

\*\*\*\*\*May 11, 2015\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 11, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Those present were: Mayor Dick Gee  
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

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

#### Citizen Comments

Mayor Gee invited comments from the audience.

Amy Wakim, Hidden Brook Lane, said she was speaking as a professional civil and structural engineer. She stated that she observes on a daily basis how most cars travel too fast down Hidden Brook Lane without regard for the safety of others. She cited several examples of the issues created for her family because of the speeding traffic. Ms. Wakim said that since there is no sidewalk or shoulder for pedestrians, speed control is critical to the safety of the community. She proposed adding a stop sign at the intersection of Cool Springs and Hidden Brook Lane, making it a 4 way stop.

Kirk Henry, Hidden Brook Lane, thanked the Council for the hard work and effort that has been put in to finding solutions to the speeding problem that exists on Hidden Brook Lane. He said he supports the speed humps, stop signs, or anything that enforces the 25 mph speed limit. Mr. Henry said that the speeders are a safety concern. He said that to take his family for a walk, bike ride, or to simply play in the front yard is scary.

Barb Oxenhandler, Hidden Brook Lane, said that, in the last couple of years, she has noticed that more cars and trucks are speeding on her street.

Police Chief Mike Williams recognized Officer Kennedy, Lieutenant Fletcher, Officer Siler and Officer Bingham for their outstanding work leading to the arrest of a person who has been breaking into cars in Old Town. Chief Williams explained the details of the investigation and arrest.

There being no further comments, the meeting resumed.

## Resolutions

1. "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JOHNSON, MURPHY & WRIGHT, P.C. TO AUDIT TOWN ACCOUNTS FROM JULY 1, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015, AND TO PROVIDE PAYMENT FOR MUNICIPAL AUDITING SERVICES PERFORMED ON TOWN ACCOUNTS FOR THAT TIME PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TEN DOLLARS NO/100 (\$27,710.00)."

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

2. "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 \$25.73 PER MONTH FOR INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES AND \$80.04 PER MONTH FOR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016."

Vice Mayor Wallace 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 THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING MINIMUM LOT SIZE FOR MINOR SUBDIVISIONS."

Town Manager Boyd Veal explained that the Planning Commission had studied the prospect of conservation development as a preferred means of development within the town. This would allow development on smaller lots if green space was set aside and protected within the development. He explained that as a means to incentivize that, the minimum lot size for conventional development was changed to one acre (it has been ½ acre prior). He said that an issue this created is that it changed the formula that is attached to set backs being determined for small lots of record. Mr. Boyd explained in prior years there were lots under ½ acre that were platted and recorded and legally existed as a building lot. He said there is a section in the zoning that allows for the required setback to be calculated based on the percentage of that ½ acre lot, and if it was a ¼ acre lot the setback would be reduced by 50%. He stated that when the minimum lot size was changed to 1 acre that doubled the setback reduction that would be allowed. Mr. Veal said that this ordinance will correct that issue, in that in regular conservation development from minor subdivisions (which are 5 lots or less) the minimum will again be ½ acre. Then, he said, that minimum will be used to calculate the setback reductions on small lots of record. This will clear up the matter of creating the 1 acre minimum lot size for major developments and also applying it to minor subdivisions.

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

**Discussions**

Mayor Gee gave a brief synopsis of the results of the traffic study performed by Volkert. Town Attorney Phil Noblett read the Volkert engineer's recommendations. Councilmember Lusk suggested that the Town proceed with placing additional stop signs, but to defer any action on speed humps. Vice Mayor Wallace said he supports placing stop signs on Hidden Brook Lane at the intersection with Cool Springs Road. Council held discussions on the engineers' recommendations. Councilmember Howley suggested the Town follow the engineers' suggestions. Mayor Gee recommended adding an additional radar speed feedback sign on Arden Way.

Councilmember Howley made a motion to follow the Volkert engineer's report and in addition add two stop signs at Cool Springs and Hidden Brook Lane to create a 4 way stop, a radar speed feedback sign at the top of Arden Way going down, and notify members of the community of these actions. Councilmember Lusk seconded the motion.

Following discussion, Councilmember Howley revised the motion to obtain direction from the engineers to determine if 1 or 2 speed humps are required on Middle Creek and to then follow the clarified recommendation. Councilmember Lusk seconded the revised motion.

All present being in favor, the revised motion passed.

Councilmember Howley asked that Mr. Veal place an ad to solicit volunteers for a centennial committee.

**Other Business**

Mayor Gee informed the Council that he and Councilmember Lusk had a meeting with Representative Patsy Hazelwood at TDOT regarding the project to repair US127. He said that TDOT informed them that there is no funding set aside for the project and that TDOT is expecting cuts in funding from the federal government for road projects.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Dick Gee, Mayor

  
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Recorder