

\*\*\*\*\*November 17, 2014\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Those present were: Councilmember Dick Gee  
Councilmember Chris Howley  
Councilmember Bill Lusk  
Councilmember Robert Spalding  
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 Lusk led the pledge of allegiance. Stacey Seals, Fire Chaplain, gave the invocation.

#### **Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor**

Mayor Lusk made a motion to elect Dick Gee Mayor by acclamation. Councilmember Spalding seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

Mayor Gee stated that he is honored and humbled to be the Mayor for the Town of Signal Mountain. He said the Town is a wonderful community as evidenced by the fact that so many residents are present. He said that politics is a funny thing, with winners and losers, which is the way life is. He said he represents the entire community and that he takes that extremely seriously. Mayor Gee said he will continue to do what he can to make the Town a better community. He said that Bill Lusk has been doing the job of Mayor for 6 years and has been elected Mayor 3 times. He said that this accomplishment deserves recognition for its own sake. However, he stated that 6 years ago the Town was different than it is today, a little sleepier, maybe a little slower, not as progressive as today, not as professional in the operation of the Town as today, and the Town owes that to two people Bill Lusk and Honna Rogers. He said that Bill and Honna came to Town administration at about the same time. Mayor Gee said that what they did was to make Signal Mountain a cutting edge community in terms of Town administration, accomplishments, and image. He said that the Town can look back at those 6 years and say "mission accomplished". He said that the quality of leadership and commitment that Bill Lusk has made over the last 6 years needs to be commended and applauded. He then asked the audience to join him in a round of rousing applause for Bill Lusk. Mayor Gee said when he was first elected as a Councilmember, Bill Lusk called and welcomed him and that there has always been a cordial, friendly atmosphere, which he greatly respects.

Councilmember Howley made a motion to elect Bill Wallace Vice Mayor by acclamation. Councilmember Lusk seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

### Minutes

The minutes for the September 26<sup>th</sup> special agenda meeting were presented. Councilmember Wallace was added to the list of those present. There were two minor corrections due to typographical errors that did not change the substance of the minutes.

Councilmember Howley motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Councilmember Spalding seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the minutes were approved as corrected.

### Citizen Comments

Mayor Gee invited comments from the audience.

Noah Long, Woodcliff Circle, informed the Council that in the recent election the voter participation on Signal Mountain was 59% which was double the state and Hamilton County turnouts. He also presented a breakdown of the votes for national, state, and local elections. He called the Council's attention to the fact that a majority of Signal Mountain residents are conservative republicans and requested that the Council keep that in mind.

Ross Clingan, Arden Way, requested an update on efforts to reduce the speeding on Hidden Brook. Boyd Veal, Town Manager said that the Town has initiated a "test case" by placing speed bumps in the area. He stated that the Town has been evaluating and listening to the feedback and concerns of residents both for and against the speed bumps. He said that he has also requested assistance from a MTAS consultant who is a specialist in traffic engineering to establish how to determine the feasibility for applications of different calming devices. Mr. Veal said that the Town continues to work on the project but at this time the installation of the speed bumps has been slowed down until there has been time to consider the feedback from the consultant and to get more information.

Jeff Stumb, Arden Way, said he lives at the epicenter of the Indianapolis and Daytona 500. He said that he watches cars speeding from 50 to 60 mph. He stated that it is just a matter of time until someone is killed. He said the worst violators do not live in the neighborhood and are just cutting through. Mr. Stumb gave some examples of speeders in the area. He stated that he does not understand why anyone would be against speed bumps to slow traffic on Arden Way. He said that a ballot was passed out by a neighbor. He stated that it was a very biased ballot and therefore he and several of his neighbors did not send in a ballot. Mr. Stumb asked the Council to not consider the ballot.

Mr. Noblett briefly reviewed with the Council various legal issues (such as location, signage and fore-knowledge) that should be addressed as regards to installation of speed bumps.

Councilmember Spalding asked what other concerns there might be. He said that he thinks the speed humps are a reasonable solution and said this should go forward quickly at least as a test case.

Mayor Gee said that some of the comments he has heard include noise, lowered home value because of the implication that there is a speeding problem, potential accidents due to hitting the speed bump too hard, and damage to cars especially sports cars.

Councilmember Spalding asked when the Town Manager anticipates getting the needed information from MTAS. Mr. Veal replied that he estimates that he should have the information in the next three weeks.

Glenn Showalter, Georgia Avenue, said the Santa Clause Train has given Signal Mountain good publicity for the past 12 years. He said that the train had fallen into disrepair a few years ago and the Lion's Club had resurrected it and continues to maintain it. He said that storage is a problem. Mr. Showalter asked the Council to consider a partnership with the Crew family to make sure the Santa Clause Train tradition continues. He also asked the Police Department to place the sawhorses further out from the train to move the traffic from Mississippi further away from the display.

