

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a worksession on Friday, May 26, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.

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

Others present were: Town Manager Boyd Veal
Town Attorney Phillip Noblett
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.

Committee Update

Kyra Howell, Dunsinane Road, spoke to the Council as a member of the Centennial Celebration Committee (CCC). Ms. Howell presented 8 proposed logos to the Council to use to advertise the Centennial Celebration. After discussion, the Council agreed that all 8 logos were appropriate and do not infringe on the Town's logo and are therefore approved for use by the CCC and vendors interested in promoting the celebration.

Ms. Howell also presented the Council with a proposed web site layout. The Council agreed with the layout. Boyd Veal, Town Manager, requested the CCC keep himself or Carol White, Finance Director, informed as sponsors are secured. Ms. Howell agreed but said that the individual, who, as a volunteer, designed the web site is listed as a sponsor. She stated she thought it appropriate that any private business who volunteers work for the CCC be listed on the web site as a sponsor.

Discussion

Mr. Veal explained to the Council that where Carolina Avenue pavement stops the unimproved right-of-way continues. He said this is not an uncommon situation in the Town. He said that in 1984 the Town allowed a resident to put in a private drive in the unimproved right-of-way. He said that in 1985 the Town again granted permission to the next lot down for a private drive. Mr. Veal said that the parcel across the street from the lots with the private drives has recently been purchased and the new owner requested a building permit. Mr. Veal stated that the Town is now being asked to build a road to service those properties or share in the cost to build a road.

Susan Wilson, Carolina Avenue, said the residents don't own the right-of-way but have taken it upon themselves to make improvements. She asked if the Town would pave a road if the residents graded the right-of-way.

Mr. Veal said that when in 1984 and 1985 the residents were allowed to put in the private drives, it was just as driveways not as roadway. He again explained that the right-of-way is still there but the road has never been built. He explained that the Town's position is that this is not a road, that it was never a road, but it is a private driveway.

Councilmember Landrum asked where the sewer system was located. Mr. Veal replied that the sewer line runs down the right-of-way. When asked by Councilmember Spalding, Mr. Veal explained that there are approximately 13 properties with private driveways and even commercial access points that lie within unimproved right-of-ways. He said these properties are on located on Ohio, Georgia, Carolina, and Oak Street and many other areas all over the Town.

Mayor Howley explained that this request is not as simple as laying asphalt. He said a proper road base has to be laid before new asphalt is applied and then curbing has to be put in place. He said this is significantly expensive. Mayor Howley further explained that the Town has never built a road.

Mr. Veal explained that these lots are shown on a 1914 plat with a note that says the lots are recorded in 1913. He said this means the lots have existed longer than the Town.

Mr. Noblett explained that the right-of-way is still owned by the original developer, Mountain Land Company. Mr. Veal said the developers build the roads and once approved and accepted, the Town will perform the maintenance of the road. The Council asked that this matter be referred to the Planning Commission for their review.

Committee Update

Linda Kelly, James Boulevard, addressed the Council as a member of the Beautification Committee. She asked the Council to award certificates to homeowners for the "Yard of the Month". Mr. Veal replied that it was his understanding that the intent of the Council is that any recognition is to come from the Committee and not the Council and the Council concurred. Mr. Veal recommended the Committee establish protocols and vote on the nominees at regular monthly meetings.

Ms. Kelly suggested several improvements be made at Coolidge Park. Mayor Howley asked the Committee to design a new sign board. Ms. Kelly made several other suggestions and asked how people could make donations towards the beautification of the community. Mr. Veal informed her that the donations need to be to the Town and those donations will then be allocated for the designated purposes in the budget process.

Resolutions

1. "A 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 \$27.40 PER MONTH FOR INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES AND \$80.80 PER MONTH FOR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2018."

Mr. Veal noted this contract is for 1 1/2 years to move to the same cycle (January-December) as the State. He said while the rates vary from the prior contract, this represents an overall decrease.

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

Ordinances

1. "AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY CONTINUE THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018."

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

2. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NUMBERS 2016-06 AND 2017-01, ENTITLED THE "FY 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE," SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES IN THIS BUDGET YEAR."

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

3. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 5, CHAPTER 5, SECTION 5-503 OF THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE, TO SET THE RATES FOR USAGE OF THE TOWN SWIMMING POOL."

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

Discussion

The Council reviewed an application for the Planning Commission. They agreed to proceed and asked that a resolution be prepared for the next meeting.

Mayor Howley asked the Council to postpone the discussion regarding public private partnerships until Vice Mayor Gee could be present. All present agreed.

Councilmember Speek presented the Council with a list of questions received by the School System Viability Committee (SSVC) that had not yet been answered. She said this was because the SSVC felt these questions were outside the scope of the Committees investigations. Councilmember Speek asked the council members to review and answer as many of the questions as they could. After discussion, the Council agreed that each council member would answer the questions and send their answers to Mr. Veal. Mr. Veal and Mr. Noblett will then review the responses, combine them and provide the responses to the SSVC.

The Council discussed a resident request to revise the Town's general parking provisions. They agreed to use the Town's existing Ordinance and Mr. Veal will work with Loretta Hopper, Public Works Director and Mike Williams, Police Chief to see what can be done to address the issues raised by Mr. Olin.

The Council reviewed an upcoming Zoning Ordinance regarding livestock. The proposed action will amend the current Ordinance regarding the definition of private stables and the regulations regarding livestock in the residential estate district. Council agreed with the changes and the item will be placed on the next agenda for action.

Mayor Howley said that a resident has requested the Town consider building a community greenhouse utilizing plastic bottles. The Council determined the Town is not able to consider this proposal at this time.

Mr. Noblett reminded the Council that a new State law requires the Town to adopt a Public Records Policy prior to July 1, 2017. Mr. Veal said this item will be on the next agenda.

Mayor Howley inquired about the status of an abandoned vehicle. Mr. Veal replied that the vehicle had been moved out of the street and into the property owner's driveway. Mr. Veal said there is no need to implement additional regulations since the Town already has an Ordinance and regulations to handle this situation. He explained that the Town's staff is working with the property owner to resolve the issue.

Mr. Noblett left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Board Liaison Reports

Councilmember Speek said the Recreation Board has not met recently.

Councilmember Speek said the SSVC is working to answer all the questions received by the Committee and that a meeting has been set for the Committee to meet with school districts in Memphis. She said the SSVC has several meetings planned and that she will provide the Council with further updates at the next worksession.

Councilmember Spalding said the Design Review Committee has approved a pavilion on Shackelford Ridge Road for the Signal Mountain Bible Church.

Manager's Report

Mr. Veal informed the Council that the James Boulevard project is very close to startup. He said that TDOT has requested some minor changes.

Mr. Veal said the 4 water projects are now underway and that the first project has started on James Boulevard.

He said the Shoal Creek bridge project is moving forward. He said staff is getting temporary construction easements and temporary road easements.

Mr. Veal said that Ms. Hopper and staff are training to perform inspections on the sidewalk project. He said staff inspections will save the Town some money.

Mr. Veal said Jarred Thompson, Recreation Director, has completed renovations of the bathrooms at the pool. Mr. Veal said they look amazing.


Tentative Agenda

Council discussed a tentative agenda for the June 12, 2017 regular meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Dick Gee, Vice Mayor



Recorder