

\*\*\*\*\*June 12, 2017\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, June 12, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Those present were: Mayor Chris J. Howley  
Vice Mayor Dick Gee  
Councilmember Dan Landrum  
Councilmember Amy Speek

Also 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. Phil Noblett Veal, Town Attorney, gave the invocation.

Mayor Howley thanked the audience for their attendance. He also acknowledged the attendance of Kathy Lennon, Hamilton County Board of Education District 2 Representative, John Roberts, Mayor of the City of Red Bank, and Randall Smith, Red Bank City Manager.

### Minutes

The minutes for the April 27<sup>th</sup> worksession were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

The minutes for the April 28<sup>th</sup> worksession were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

The minutes for the May 5<sup>th</sup> worksession were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

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

### Red Bank Mayor, John Roberts

John Roberts, Mayor of the City of Red Bank, informed the Council that Red Bank is preparing for road construction at the intersection of Ashland Terrace and Dayton Boulevard. He said that the time frame for this construction has not yet been determined, but as a matter of courtesy he wanted to give Signal Mountain residents as much notice as possible. Randall Smith, Red Bank City Manager, provided additional information regarding the circumstances necessitating this

repair and provided the web address ([www.ashlandterraceproject.com](http://www.ashlandterraceproject.com)) which has been established to post updates for this project.

### **Beer Board**

The regular meeting was temporarily suspended for the Council to convene as the Beer Board.

The Council considered a request from Max's Restaurant for an on-site beer permit. Ms. Charla Filter, Co-Owner of Max's Restaurant said that while the restaurant is currently only open for breakfast through lunch, Monday through Saturday, they are considering serving in the evenings and maybe on Sundays.

Councilmember Landrum motioned to approve the on-site beer permit for Max's Restaurant. Councilmember Speek seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

The regular meeting was reconvened.

### **Citizen Comments**

Mayor Howley invited comments from the audience.

Renee Shoop, Kell Road, said that she has submitted questions to the School System Viability Committee (SSVC) through the web site and has not yet had an answer. Councilmember Speek explained that the SSVC is approximately half way through the process of answering the questions they have received. Ms. Shoop also asked if non-residents will be able to vote on the school question. Councilmember Landrum said that non-residents will not be able to vote if it becomes a referendum matter.

David Evans, James Boulevard, asked why the Planning Commission is discussing the issue of paving Carolina Avenue instead of the Council. Councilmember Landrum explained that State law requires concerns of this nature be reviewed by the Planning Commission who will then make a recommendation to the Council. Councilmember Landrum said that the Council will discuss and study the issue once it has received the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Mr. Evans said he did not like the fact that he was not able to address the Planning Commission since they do not take any audience comments.

Brendan Olin, Cherokee Lane, asked when the Council will discuss his concerns about parking regulations. Boyd Veal, Town Manager, explained that the Council had deliberated this matter at a recent worksession. Mr. Veal said that following discussion with Council and Phil Noblett, Town Attorney, all agreed to have staff review the current Ordinance to determine if changes are needed to address parking concerns.

Betsey Kates, Carolina Avenue, asked when the Town's annual paving projects will be going out for bid and when those projects will be done. Mayor Howley said the Request for Proposals (RFP) is already available and that paving is usually done in late summer.

Allison Bullock, Mourning Dove Lane, said that non-residents have not been engaged in the SSVC process and does not feel that areas of interest to non-residents have been addressed. Mayor Howley explained that once the SSVC has completed its study and presented its findings to the Council, there will be many meetings for the community at large to address concerns and to ask questions.

Elizabeth Baker, Carriage Hill, said there is a growing divide among residents over the school issue. She spoke in opposition to the Mayor sitting at the table with the SSVC members. Ms. Baker asked when questions submitted to the SSVC would be answered. Councilmember Speek said that it is a very long process, but that all questions will be answered. Ms. Baker expressed concern that the SSVC will be meeting in Memphis and that she and other interested parties will not be able to attend. Mayor Howley assured her that those meetings are open to the public and that any information obtained will be reported to the community.

