

\*\*\*\*\*September 14, 2015\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 14, 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.

### Minutes

The minutes for the June 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

The minutes for the June 26<sup>th</sup> special agenda meeting were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

The minutes for the May 29<sup>th</sup> special agenda meeting were presented. There was one word correction, which did not change the substance of the minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

### Citizen Comments

Mayor Gee invited comments from the audience.

Claire Griesinger, Carriage Hill, thanked the Council for scheduling two open houses on the zoning change. She asked them to change the date of the first scheduled meeting of October 7<sup>th</sup> since this date is in the middle of fall break and residents might be out of town.

Mary Ballard, Rolling Way, said that the schools, police, fire and sewer services are already stretched. She said that changing the zoning might break the already fractured resources. She said engineering studies said that this change could affect 150 or more lots which could increase traffic

by 300 cars down Signal Mountain Boulevard. Ms. Ballard stated that this could have costly ramifications to the Town. She said that if the Council is assuming that increased density will provide revenue to fund the mentioned costs she asked what is the interim plan. She asked if that would be a bond issue, using the state revolving fund, or raising taxes. She said the Council was selected for their ability to lead and to thoroughly review all impacts of their decisions and to foresee the best long term interest of the community. She asked the Council to honor the hard work of previous zoning committees and to keep their efforts intact.

Dun Monroe, Cherokee Lane, said he is concerned about the cost to the Town to hire a lobbyist to fight the proposed change to sales tax distributions. He said that is a risky outlay as there is no assurance of winning. He suggested the municipalities schedule an audience with the Governor or write a letter signed by all the communities.

Wendi Morgan, James Boulevard, said she lives between Thrasher Elementary School and the Library said the walkers, runners and bikers are at risk due to the speeding on James Boulevard. She said the primary speeders are landscaping trucks, commercial vehicles and teenaged drivers. She asked for additional police coverage and offered to allow the placement of an electronic speed sign in her yard.

Kerry Lansford, Cherokee Lane, said she understood the Council will be hiring a public relations agent to work on issues concerning the Town. She said she does not find that the person being considered has been registered as a lobbyist since 2008 nor could she find a business license for him. Ms. Lansford said she has a thorough knowledge of government, has worked for CNN as a journalist for more than 12 years, as well as being a Senior Account Agent for 2 public relations firms. She said she would be happy to offer her services in efforts to lobby on behalf of the Town on a pro bono basis. She said that there are professional people in the community who can be brought together as citizen groups to work on behalf of the Town without cost.

Arthur Ballard, Rolling Way, said he agrees with Councilmember Lusk about disagreeing with the rezoning law regarding the ¼ acre lots. He said the Planning Commission said it will impact 100-200 lots. He said this ordinance will adversely affect all property owners in Signal Mountain. He said the uniqueness of the community is the green space. He said this action will affect the property values. Mr. Ballard said that he can't see how anyone would want to condense the population. He said the Town needs to preserve what the town already has, preserve the green space and not make it grey with condensed housing and continual construction.

Rachel Miller, James Boulevard, said this zoning issue is very confusing for the citizens since there have been so many iterations of justifications for this rezoning. She said this rezoning was started because there was a woman in need and while the sentiments were very moving it is not allowed to change zoning for one person. She said the Planning Commission Chairman said another justification was that the residents in Old Town do not like the fact that there are different houses on different lots. She said he put forth the idea that there should be uniformity in Old Town which she said makes her think of north Chattanooga row houses which are banged up, against each other, different colors and not at all the style of Signal Mountain as she sees it. Ms. Miller said that another creative justification put forth was that the residents are worried about the green space so the Town needs to rezone to make sure there is not too much green space. She said she hopes the Council is acting in good faith when they are putting maps in front of residents and

saying no more than 14 lots are affected and that it won't be that bad because there will not be that many people. She said that what happens in these situations is that zoning is voted on (which is like the camel putting his nose under the tent) and you think it will only be 14 lots and it ends up being a lot more. She said when density changes then schools, which are already at capacity, will put children in trailers. She said the high school might put overflow into the Red Bank schools. Ms. Miller said the road up the mountain is barely functioning for the current residents and she is not aware of any plans to strengthen that road. She said the sewer system is a mess with the current density and she is concerned that with more people there will be a smelly mess.

Dun Monroe, Cherokee Boulevard, said that this action ignores the many for the very few.

### **Presentation**

Kevin Rogers, Director of Operations for Tennessee American Water (TAW), said TAW is proud to be the water provider for the Town and that the Town is an important customer. He explained that TAW is interested in expanding the service they provide and become the overall service provider, meaning they would not only provide the water but would also manage the water system for the Town. Mr. Rogers stated that one of the most costly expenses is infrastructure upgrades and American Water invests \$800 million to \$1.2 billion in infrastructure in the U.S. yearly. He said they buy direct from the manufacturer and negotiate material purchases on a national basis. He said they can provide economies of scale and they are able to bring that pricing to the local community. He said TAW wants to look at expanding their partnership with the Town and enable the Town to release resources, earmarked in enterprise funds for infrastructure improvements, to use for other critical community needs.

