

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a worksession on Friday, December 30, 2016 at 12:30 p.m.

Those present were: Mayor Chris J. Howley
Councilmember Dick Gee
Councilmember Dan Landrum
Councilmember Robert Spalding
Councilmember Amy Speak

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

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

Discussion

a. Update on School System Viability Committee

Town Manager, Boyd Veal, informed the Council that the Town web site has been modified to add a section for School System Viability Committee applications. He explained that there is also a page for people to submit questions to the Committee. Mr. Veal said the Town has also placed ads seeking applicants to serve on the Committee. He said he has already received some applications and will provide the Council with copies. In addition, Mr. Veal recommended the Councilmembers call the applicants. The Council agreed they wanted to discuss committee member selection at the January 27th worksession.

b. Old Town Sidewalk Project

Mr. Veal reminded the Council that the original Old Town Sidewalk grant application had been submitted to TDOT in 2010. He said that since so much time has passed, the Town is looking at additional costs for this project. In addition, he said the TDOT recommendation to budget 10% of the construction costs for engineering services was not sufficient.

Mr. Veal explained that the original budget for engineering service was \$94,100 with the grant to pay 80% or \$75,280, leaving us with a cost of \$18,820. He said the grant portion will not change, but the current costs will be \$136,332, making the Town's costs \$61,000.

Mr. Veal further explained that the construction budget was originally \$479,000 with the grant paying \$383,200, making the Town share \$95,800. He said that this projected budget is now \$560,000, with the TDOT grant staying at \$383,200, which changes the Town share to \$176,800.

Mr. Veal said the total Town costs were \$114,620 originally, but are now \$237,800, an added \$123,180 in costs.

Following discussions, the Council agreed to move forward with the project.

c. 2017-2018 Budget Process

Mr. Veal provided the Council members with copies of the budget calendars for the FY 2017-18 budget process. He asked the Council for guidance on how to address the loss of Hall Tax and other revenues in the upcoming budget process. The Council agreed that the proposed budget should reflect the loss of these revenues without proposing alternative revenue sources.

d. Update MACC PNA Review

Mr. Veal informed the Council that he is working with an engineer to recompute the PNA costs for Building A based on the revised use plan Council discussed at the last worksession. Mr. Veal said he hoped to have the revised estimate to the Council at the next worksession in January. Councilmember Landrum suggested moving forward to install a sprinkler system throughout the entire MACC facilities. Following discussion, the Council decided to wait for the revised cost estimate before taking any action.

e. Facility Maintenance

Mr. Veal informed the Council that the Town is taking a different approach to the janitorial needs of the Town's facilities and will be engaging the services Cleaning Solutions for the remainder of this fiscal year. He explained that the person in the Facilities Maintenance department has been re-assigned to the Water Department, but will continue to assist with other facility needs. He assured the Council that any time spent on facility repairs and maintenance would be accounted for separately from time spent working for the Water Department.

Board Liaison Reports

Vice Mayor Gee said that Linda Kelly, Chair of the Beautification Committee, has said that the Committee recommends that the Town do more to decorate for the Christmas season. He said the Beautification Committee will soon make a proposal to the Council to improve the beautification of the Town.

Vice Mayor Gee suggested that the various Committees appointed under the Citizens Advisory Board make regular reports to the Council.

Vice Mayor Gee said the Planning Commission will meet next Thursday and that the Shackelford Ridge Road developer will be at that meeting.

Councilmember Spalding said that the DRC has proposed that the Beautification Committee give an award for the most commendable beautification of a residential property.

Councilmember Spalding said the Centennial Committee will make a report to the Council at the January worksession.

Mayor Howley said the Parks Board will meet on January 3rd at 6:00 at the Town Hall. He said he will be attending the TPO worksession on the 10th with Mr. Veal.

Vice Mayor Gee suggested the Parks Board consider recommending trails maintenance to address concerns such as trash, bathrooms, etc.

Councilmember Spalding asked if the Parks Board has a resolution to the lack of parking on Ohio. Mayor Howley said that the Parks Board is working on a solution to that issue and will bring a recommendation to the Council soon.

Manager's Report

Mr. Veal said that the North Palisades property owner has asked for clarification as to whether the Town is interested in purchasing their property. Mayor Howley and Mr. Veal will communicate with the owners and let them know that the Council is unable to purchase the property at the current asking price.

Tentative Agenda

Council discussed a tentative agenda for the January 9, 2017 regular meeting.

Other Business

Councilmember Speek asked if the Town can provide sidewalks for walkers going to Nolan Elementary. Loretta Hopper, Public Works Director, said that she is working with an Eagle Scout who is interested in putting in a mulch sidewalk in order to earn a badge.

Councilmember Landrum informed the Council that he will be recording the meetings and sharing them on YouTube. He also explained that he will be moderating a Citizens Forum that will meet once a month to discuss various issues of interest to the residents. He said he does not plan to bring the results of those meetings to the Council.

The Council had a brief discussion about formalizing the process of the mayoral vote.

Mayor Howley asked when the County SRO Officer would start their duties. Mr. Veal explained that the Officer will begin in January and that the County SRO main duties will be the middle and high schools and the Town's SRO will be in the elementary and middle schools. Mr. Veal said that the Town's SRO is budgeted through this year but that there will need to be a decision about funding in the next fiscal year.

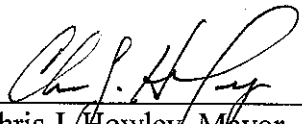
Mayor Howley asked that Mr. Veal and Ms. Hopper inform the citizens regarding the difficulties the Town has had with the leaf pick-up program this year, specifically hiring and weather issues.

Vice Mayor Gee said there needs to be a more aggressive solution to the leaf pick-up program problems. He suggested the hook truck as a long term solution. The Council discussed the cost of approximately \$216,000 per truck with the automated leaf machine.

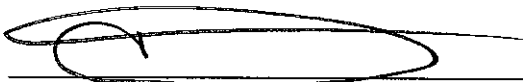
Mayor Howley presented the Council with a copy of a letter by the Soddy-Daisy Commission in opposition to Hamilton County's proposal to charge municipalities for the cost of re-appraisals in their communities. Following discussion, Mayor Howley made a motion to have the Council send a letter to the County Commission asking them to enter into an agreement so that the Town of Signal Mountain does not get charged the re-appraisal costs which is allowed by State law. Councilmember Speek seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

Mayor Howley informed the Council that Judge Rothburger had apprised him of the fact that he is retiring. Judge Rothburger has agreed to stay on until a replacement is found by the Council. Council suggested that Mayor Howley and Mr. Veal put together a list of candidates.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Chris J. Howley, Mayor



Recorder