

\*\*\*\*\*February 23, 2015\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 23, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Those present were: Vice Mayor Bill Wallace  
Councilmember Chris Howley  
Councilmember Bill Lusk  
Councilmember Robert Spalding

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

Vice Mayor Wallace led the pledge of allegiance. Stacey Seals, Fire Chaplain, gave the invocation.

### Minutes

The minutes for the October 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

The minutes for the December 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were presented. Reference to Mayor Lusk in the first paragraph was changed to Mayor Gee. The minutes were approved as corrected.

The minutes for the December 19<sup>th</sup> special agenda meeting were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

### Citizen Comments

Vice Mayor Wallace invited comments from the audience.

Claire Griesinger, Carriage Hill, said that the Council has, at the last two meetings, discussed creating an exploratory committee of 5 council appointed citizens to look at the options available to lift the conservation easement. Ms. Griesinger stated that in a closed meeting on the subject, the Council was told that there were two options which are eminent domain and cancellation by mutual consent. She asked if the Council votes to condemn the parklands will the Town use taxpayer funds to cover the legal costs.

Vice Mayor Wallace explained that there has been no decision reached at this time. He said that it is not possible to know that answer at this time.

Jerry Zanzig, Arden Way, said the Council has ignored due process to install speed bumps. He cited sources (including Chattanooga) that state that a majority of householders in affected

neighborhoods be in favor of adding speed bumps to control speeding. Mr. Zanzig said the Town put in the speed bumps as a test and that there is no scientific method to determine if the test is successful. Nor, he said, are any members of the Council qualified as safety professionals. Mr. Zanzig asked how to reverse the process and have the speed bumps removed. Vice Mayor Wallace reminded the audience that MTAS will be at the next agenda session to give input to the Council regarding traffic calming methods.

Alan Davidoff, Creekshire Drive, said he endorses the comments made by Mr. Zanzig. He said he was shocked when speed bumps showed up as he had not heard about it nor was he asked for his opinion. He said the baseline should be no speed bumps while the Council decides on the issue. He said the speed bumps need to be removed immediately. He said he is angry about the speed bumps and only gets angrier each time he has to go over them.

Bob Griesinger, Carriage Hill, said he objects to the Council having closed meetings as the one held last month. He said that residents were asked to leave so that the Council could discuss sensitive or confidential information. He said he was surprised the next day when a summary of the closed meeting was on a blog of a previous town Mayor. Mr. Griesinger asked the Council to stop the "childish" behavior and restore the residents trust in the Council. Town Attorney Phil Noblett stated that the closed meeting was legal. Mr. Griesinger said that the dissemination of the information discussed at the closed meeting was not legal. Mr. Noblett agreed that should not occur but that he had not seen any evidence of that occurring.

Jeff Stern, Arden Way, thanked the Council for the speed bumps. He questioned when public safety issues go to a general vote and he does not understand people being upset about that. Mr. Stern said that someone passed out pink opinion survey cards making it look like they were from the Town. He said he would not participate in a bogus survey done by residents that could confuse people.

Alan Mochel, Middle Creek Road, said that Middle Creek Road is ¼ mile long with 3 stop signs and two speed bumps with 15 mph speed signs in front of them. He stated that no one can do 15 mph over the speed bumps because of the height of the bumps. Mr. Mochel said that people stop and then ease over the bumps. He said that the Town has added an inconvenience factor with a minimal improvement in safety, if there has been any improvement at all.

Jerry Bednarzyk, Creekshire Drive, said he was speaking in opposition to the speed bumps on Middle Creek Road. He said that he has been running on Middle Creek Road for many years and has never seen anyone speeding at 50-60 mph. He said that his experience is that all the drivers on that road are very careful and polite. Mr. Bednarzyk stated he thought two speed bumps are excessive for a ¼ mile stretch of road with 3 stop signs. He asked the Council to take out the speed bumps on Middle Creek Road.