Mary and Dean Hutson, James Boulevard, said they were concerned about the number of burglaries. Ms. Hutson said she is concerned about the way information is communicated. She said that she is on the Town's e-mail list but is concerned about others that are not on the list. She said that she has also heard of burglaries that were not reported through the e-mail communications. She asked if the Town could find a better way to communicate with residents. Ms. Hutson asked for a progress report on the investigation.

Mr. Hutson said he had met with Mr. Veal about setting up a neighborhood watch program. He said Mr. Veal had sent him a manual from Watch on America on how to establish and structure a neighborhood watch program and offered to forward it to anyone who was interested.

Mr. Veal said he could not address specific cases or reports, but said that the Police Department is actively investigating and Patrol Officers are dedicating time and effort in establishing a presence in the neighborhoods. He said they are diligently pursuing the cases. Mr. Veal said that property crimes are extremely difficult to solve and encouraged people to call anytime they think anything is suspicious.

Councilmember Spalding stated that the Town should look for ways to communicate other than e-mail. Councilmember Spalding made a motion to place timely information regarding the burglaries on the Town's website. There was no second, therefore the motion failed.

Mr. Noblett reminded the Council that the Police Department must be able to keep some information confidential about on-going investigations.

Councilmember Howley said that he had heard from individuals that the e-mail blast were very helpful. He stated that the Town needs to promote the program and encourage people to sign up for them.

Nicki Meyer, North Palisades Drive, said that her house was one of the first that was robbed. She asked the Council to consider putting in cameras, similar to Lookout Mountain, to get license numbers of vehicles.

Jack Kruesi, Wilson Avenue, said he is the developer of Wildridge on Shackelford Ridge Road. He informed the Council that he will be filing the as-built plans with the Planning Commission on Thursday. He stated that the Council has an incredible group of people to work with. He said he has worked with the Town Manager, and every step of the way has been exactly the same as the permitting process. He said the personnel have been professional, kept him informed, and been a joy to work with and said the Council should be very proud of the people that work for them.

Renee Shoop, Anderson Pike, told the Council that her children go to Nolan Elementary. She said that she is very concerned about the traffic issues there. She asked if there are any plans to widen Sam Powell Trail. Mayor Gee informed her that that would be outside of the Town's jurisdiction. Ms. Shoop said that she spoke with a School Board member who told her the county can't widen the road because the State owns the property, and the State says they can't do anything about it because it is the county's schools. She said she was hoping the Council would have a recommendation on what to do. Councilmember Howley said that he has made some calls on this issue. He said that he will be pursuing this matter and will bring it back to Council at a later time.

Joe Dumas, James Boulevard, said that there are speeders on James Boulevard at the steepest part of the hill. He asked if the Town could beef up patrols in areas where there are speeding and burglary issues. He asked if the prior Mayor was still legally able to sign documents after the election and prior to the Council vote for a new Mayor. Mr. Noblett explained that the Mayor was still the official Mayor until the election of officers at the first meeting following the election, or until a new member is elected to that office.

Clint Blumer, Alexian Village, suggested that increased street lighting might help curtail the burglary activities, especially on Signal Mountain Road. Mr. Veal explained that most of the break-ins have occurred during the day and that Signal Mountain Road is a state highway.

Bill Gallagher, North Palisades Drive, said that when a violent crime was committed in Red Bank a few years ago, they used a traffic camera to get a license number.

There being no further comments, the meeting resumed.

### **Resolutions**

1. "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL LADIES GOLF TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2014 F.S.S.A.A. CLASS A-AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP."

Councilmember Wallace motioned to approve the resolution. Mayor Gee 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."

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

### Discussions

Chip Baker, Dunsinane Road, said that he spoke and e-mailed Jonathan Welch, Commissioner Fields, and Mayor Lusk about getting a SRO at the school. He stated that he had spoken with Robin Cobb who told him that there was a shot fired around the school and that it was a 20 minute response time for police to contact her. He said that based on conversation with Sheriff Jim Hammond, the county would not be able to get a SRO into the school prior to the end of the school year. Mr. Baker asked if the Town could provide an interim solution by placing Officer Gunther in the school as the SRO until the end of the current school year.

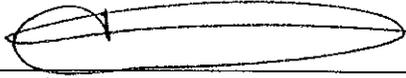
Mr. Veal informed the Council that Sheriff Hammond acknowledges that the County providing the SRO is the best scenario. He said that there is no agreement, but Sheriff Hammond indicated that the County's intent is to assign the next available SRO to the Signal Mountain schools.

Following discussion, Councilmember Howley made a motion to direct the Town Manager to fill the SRO position, funded by the Town, with the understanding that the County would eventually take over that role, but to fill the position as soon as possible. Councilmember Spalding seconded the motion.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Howley revised his motion to authorize funding for an SRO to the end of the school year. Councilmember Spalding seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Dick Gee, Mayor

  
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Recorder