Mr. Rogers explained that TAW has experience working with other similar size communities. He said TAW has been the water provider in Southeast Tennessee and North Georgia for about 130 years. He said they have been the full provider for water to Lookout Mountain for about 100 years. He said TAW acquired the Whitwell system about 2 years ago. He said they have a strong relationship with them that has been beneficial to the community, cost effective and the citizens are paying consistent rates to what they paid at the time of the acquisition.

Mr. Rogers asked the Council to be allowed to come back and make a more formal presentation with a dialog about expanding the partnership in the overall water service. When asked, Mr. Rogers explained that TAW would like to acquire the assets of the system and free that up from the Town.

The Council agreed to have a formal presentation on the agenda on the September 25<sup>th</sup> agenda meeting.

### **Resolutions**

1. "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING OCTOBER 2, 2015, AS ARBOR DAY WITHIN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE."

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

2. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ADD ONE PATROL OFFICER POSITION TO THE AUTHORIZED STAFFING LEVEL OF THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT TO FACILITATE ASSIGNING A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER TO THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL."

Vice Mayor Wallace said he agrees that an SRO is needed, however he is concerned about the Town having to fund the entire amount. Town Manager Boyd Veal explained that County Commissioner Jim Fields has indicated that while he can't provide funds for schools, he is open to considering a contribution to other areas that might free up funds for this purpose. Mr. Veal said that, in addition, he has spoken with Walden Ridge Mayor Trohanis about contributing. He said that Mayor Trohanis had received a report from the Department of Education that indicates that approximately ¼ of the high school students reside in Walden.

The Council discussed the fact that the County has not funded an SRO for the schools on Signal Mountain. Councilmember Lusk said that he feels that to fund this position serves only to train the County Commission that we will pay for this and that the County Commission will not change their position until residents let the Commissioners know their concerns.

Mayor Gee motioned to approve the resolution. Councilmember Howley seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a vote of 4 to 1, with Councilmember Lusk opposed.

3. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PURCHASE TWENTY (20) SCOTT SAFETY PRODUCTS 4.5 AIR-PAC X3 SCBA UNITS, TWENTY (20) AV3000 KEVLAR HEADSETS AND FORTY (40) NxG 4.5, 30 MINUTE CARBON CYLINDERS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN [FROM] MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES, INCORPORATED THROUGH A MEMBER INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY NATIONAL PURCHASING PARTNERS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND (\$120,000.00) DOLLARS AND TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE SAID PURCHASE."

Council agreed that the word "from" be added in the fifth line of the caption.

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

4. "A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN OPPOSING THE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF STATE SHARED SALES TAX REVENUES."

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

The Council also discussed the merits of entering into a mutual agreement with other Hamilton County municipalities to contract with Davis Lundy to lobby and otherwise assist in efforts to defeat the proposed redistribution. Town Attorney Phillip Noblett said he will be meeting with other municipal attorneys to determine if an RFP is required. Mayor Gee requested that the issue be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

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

2. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 14, CHAPTER 5, "SIGN REGULATIONS", IN THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE TO INCLUDE A PROCESS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL OF SIGN APPLICATIONS."

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

3. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 14, CHAPTER 5, "SIGN REGULATIONS", IN THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE REGARDING REVIEW OF GRAPHIC DESIGN AND DESIGN ELEMENTS FOR SIGNAGE."

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

4. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 14, CHAPTER 5, "SIGN REGULATIONS", IN THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE REGARDING GRAPHIC ELEMENTS."

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

5. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 14, CHAPTER 5, "SIGN REGULATIONS", IN THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE REGARDING GRAPHIC EMBLEMS, LOGOS OR SYMBOL PERCENTAGES IN SUBDIVISION ENTRANCE FEATURES."

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

6. 'AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN SOUTH STREET AND FAIRVIEW STREET IN SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE.'

Mr. Veal explained that the effective date will be set prior to the second reading. He said that date will be conditioned upon delivery of the easement agreements. Mr. Veal said this ordinance had been recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

**Discussions/Other Business**

Councilmember Spalding asked for an update on the status of providing trauma kits for each patrol car. Mr. Veal replied that the associated costs have been established and that he and staff will determine if there are funds within the existing budget. He said if there were not sufficient funds he will bring the item back to the Council for approval.

Councilmember Spalding asked the status of installing feedback speed signs. Mr. Veal replied there had been a delay due to the fact that heavier posts are required to support these signs.

Councilmember Howley informed the Council that trucks that had been staging at the Boy Scout Park were due to the paving project in Old Town. Mr. Veal said that the contractor had been asked to move the trucks immediately.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dick Gee, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder