000.00
New 2014-17 TIP allotment	<u>\$592,800.00</u>
Total allotment	\$638,800.00
Town's portion of allotment	\$127,760.00

Mr. Dorsey explained that any costs over the \$638,800.00 allotment would be 100% Town funds.

Vice Mayor Robertson reminded the Council that after the completion of two major construction projects, the Alexian Village had indicated that they would contribute to the resurfacing costs of James Boulevard. Mr. Dorsey agreed to schedule a meeting for the mayor and himself with the Alexian Village CEO in the next ten business days.

The Council discussed the fact that they would have to reject the proposal to use river sand and gravel due to the exceedingly high cost of \$228,000.00.

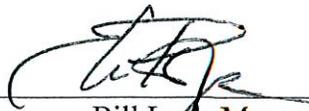
After further discussion of the costs of various alternatives, Councilmember Gee made a motion to approve the first option, which is to use concrete to pave the road to 38 feet and to re-install the rails. Vice Mayor Robertson seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

**Other Business**

Phil Noblett, Town Attorney, informed the Council that the Planning Commission had approved a bond amount for the Wild Ridge subdivision development. Mr. Kruesi has now signed the subdivision development agreement and the Council needs to authorize the Mayor to do the same. Councilmember Allen made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the development agreement between Wild Ridge and the Town of Signal Mountain. Vice Mayor Robertson seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

Mr. Dorsey informed the Council that the item to move forward with renovations to the library basement was not included on the agenda due to the fact that a Memorandum of Agreement with the Library Foundation has not yet been signed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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 Bill Luk, Mayor

  
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 Recorder