

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Friday, June 27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Those present were: Mayor Bill Lusk
Vice Mayor Susan Robertson
Councilmember Annette Allen
Councilmember Dick Gee
Councilmember Bill Wallace

Others present were: Town Manager Boyd Veal
Finance Director/Recorder Carol White
See attached list for others present

Council discussed a tentative agenda for the July 14, 2014 regular meeting.

Councilmember Gee recommended recognition of a Town staff member. The Council discussed the method of this recognition.

Town Manager, Boyd Veal informed the Council that the Fire Department has completed its departmental strategic plan. The Council will receive a copy of that plan and will discuss it at a future meeting. Councilmember Gee requested that the discussion include plans for the construction of the Shackelford Ridge Fire Station.

Mayor Lusk requested that the Town investigate the Take Me Home Program. He informed the Council that the program creates a data base of persons with disabilities. That data base is useful to police departments in identifying and returning missing individuals.

Resolutions

1. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF TENNESSEE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR ALL TOWN EMPLOYEES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014 BASED UPON PREMIUMS NOT TO EXCEED \$288.71 PER MONTH FOR SINGLE COVERAGE AND \$747.27 PERMONTH FOR FAMILY COVERAGE."

Mr. Veal informed the Council that the initial information received from Blue Cross was that there would be a 27% increase in premiums. Mr. Veal negotiated a hybrid plan that utilizes features from the three plans currently offered by the Town. The new plan consists of deductible and outof-pocket maximums without a co-pay feature. For example, when an employee goes to the doctor, the HRA will pay 80% and the employee 20% of the BCBS discounted cost, resulting in a \$20-\$30 expense to the employee for the office visit. Mr. Veal explained most employees will pay approximately \$83.00 per pay period, which is a slight increase from the current cost of \$79.88 per pay period.

Ultimately, this approach will result in a reduction in initial premiums, but will not increase the Town's exposure for self-insured (HRA) costs. The HRA is currently budgeted at \$70,000. The town's broker has recommended a budget of \$122,500 for the new plan. Mr. Veal explained that with employee premium

plus 10% contributions to the HRA, the employees will see a 4 to 5% increase and the Town (if all the HRA is spent) will see an 8% increase. The original combined HRA and insurance premium budget will cover the overall cost of this program.

In addition, the Town will be enrolled in the Teledoc program at a cost of \$2.50 per employee. This program will give employees 24/7 access to medical advice and assistance for routine medical issues from Tennessee licensed medical personnel.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that the Personnel Committee has reviewed this proposal and has unanimously recommended that the Council accept the plan.

Vice Mayor Robertson motioned to approve the resolution. Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

2. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A RENEWAL CONTRACT WITH SUN LIFE FINANCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY FOR DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN EMPLOYEES AT THE RATE OF \$25.98 PER MONTH FOR INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES AND \$80.81 PER MONTH FOR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015."

Mr. Veal explained that this is the same dental coverage the Town currently has with a 5% increase in the amount of the premium, which is still less than the budgeted amount.

Vice Mayor Robertson motioned to approve the resolution. Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

3. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CTI ENGINEERS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND 00/100 (\$9,100.00) DOLLARS FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN THE WATER SYSTEMS OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN AND WALDEN'S RIDGE UTILITY DISTRICT WATER SYSTEMS PROJECT."

Mr. Veal explained that he discovered recently that the interconnection between WRUD and the town has never been engineered. CTI is currently re-evaluating an earlier study performed by Arcadis and has agreed that its services will include engineering through the construction phase.

Councilmember Wallace motioned to approve the resolution. Mayor Lusk seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

4. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CTI ENGINEERS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 (\$53,500.00) DOLLARS FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR WATER SYSTEM MODIFICATION

FOR INCREASED FIRE FLOW IN FOUR DESIGNATED AREAS OF THE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITHIN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN.

Mr. Veal reminded the Council that extensive engineering has been done on the whole water system and a hydraulic model had been created. CTI has obtained the hydraulic data and put extensive research into validating it in the field relative to four improvement projects: (1) Laurel around Signal Road and the Highway; (2) South Palisades near Wilder; (3) the Brady Point area; and (4) the James Boulevard renovation area. Primary focus on three of those areas is improved fire flow. CTI will identify recommendations and engineer a solution. This contract also includes CTI's services through completion of the projects. Mr. Veal informed the Council that these projects are included in the current 2014-15 budget.

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

Councilmember Allen joined the meeting at this time.

5. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CHANGE ORDER WITH WRIGHT BROTHERS FOR THE PAVING COSTS OF VARIOUS STREETS WITHIN THE TOWN FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$5,810.26 RESULTING IN A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$255,810.26."

Mr. Veal explained that paving costs were over budget by \$5,810.26, but that there were sufficient funds available to cover the overage.

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

6. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ORANGE GROVE CENTER FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 01, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017 TO PROVIDE CONTRACT WORKERS TO OPERATE THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN RECYCLE DROP-OFF CENTER FOR TOTAL MONTHLY COSTS OF \$3,676.00 WHICH SHALL NOT EXCEED \$44,112.00 ANNUALLY."

Mr. Veal informed the Council that this agreement covers the next three years at the current cost. Mayor Lusk noted that the annual cost in the caption of the Ordinance was incorrect. He requested that "\$11,028.00" be corrected to read "\$44,112.00."

Mayor Lusk motioned to approve the resolution as corrected. Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

Discussions

Councilmember Gee stated that he had worked with Daniel Givens on the Town's amphitheater and that Mr. Givens had done a spectacular job. The grounds look very nice.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that he was currently reviewing the concept of “community organizations” and the rental of MACC facilities through the payment of “in-kind” contributions. He explained that there needs to be a balance between generating revenue and the utilization of the building. The current fee schedule does not allow for non-paying uses. During general discussion, there was consensus that there are three categories of organizations: (1) for profit organizations; (2) non-profit civic organizations (Lions Club, Boys Scouts, Garden Club, etc.); and (3) “club” (chess clubs, MBA, etc.).

Mr. Veal suggested that there needs to be written agreements with groups who qualify for in-kind donations in lieu of rent payments. This would take the form of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town Manager to determine what type of in-kind contribution for what period of time would be required. Mr. Veal agreed to develop an inclusive policy to present to the Council at a future meeting.

Councilmember Allen informed the Council that the property located next to the Town’s library is for sale. She expressed her belief that the Town should purchase it. She explained that the property is located at 1116 James Boulevard and is bordered on three sides by property already owned by the Town. After some discussion as to the potential use of the property, Councilmember Gee stated that there should be a stated need and benefit for obtaining the property.

Ms. Allen stated that she believed the needed expansion of the library next door and its parking facilities would be an excellent use of the property.

Following discussions, Mayor Lusk motioned to authorize the Town Manager to pursue the purchase of the property located at 1116 James Boulevard for a purchase price not to exceed \$117,000.00. Councilmember Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed with four members voting in favor with Councilmember Gee against.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that the installation of playground equipment at Town Hall has begun and should be completed by Sunday afternoon. He said that he had contacted Mr. Bob Barron, Sr. V.P. of Sales for Game Time. Mr. Veal had requested pricing and availability of a swing seat that would allow handicapped children the opportunity to use the equipment. Mr. Veal was pleased and surprised when Mr. Barron obtained and provided the \$2,000.00 specialty swing seat at no additional cost. The Council requested a resolution be presented at the next meeting honoring Mr. Barron.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that he and Fire Chief Eric Mitchell had met with Game Time to explore the possibility of incorporating an outdoor exercise area into the new fire station design.

Councilmember Gee asked if there had been any further complaints regarding the use of Norris Field. No one was aware of any new objections. However, Mr. Veal informed the Council that he had spoken with a resident who witnessed the event mentioned by complainants at a previous meeting. The resident stated that, yes, there had been some congestion and confusion for a few minutes, but that it was soon rectified and that he supports the current use of the field.

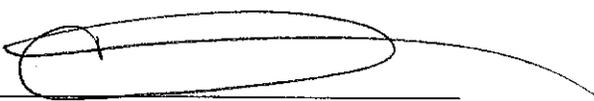
Councilmember Gee asked Mr. Veal to consider removing a tree on Ohio that was previously reported as dead. However, upon investigation it was found to be alive. Councilmember Gee stated that he has been asked by other residents to have the tree removed due to the fact that it leans into the roadway. Mr. Veal will check with Ms. Hopper about including it for cutting on the next tree bid. Councilmembers mentioned a few other trees that might also qualify for inclusion in the next tree bid.

Councilmember Wallace stated that TDOT has not mowed the right-of-way through the Town in quite a while and asked that they be contacted to remedy that situation. Mayor Lusk mentioned that there were other TDOT areas in a similar condition.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Susan Robertson, Vice Mayor



Recorder