Steve Murphy, Brooks Edge Lane, said he heartily endorses the use of the speed bumps where they are placed now. He said there are a lot of children in those areas. He specifically addressed Middle Creek where he said there are approximately 20 children at a bus stop where there is a blind curve with bushes that do not allow visibility to the right hand side of the street. He said that he travels that way every day and it only takes him an additional 4 seconds because of the speed

bumps. Mr. Murphy said that if that 4 seconds could help save the life of any of the children in that area, he is all for it.

Mike Wood, Creekshire Drive, said that the safety of children is only being considered for a select few. He said that the installation of the speed bumps means that the safety of the children who get injured riding their bikes and skateboards over unneeded speed bumps, for the children who are injured because their mothers lose control of their cars going over the speed bumps or trying to swerve around them, for the children for whom the fire truck or ambulance is delayed, for the children who slip and fall on the snow and ice over the speed bumps because the plows can't plow over the speed bumps, etc. are all being disregarded. Mr. Wood asks about the safety of parents and grandparents who drive over the speed bumps daily and suffer jarring shocks to their bodies and their cars. He said that he has a petition signed by 160 taxpayers asking for the removal of the speed bumps.

Ross Clingan, Arden Way, said that he has seen cars driving 50-60 mph in the presence of children riding bicycles. He said that all that is being discussed is how the Town is going to enforce the law that's already been established by installation of speed signs. He asked if the Council or the public decides what in the best interest of public safety. He said that he would take the chance of his child tripping over a speed bump as opposed to getting hit by a car. Mr. Clingan said that he does not enjoy riding over speed bumps but that it is the best effective thing he has seen.

Mary Beth Bednarzyk, Creekshire Drive, said that if there were problems with speeding in an area, there should have been more ticketing done. In addition, she said there should have been information given to residents about the problem and informing them that the speed bumps would be installed. She said that if people had information about the speeders and associated dangers they would approach this issue in a much more logical fashion.

Ann Richey, Brooks Hedge Lane, said that she has to go over the speed bumps to get in or out of her street and they don't bother her and she has not spilled a drop of coffee. She stated that she has had to jump out of the way of cars when walking her dog. Mr. Richey said that the roads on Signal Mountain are not just for cars. She said there are no sidewalks and there is no place for a Mom to push a stroller, for someone to walk their dog, or for bikers, that everyone must share the road. She suggested lowering the speed limit to 15 mph.

Randy Evans, Middle Creek Road, thanked the Council for taking action on an acknowledged safety issue on Middle Creek by installing the speed bumps. He said that the dynamics of the community have changed with the increase in schools and that there is a lot of traffic through his neighborhood. Mr. Evans also said that studies say that a driver using a cell phone is 4 times more likely to have an accident and texting compounds that to 8 times more likely to have an accident. He said the speed bumps do not benefit just a few people, but they benefit anyone who uses the road. He stated that there is documented scientific evidence that speed bumps slow down drivers.

Vice Mayor Wallace informed the audience that the Council has asked MTAS to provide some guidance on how to pursue this matter. He said that they will be at the meeting on Friday and he invited as many people who can to attend that meeting.

There being no further comments, the meeting resumed.

### Presentations

Barbara Womack was not present to provide the Council with an update on the status of the hemlock conservation efforts.

### Resolutions

1. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO TOTAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE, INC. FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE ROOF OF THE FIRE AND POLICE BUILDING IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY SIX THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN DOLLARS (\$46,314.00) AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AWARD."

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

2. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2016 INTERNATIONAL 7300 DUMP TRUCK WITH ROGERS DUMP BODY FROM LEE SMITH, INC. FOR THE AMOUNT OF EIGHTY EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$88,824.00) FOR USE BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PURCHASE."

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

3. "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BILL LUSK AS THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, ON THE CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY/NORTH GEORGIA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE BOARD."

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

4. "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOYD VEAL AS A PROXY FOR THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN'S REPRESENTATIVE, BILL LUSK, ON THE CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY/NORTH GEORGIA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION."

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

**Ordinance**

1. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE VI SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT REGULATIONS OF THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING ALLOWING FITNESS CENTERS IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS."

Vice Mayor Wallace explained that this ordinance is to correct language in the zoning for commercial districts to include fitness centers in the terms. 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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Dick Gee, Mayor

  
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Recorder