

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Friday, November 21, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

Those present were: Mayor Dick Gee
Vice Mayor Bill Wallace
Councilmember Chris Howley
Councilmember Bill Lusk (12:15 to 1:40)
Councilmember Robert Spalding

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

Phil Noblett, Town Attorney gave a New Council Orientation on Sunshine laws, ethics, and Roberts Rules of Order. See attached presentation.

Boyd Veal, Town Manager told the Council that, as much as possible, he needs direction from the Council as a body, not as individuals. He said this will allow staff to be effective and efficient. Mr. Veal explained that if staff is asked to work on an individual member's idea and then the Council as a whole ultimately does not wish to pursue the idea, then staff has spent a lot of unproductive time. He said that one of the things staff really works hard on is efficiency.

Councilmember Spalding asked if the Council should be engaging and getting information from key employees or did that need to be filtered through the Town Manager. Mayor Gee urged Councilmember Spalding to, at first, direct his questions to the Town Manager. He said that Councilmember Spalding can talk to staff but before he asks them to do anything he needs to talk to the Town Manager. He said that as he becomes familiar with the proper protocol, with staff and them with him, he can then branch out.

Council discussed a tentative agenda for the December 8, 2014 regular meeting.

Ordinances

1. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE BY DELETING AND REPLACING TITLE 18, CHAPTER 7, ENTITLED STORMWATER RUNOFF REGULATION AND CONTROL." (Caption as developed and formalized for second reading.)

Mr. Veal explained that this ordinance is an MTAS model and passage is required by the end of December.

Loretta Hopper, Public Works Director said that under the Tennessee Water Quality Act of 1997 the Town is required by the State to comply with the permitting program of the National Pollution

Discharge Elimination System. She stated that the Town is obliged to update the ordinance to comply with new requirements.

Councilmember Howley motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Lusk seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

Councilmember Lusk left the meeting.

2. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2014-05, ENTITLED THE "FY 2014-2015 BUDGET ORDINANCE," SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES IN THIS BUDGET YEAR."

Mr. Veal gave a brief explanation of the changes requested through this ordinance. He requested a revision to Section I, the 4th item to add the words "and personnel costs". Carol White, Finance Director/Recorder requested that Section I, 11th item, first word be changed from "in" to "an".

Councilmember Howley motioned to approve the first reading of the ordinance as amended. Councilmember Spalding seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

Discussions

Council discussed the Council liaisons and members for Town Boards. After extensive discussion, the Council agreed to the following:

Liaisons/Members

Mayor Gee	MACC and Municipal Planning Commission
Councilmember Howley	Parks and Recreation Boards
Councilmember Lusk	TDOT, Historical Committee and Library Board
Councilmember Spalding	DRC, Condemnation and Tree Boards, and the Board of Construction Appeals
Councilmember Wallace	BZA, Personnel Committee, and Municipal Planning Commission

Council also discussed appointments of applicants to open position on Town Boards and Committees as listed below:

Board and Committee Appointments

BZA	Re-appoint current members
Condemnation Board	Re-appoint current members
Construction Board	Seek additional volunteers
DRC	Decline re-appointment of Claire Griesinger, re-appoint Larry McClure, appoint Raymond Boaz, Mike Richards, and Jeff Wishmyer

Hemlock Conservation Task Force	Appoint Robert Richie Jr. and Yukie Kajita
Historic Committee	No current vacancies
Library Board	Re-appoint current members
MACC	No applicants
Municipal Planning Commission	Appoint Laura Duncan
Parks Board	No applicants
Personnel Committee	No current vacancies
Recreation Board	Re-appoint Tom Turner, appoint Robert Barron, and appoint Tony Boals to complete Chris Howley's term
Stormwater Appeals Board	Re-appoint current members
Tree Board	No applicants

In addition, the Council agreed to accept Eddie Smith as liaison from the Signal Mountain Golf Club.

Council decided to hold agenda sessions on the 4th Friday of each month at 2:00 p.m. unless it falls on a holiday. If it is a holiday, the agenda session will be held on the 3rd Friday of the month. Mr. Veal asked that the December agenda session be re-scheduled to December 19th. Council agreed to the change.

Council decided to have the Personnel Committee establish guidelines and propose a policy to recognize retiring employees.

The Council had extensive discussion regarding methods of communicating with Town residents. Discussions included video streaming, Council Notes, use of the Town website, YouTube, etc. Mr. Veal will investigate costs and methods and report back to council at the next agenda session.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that Ms. Hopper is in touch with an MTAS traffic advisor about the Town's desire to calm traffic in the Hidden Brook area. He said that MTAS has offered to look at the situation in Hidden Brook and to provide education on the normal approach to these type of issues. He explained that this would involve information on how other municipalities handle these issues, what are the protocols for decisions, and requirements for consideration of a particular device in a particular area.

Mayor Gee said that there is a sense of urgency about this issue. He said this is a matter of public safety, particularly the safety of children in an area known to be dangerous. He said that he knows there are people who object to speed bumps, but feels that the Town should be more proactive at the same time as doing studies. He said that we should, in essence, perform our own study by putting in speed bumps on the hill in Hidden Brook. Mayor Gee said the Town should proceed with putting in the speed bumps and then assess the results. He said he would rather make an error of commission than of omission.

