

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Friday, August 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Those present were: Mayor Bill Lusk
Vice Mayor Susan Robertson
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 August 11, 2014 regular meeting.

Resolutions

1. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CHANGE ORDER WITH WRIGHT BROTHERS FOR THE PAVING COSTS OF PARKING LOT PAVING AT THE MOUNTAIN ARTS COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$12,882.44 RESULTING IN A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$268,692.70."

Mr. Veal reminded the Council that there were previous addendums to this contract. He explained that this change order is for the additional costs associated with the MACC parking lot. He stated that by bundling the projects together the town achieved a savings in mobilization costs. Mr. Veal stated that the total project costs are still under budget and that the charges are all material related.

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

2. "A RESOLUTION BY THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL ADOPTING BANK FORM RESOLUTIONS FOR SIGNATURES ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN."

Mr. Veal stated that a resolution is necessary to add Eric Mitchell's signature. Mr. Mitchell has been appointed to perform the duties of Acting Town Manager during any absences by Mr. Veal. Vice Mayor Susan Robertson asked that the caption of the resolution be changed so that the third word "of" is replaced with the word "by".

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

3. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PURCHASE 250 MODEL 79296 TOWER 96 GALLON TRASH CARTS FOR THE SANITATION DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN THROUGH A MASTER INTERGOVERNMENTAL

COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT \$120576-01, AS AMENDED, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY NATIONAL IPA GOVERNMENT PURCHASING ALLIANCE WITH THE CITY OF TUCSON, ARIZONA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY TWO (\$15,792.00) DOLLARS.”

Mr. Veal explained that Public Works Director Loretta Hopper had recommended buying the carts as an inter-government cooperative purchase. This vendor is one that the Town has purchased trash carts from in the past. These carts come fully assembled and are nestable, which results in time and storage space savings. Mr. Veal stated that Red Bank and East Ridge are also using this inter-government agreement.

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

Presentations

Fire Chief Eric Mitchell presented the Fire Department's 5-Year Strategic Plan (copy attached) to the Council and members of the audience. The Council requested that Chief Mitchell also present an overview of the plan to the public at the next regular meeting.

Discussions

Mr. Veal presented an update on his review of the traffic issues in Hidden Brook. He stated that a review showed that there are too few speed limit signs. Additional signs have been ordered and received and will be placed in the area shortly.

Mr. Veal presented the Council with a 2010 memo from Ms. Hopper regarding speed bumps. Included in the memo is a summary of a program in the city of Chattanooga. Mr. Veal stated that he likes the procedures outline that includes a requirement that a majority of the householders within an area sign a petition in favor of adding bumps to control speeding.

Mr. Veal presented several memos from MTAS to the Council detailing a legal perspective on issues involved with speed bumps and their placement. The MTAS memos express concerns that a municipality could assume significant exposure by placing speed bumps because such action could be considered as knowledge of the existence of an unsafe condition.

During general discussion, other options to control speeding were mentioned and considered. These options include speed cameras, rumble strips, placement of permanent speed dolly type signage, increased police presence, round-a-bouts, and signage designating the streets for local traffic only.

John Lawrence, Arden Way, spoke to the Council in opposition to speed bumps being placed on Arden Way. He asked the Council to determine if a serious problem really exists prior to putting in speed bumps. Mr. Lawrence asked if there had been any accidents or speeding tickets issued on Arden Way. He stated that the fundamental concern is the safety of the children, so he asked if any children had been hurt in the street on Arden Way. He further stated that speed bumps are dangerous and could cause a driver to lose control of his or her vehicle. Mr. Lawrence stated that no new law or speed bumps will ever replace the importance of good parenting. And good parenting includes supervising children playing in the street.

Mayor Lusk asked Mr. Lawrence what he thought about rumble strips. Mr. Lawrence said that rumble strips can throw a bicyclist off balance. However, he stated that rumble strips could be a positive method of corrective action in that it reminds people how fast they are going.

