

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Friday, April 1, 2016 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.

Discussion

Mr. Tony Reavley, Director of Emergency Management Services for Hamilton County and Mr. Dewey Woody, Deputy Director and Chief of Operations for TEMA, spoke to the Council regarding shelter locations in case of a disaster. Mr. Reavley explained that the American Red Cross is the agency that sets up shelters as they become necessary. He explained that because officials can't predict where a disaster will occur, pre-designated shelters are no longer specified in order to assure the safety of affected residents. When asked, Mr. Reavley said that shelter locations would be communicated through social media, television, radio and other methods, even to include police announcements in neighborhoods if necessary.

Councilmember Spalding stated that there is an American Red Cross sheltering supply truck parked at the fire station. He requested that a link to the American Red Cross website be placed on the Town's website.

Town Manager, Boyd Veal explained that the Town is faced with a large increase in the health care premiums for the coming year. He explained that he had negotiated to include the Town in the State of Tennessee's health care plans. Mr. Veal said this option offers a better rate for the coming year and stabilized annual increases. He also explained that the state plan offers additional options including vision coverage, and coverage for retirees until the age they qualify for Medicare and coverage for serving Council members. The Council agreed to the change in plans.

Director of Public Works, Loretta Hopper explained that the initial phases have begun on the Shoal Creek Falls bridge replacement. She informed the Council that the design is complete and construction plans have been submitted to TDOT. She provided an overview of the project to the Council and explained that some unbudgeted right-of-way acquisitions would be required.

Ms. Hopper informed the Council that the engineer has been selected for the TIP's grant sidewalk project in Old Town. Council discussed the fact that the project will probably not be started until 2017.

Ms. Hopper apprised the council that the James Boulevard construction is expected to begin this summer.

The Council shared information regarding their various boards and commissions.

Mr. Veal updated the Council regarding current projects he has been administering.

Council discussed a tentative agenda for the April 11, 2016 regular meeting.

Other Business

Bill Gallagher, Palisades Drive, requested the Council to consider budgeting for expansion of Drivers Field.

Mayor Gee informed the Council that a resident recently accompanied his contractor to the transfer station to dispose of yard debris and brush. He explained that even though the resident was riding with his contractor, the Town assessed the contractor a disposal fee. Acknowledging this was appropriate given current policy, the Mayor asked the Council to give further consideration to that policy. Following discussions, the Council agreed that there should be no fees charged if the resident accompanies the contractor.

Mayor Gee informed the Council that 17 acres on the brow has been offered for sale to the Town. Mr. Veal said that the property owner will provide an appraisal of the property. The Council agreed that Mr. Veal should explore options to purchase this property.

Council discussed the current legislative efforts regarding de-annexation.

Councilmember Spalding stated his desire to have a portable litter control camera. Councilmember Spalding suggested installing cameras on Shackelford Ridge and Timberlinks to control littering in those areas. Councilmember Lusk suggested placing signs in the problem areas. Council agreed with this solution.

Councilmember Spalding left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Councilmember Howley proposed the 4th of July parade stop at the WWII memorial to honor the residents who served.

Councilmember Howley inquired as to the status of the lease with the Country Club. Mr. Veal explained that the budget reflects the new appraisal based rate and that he will have the Town Attorney draft a lease document.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Dick Gee, Mayor



Recorder