

*****June 9, 2014*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 9, 2014, 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
Councilmember Bill Wallace

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

Mayor Bill Lusk led the pledge of allegiance. Stacey Seals, Fire Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Minutes

The minutes for the April 14th regular meeting were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

Citizen Comments

Mayor Lusk invited comments from the audience.

Dun Monroe, Cherokee Lane, suggested that the Council endeavor to have Hamilton County set aside funds from the mixed drink sales tax that is collected within the town. He suggested a small team of citizens could come up with a list of items that the Town would like to see at the local schools. Town Attorney, Phil Noblett gave a brief history of the tax and explained that the funds were disbursed by the State to the Town. The Town then forwards one half of the tax collection to Hamilton County. The Council agreed that there is little likelihood that Hamilton County would entertain any requests to reserve these revenues for the specific desires of Town residents.

There being no further comments, the meeting resumed.

Resolutions

1. "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING EDWINA GOWER AS A MEMBER OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN'S PERSONNEL COMMITTEE."

Vice Mayor Robertson made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Allen seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

2. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PURCHASE ONE (1) 2015 FORD F-250 XL TRUCK, TENNESSEE STATE BID NUMBER 40034 FROM GOLDEN CIRCLE AUTO GROUP, IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY SIX AND 62/100 (\$26,656.62) DOLLARS TO BE USED BY THE STORM WATER DEPARTMENT FOR THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN.

Town Manager, Boyd Veal, explained that this item is budgeted in FY 2014-15; however, passing the resolution now will allow a month's lead time in obtaining the vehicle.

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve the resolution. Councilmember Gee seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

Public Hearing

The regular meeting was temporarily suspended for the Council to convene a Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget.

Mayor Lusk stated that the FY 2014-2015 budget is balanced and does not require a tax increase.

Mr. Veal stated that the Town's current operating budgets are stable. He explained this budget does include a new department, Facilities Maintenance, which he created in response to the Council's concerns regarding the on-going maintenance and improvement needs of Town facilities. He explained that the new department's operating costs were achieved by re-allocating building repair and maintenance budgets from other departments. The rest of this department's budget is based on actual project costs.

Mr. Veal stated further that a re-evaluation of the Town's debt service requirements showed payments leveling off for the next 3 to 4 years. The Town can maintain its current tax rate even with a loan pending for two large projects by reducing the allotment for the school loan by \$0.15 and re-allocating it to the debt service obligation of the new loan.

There being no public comment, the meeting was resumed.

Ordinances

1. "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015 HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS THE "FY 2014-2015 BUDGET ORDINANCE"."

Councilmember Gee made a motion to approve the second reading of the Ordinance. Vice Mayor Robertson seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

2. "AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AN UNOPENED AND UNUSED TEMPORARY CUL-DE-SAC AT OR NEAR 10 ST. NICHOLAS WAY IN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE."

Councilmember Allen explained that the developer had set aside a right-of-way to build a cul-de-sac, but he never built it. The property now abuts a private driveway. The owner of the driveway petitioned the Planning Commission to abandon the ROW. Councilmember Allen stated that the Planning Commission has reviewed this request and recommends this action. Councilmember Allen said that the Police and the Public Works departments also agree with the change.

Councilmember Allen made a motion to approve the second reading of the Ordinance. Mayor Lusk seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

3. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2013-10, ENTITLED THE "FY 2013-2014 BUDGET ORDINANCE," SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES IN THIS BUDGET YEAR."

Mayor Lusk made a motion to approve the second reading of the Ordinance. Councilmember Gee seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

4. "AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN SOUTH STREET AND FAIRVIEW STREET IN SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE."

Mr. Veal explained that sections of this right-of-way have already been abandoned. But before the remainder can be abandoned a utility easement must be secured in order to maintain the water lines that exist along the ROW. He said that the Planning Commission has reviewed and recommended the abandonment subject to a utility easement being established. Once the easement is finalized, the Council may proceed with the second reading.

Councilmember Allen made a motion to approve the first reading of the Ordinance. Vice Mayor Robertson seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

Mayor Lusk welcomed Patsy Hazelwood, a Signal Mountain resident running for election to represent TN House District 27. Incumbent Richard Floyd is not running for re-election. Ms. Hazelwood thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting and for not raising her taxes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Bill Lusk



Recorder