Sheila Defilippis, Hidden Brook Lane, informed the Council that the worst time for speeders are school times, from 7 to 7:20 am and again at 8:25 am. She expressed her belief that it is not safe to walk to and from the bus stops. Ms. Defilippis stated her support for more speed limit signs, stop signs and tickets for speeding. She further stated that she does not like rumble strips or speed bumps. However, she said that her previous neighborhood had speed bumps, which had a huge impact on slowing down speeders.

Vice Mayor Susan Robertson explained that the Design Review Commission has recommended an amendment to the Sign Regulations relating to features and signage that mark the entrances in new subdivisions and residential developments. She explained that 90% of entrance features that now exist are in the Town's rights-of-way. The ordinance defines subdivision and residential development entrance features and signage and requires that space parameters be established and platted by developers.

During a discussion of the proposed ordinance, there were several questions regarding an attached diagram. Mr. Veal will add an explanation regarding the intent of the diagram prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Veal explained that in a previous Council meeting, staff was tasked with reviewing the level of insurance coverage for the MACC. After some discussion, it was decided to increase the stated value to \$2.5 million which will increase the premium to \$3,802.73. The Council requested additional information regarding premium costs for full replacement value; premium costs for replacement of historic materials; whether assessed values include the land; and whether debris removal is a covered item. MACC Director Barb Storm will get information on the cost to build a replacement facility to include a theatre, classrooms and a cafeteria facility.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that the Town's current capital asset threshold is \$500.00. He stated that the Government Finance Officers Association (the national organization that recommends the standards for government) recommends that the threshold should be \$5,000.00. Mr. Veal reviewed thresholds for other municipalities and found that many of the communities in our immediate area have a \$500.00 threshold. However, most other municipalities have a \$5,000.00 limit. After discussions, the Council elected to set a threshold of \$5,000.00.

Mr. Veal presented a draft ordinance for Council consideration regarding court fees. Finance Director Carol White has worked with the Police Management Consultant, Municipal Court Specialist and Legal Consultant from MTAS, in addition to the court software specialist at Local Government. In addition, Town Attorney Phil Noblett has reviewed and approved the proposed ordinance. As written, Mr. Veal stated that ordinance is a comprehensive, simplified and straightforward approach to the court cost system. The Council was presented information regarding past expenditures and revenues from the Signal Mountain court along with comparisons to other local courts. Following discussion, the Council determined that a base municipal court cost of \$73.25 and a sessions court cost of \$83.50 should be imposed. The ordinance will be presented to Council at the next regular meeting for first reading.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that there are three options presented in the historic report on the James Boulevard project that was presented to Council. The preferred option recommends textured and colored concrete between the rails only. This option offers a substantial savings over textured and colored concrete over the entire project. Mr. Veal explained that an additional option would be to remove the

tracks in the intersections of River Point and Signal Point. This would allow the tracks to be the center lane divider for the straighter portion of the road.

Mr. Veal suggested the Council approve colored and textured concrete between rails and to shorten the rails at the intersections to allow the project to move into the design phase once TDOT approval is received. In addition, he stated that the Town will retain the removed rails and seek historic uses for them such as selling small pieces for paperweights or donating them to other historic projects, etc. The Council agreed that staff should proceed with these options.

Mr. Veal presented a letter of complaint regarding a property on Signal Mountain Boulevard. Staff has evaluated this property in the past; however, the clutter had not risen to the level of violation. However, recently, the Building & Codes Inspector spoke with the resident due to increased litter around the residence and the addition of a big white truck that may be a commercial vehicle. The Inspector will meet with the resident again to resolve any violations.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that Street & Sanitation Supervisor David Lewis has notified Ms. Hopper that he will retire in January 2015. In addition, Acting Police Chief Scott Ogrodonczyk has decided that he does not wish to pursue the position of Police Chief at this time. Therefore, the process will begin to recruit replacements for both of these positions.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that he has heard from Lavine Guthrie regarding the use of the name "Hodgepodge". She stated that there was no formal registration of the name. Therefore, the Town has no legal obligation or enforcement if another entities or individual uses the name.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lusk, Mayor



Recorder