Interim Police Chief, Scott Ogrodonczyk provided the Council with information on various methods used to deter speeders including patrols, speed bumps and cameras.

Councilmember Howley said that the Town needs to do something right away. He said that Hidden Brook is not supposed to be a pass-through. He said the Town should make it as uncomfortable as possible for those users. He stated that while there is an issue on Arden Way there is a bigger

problem on Middle Creek. Councilmember Howley said that what he would like to see is 6 to 8 speed bumps throughout the Middle Creek and Arden Way areas. He stated that he believes that cameras on roads up the mountain are acceptable, but that he is adamantly against speeding cameras or cameras in neighborhoods.

Councilmember Spalding said that he likes the idea of speed bumps because it give the immediate perception that the Town is doing something. He said that he likes the idea of cameras. He said that portable cameras is a very attractive concept. Councilmember Spalding suggested that the Town partner with a security company to offer residents a discount on cameras, similar to how a smoke detector program is offered to improve public safety. He said that he thinks the Town should move fast on the speed bumps.

Councilmember Wallace said that speed bumps are a good idea. He suggested halfway up "Heart Attach Hill" where it is not in front of someone's yard or driveway. He reminded the Council of the cut through street between Mountain Creek Road and Signal Mountain Road has a lot of speed bumps. He said that people just don't drive there anymore. Councilmember Wallace said that cameras at the welcome sign, Shoal Creek Road, James Boulevard, any ingress roads would be acceptable but not in the neighborhoods.

Council agreed that 2 speed bumps should be placed at Middle Creek close to Timberlinks Drive and 2 speed bumps on Arden Way as soon as possible. In addition, the Council also agreed that signage should be placed on Timberlinks Drive to restrict thru traffic from turning onto Middle Creek Road.

Other Business

Councilmember Spalding asked the Council to institute a program called "Mayor for a Minute". He said the person nominated would open the meeting and lead the pledge of allegiance. He suggested getting the High School to nominate students. He said this would be a way for outstanding students to get recognition. Council agreed that the program is a good idea and discussed that other people should also be considered. Mr. Veal asked the Council to give him some advance notice of candidates for the program.

Councilmember Howley provided a list of items he would like the Council to consider at future meetings which included:

1. He said there is a school traffic issue and wants to widen Sam Powell Road by 1 lane and needs to find out who would be responsible for making this happen.
2. He asked the Town to allow the school to have an electric sign.
3. He has been approached by the school about concerns as to whether they would still be able to utilize the Town tennis facility. He said the school is concerned if the facility meets the standards for a national tennis program.
4. He asked the Town Attorney to provide options for getting out of the conservation easement agreement.
5. He said he would like the expansion of Driver Field to be discussed.
6. He asked that past council members be honored. He said he had spoken to Mr. Veal about specifically doing something to honor Susan Robertson and Annette Allen for their service, time and effort. He suggested that the Council recognize those departing the Council and to plant a tree in their honor with a plaque.

Councilmember Spalding said he supports allowing an electronic sign at the high school. He also stated that he would like to see a community electronic bulletin board placed in front of Town Hall. Mr. Noblett informed them that this would require a change to the sign ordinance.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that he met with March Adams Co. yesterday and they are ready to move forward on the sprinkler and fire alarm systems projects. Mr. Veal asked them for quote on bid preparation and management and some project oversight.

Mr. Veal said that the log cabin on Timberlinks Drive needs to be demolished. He said it is a safety issue. He said that the cost will probably be \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 to demolish the cabin and clean up the area. He explained that this is an unbudgeted expenditure and while there may be some funds available, he wanted the Council to know that they might be asked to approve a budget amendment for this purpose at a later time. Council approved the Town Manager to proceed with this project.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that the Personnel Policy says that the Town Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief, police officers, Department Heads and other on-call personnel may have take-home vehicle upon recommendation of the Town Manager and approval of the Town Council. He said that he can't find any documentation of Council approvals. Mr. Veal asked the Council to authorize take-home vehicles for Department Heads and the next senior employee subject to being called in and that any others would require Council authorization. Council agreed that the proposed program be approved.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that the Town's insurance renews in April and staff would like for it to renew in July to be on the same cycle as the fiscal year budget. He presented the Council with a chart that shows an estimated cost of having a two month extension added to this year's expense. He informed them that this is an unbudgeted cost and that there will be a budget amendment on this item at a future meeting.

Councilmember Wallace informed the Council that his list of concerns he would like addressed at future council meetings includes:

1. He would like to discuss proclamations verses resolutions.
2. He would like council to consider turning the recycle center over to Rock Ten. He said that while it is a great project it is a money drain.
3. He asked if the Town should be considering outsourcing garbage collection.
4. He asked if the Town should consider a joint venture with Walden for police and fire protection and water service.
5. He would like to discuss changing the Town Charter to allow the Town to Skype open meetings and to allow holding referendums.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Dick Gee, Mayor


