

*****August 28, 2015*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Friday, August 28, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.

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

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

Mayor Gee led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was observed.

Resolutions

1. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO VOLUNTEER HIGHWAY SUPPLY COMPANY INC. FOR THE APPLICATION OF APPROXIMATELY 39 LINEAR MILES OF STREET STRIPING IN THE TOWN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FOURTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$14,430.00) AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AWARD."

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

2. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO BRIAN SITTON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE DRAINAGE CULVERT AT THE INTERSECTION OF BROCKTON DRIVE AND LANCASTER DRIVE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$22,000.00) 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.

Ordinances

1. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 18, SECTION 18-116(2) ENTITLED "WATER SERVICE LINE MATERIAL" BY DELETING SECTION 18-116(2) IN ITS ENTIRETY AND SUBSTITUTING A NEW SECTION 18-116(2)."

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

Discussion

Town Manager Boyd Veal said that one of the questions about the proposed zoning ordinance is the number of lots that will be affected. He reminded the Council that the original ordinance dealt with abandoned lot lines and has evolved into the current version which is dependent upon surrounding lots sizes and road frontages.

Mr. Veal presented 3 parcel maps showing different scenarios based on the proposed ordinance. He said the first map indicates all the lots in the Town that are already less than ½ acre. The second map shows those lots larger than ½ acre which are in close proximity to the smaller lots. He explained that after removing lots that will not qualify for subdividing under the proposed ordinance for various reasons, the third map identifies those lots that appear to meet the requirements of the ordinance. He said these lots include those that have structures already on them.

Mr. Veal said Jordan Clark estimated that less than 20 lots will be affected. Mr. Veal said that after his extensive review he agrees with this estimate, and the third map actually shows 15 affected lots.

Mr. Veal said that he had been asked to identify the percentage of lots currently existing under ½ acre based on where they are located in the Town. He explained that staff has determined the number in Old Town is approximately 45%, the Palisades area is 42%, and the older northern area is 48% of existing lot sizes under ½ acre.

Mayor Gee said that he had confirmed with the Planning Commission Chair Wayne Williams that the original justification of this ordinance dealt with the legitimacy of infill and the value to the Town to take unused property and make productive use of it.

Mayor Gee said this information needs to be presented to the citizens of the Town and he suggested having an open house. Council agreed to have an open house after the September regular meeting.

Claire Griesinger, Carriage Hill, asked how the term contiguous is defined. Mr. Veal replied that the definition is a property that is touching is contiguous. Ms. Griesinger asked how lots will be handled that touch multi-family, parks, school, and commercial properties. Mr. Veal said that he does not believe there are any properties that fit this description. He said there were a few lots outside of a residential setting on the highway that belong to the Church of Christ, an apartment complex and the microwave tower. Ms. Griesinger said her recollection is that this issue started for an individual who came to a Planning Commission meeting. She said she does not believe the Planning Commission had applied the test questions that the Tennessee Planning Commission recommends. She said that while there are currently restrictions in this ordinance about setbacks, etc. she is concerned those restrictions could be changed in a two meeting vote of the Council. She asked the Council to rescind this ordinance once the requesting property owner has sold the divided lot.

Dun Monroe, Cherokee Lane, said that one individual wants something that no others want. He said this ordinance is unfair to other property owners who cannot divide their lots.

Mr. Veal said he has spoken with the Mountain Education Foundation and they have determined that they have already allocated all their current year funding. He said they also do not believe the Town's request for funding of a SRO position meets their funding criteria as it does not directly impact the education process. He said he had also met with County Commissioner Jim Fields who while he cannot directly assist with funding the SRO position, is open to assisting the Town in other ways that may enable the Town to free up funds that could be redirected to the SRO. Mr. Veal said he also met with Walden's Mayor Trohanis who is willing to take the issue to his Board of Aldermen to request assistance in funding this position. Mr. Veal explained that placing an SRO in the schools placed the Police department short 1 position on patrol, which requires additional overtime to fill and does not allow for any scheduling flexibility. Councilmember Howley asked that a resolution be placed on the next agenda.

Mayor Gee informed the Council that Hamilton County is asking the state legislature for a share in the municipal "state shared" sales tax. He said that the county has no specific or identified need for the additional funds. He said he and Mr. Veal attended a meeting with several Hamilton County municipal mayors and administrators. He said the reason for the meeting was to form a coalition of municipalities to oppose this action. Mayor Gee said the coalition wants to hire a professional to fight this action at a cost to the Town of \$20,000.00 a year, with a total compensation of \$124,000.00. The Council discussed the effectiveness of TML in fighting this issue.

Mr. Veal said that the Town has advertised for an open position on the MACC Board and the 7 positions for the Centennial Celebration Committee. He said there are no new applications for the MACC Board. He said there have been some applications received for the Centennial committee. He said the Town continues to seek additional applicants.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that the 4 way stop signs will be installed today. He explained that the driver feedback sign will be installed next week. He said weather had delayed the installation of the speed humps but they will be installed next week. Mr. Veal explained that the 2 identified locations on Middle Creek were the only possible points to install the Middle Creek speed hump. He asked the Council at which location they wished the speed hump installed.

Councilmember Howley made a motion that the hump be placed at the location closest to Timberlinks. Councilmember Spalding seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4 to 1, with Mayor Gee abstaining.

Council discussed a tentative agenda for the September 14, 2015 regular meeting.

Other Business

Councilmember Spalding informed the Council that the DRC had met and recommended changes to the sign ordinance regarding lighting and establishing a staff review and approval process. Mr. Veal said he had received the changes and once they are reviewed he will place them on the agenda for approval.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that it had been determined that the audio system in the Council room is seriously lacking in ability. He explained that once the audio system is upgraded, it can be uploaded to the web site.

There was general discussion regarding solicitation permits.

Councilmember Spalding recommends each Police Officer carry an officer's survivor kit in their glove box. He explained that this kit includes tourniquets, specialized bandages and dressings for gunshot wounds. He estimates they cost around \$100.00 each. Mr. Veal said he will review the current first aid kits and take what actions are needed to assure the officers are property equipped.

Councilmember Spalding asked for bike and walking lane striping for areas like Hidden Brook where there are no sidewalks. Mr. Veal said he will speak with the Public Works Director to determine which roads may have sufficient room to allow for the lane.

Councilmember Howley asked for a "gentlemen's agreement" that meeting minutes be prepared for the very next meeting.

Councilmember Howley said that the agenda meeting is a misnomer as the Council votes and takes action on items. He suggests changing the name of the meeting or review the activities that are taken during those meetings.

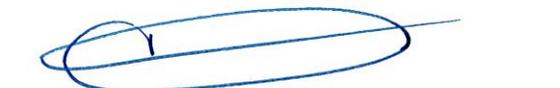
Councilmember Howley said he is working with county school representative Dr. Welsh to place a programmable sign up for the high school. He said they will be coming to the DRC for approval soon.

Mayor Gee informed the Council that the Alexian Village has vacated the old hotel and is seeking ideas from the community on what to do with it.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that Councilmember Howley will be out of town for the October agenda meeting. He said that additionally both he and Finance Director Carol White will be out of town for conferences. He asked the Council for direction about rescheduling the meeting date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Dick Gee, Mayor


Recorder