Kevin Gree, Majestic Oaks,; Bill Gallagher, Carriage Hill; Jon Cook, E. Brow; and Ames Williams, S. Palisades Drive all spoke to the Council regarding their concerns over drainage problems at Driver Field. In addition, Mr. Williams said that Signal Mountain is the only community where girls and boys play on separate fields and that the girl's field is not as nice as the boys. Councilmember Landrum replied that the Town does not have a lot of flat land, but said that the girl's fields should be as good as the boy's.

Leslie Bell, Signal Road, spoke in opposition to a municipal school district.

Rebecca Miller, Whispering Pines Drive, asked why the SSVC had been formed and why citizens can't comment during those meetings. Mayor Howley explained that the Town had been approached by a group of citizens who felt that there is a better method of educating the children. He said the SSVC has been asked to find out the facts and to present them to Council. He said that if the Council feel there might be a reason to proceed, they will hold meetings for the public for input and questions. Mayor Howley said that if after those meetings the Town feels the right method would be a municipal school district, there will be a referendum.

Nathan Bell, Signal Road, expressed concern about people speeding and running stop signs. He asked the Town to see what can be done to address this issue. Vice Mayor Gee suggested the addition of a speed feedback sign.

Nancy Caldwell, Brady Point Road, suggested changing the yield sign to a stop sign at the intersection at James Boulevard and Signal Mountain Boulevard.

Hugh Bullock, Mourning Dove Lane, spoke in opposition to only Town residents having the opportunity to vote on the school issue. Vice Mayor Gee said that there have been no conclusions drawn at this point. He said the goal is to address as many concerns as possible and that the Council will not make any decisions until everyone has a chance to talk.

### Resolutions

1. "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MIKE RICHARDS TO THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN'S MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION."

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

2. "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY."

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

3. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR PLANNING STAFFING SERVICES IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$12,500.00) PER YEAR."

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

### Ordinance

1. "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."

Mr. Veal noted that there had been a clerical error on the attachment to this Ordinance. He explained that Item C. for each of the funds was for fiscal year 15-16 and should have been for fiscal year 16-17. He said the items had been corrected on the documents presented to the Council. Mr. Noblett expressed the opinion that the error was minor and would not hinder the Council from approving the Ordinance.

Councilmember Speek motioned to approve the second reading of the Ordinance. Vice Mayor Gee seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the Ordinance was approved on the second reading.

2. "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 second reading of the Ordinance. Councilmember Speek seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the Ordinance was approved on the second reading.

3. "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE III SECTION 303 OF THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF PRIVATE STABLES AND TO AMEND ARTICLE VI OF THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN ZONING ORDINANCE TO REVISE REGULATIONS FOR KEEPING LIVESTOCK IN THE RESIDENTIAL ESTATE DISTRICT."

Mr. Veal said the Planning Commission had recommended approval of this item.

Vice Mayor Gee motioned to approve the first reading of the Ordinance. Councilmember Landrum seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the Ordinance was approved on the first reading.

### Discussions

Mr. Veal said that he is working to update the information for the RFP for the water system. He said staff is updating information (inventory, assets, etc.) and he will soon perform his last review before sending the document to Mr. Noblett. Vice Mayor Gee reminded the audience that the Town is reacting to inquiries from Tennessee American Water and Walden Ridge Utility.

Councilmember Landrum said he would like to discuss in a worksession ways to include all residents in the municipal school system discussions. He suggested a second committee to study the reasons not to separate from the Hamilton County Department of Education (HCDE). Mayor Howley asked him to wait until the SSVC has had a change to complete their investigation and present their findings. Mayor Howley said that once the facts are available there can be an open discussion about forming a second group. Councilmember Speek said there could be more meaningful discussion at a worksession than the time at this meeting allows. Vice Mayor Gee said he is concerned that some people are not able to engage and do not feel they are being heard. Councilmember Landrum expressed concern about the Mayor sitting at the table with the SSVC members. Mayor Howley said he often substitutes for the Council liaison Councilmember Speek when she cannot be present. He said he will sit in the audience on those occasions when he is not attending on behalf of Councilmember Speek. Vice Mayor Gee expressed his belief that the real issue is the concern of non-residents having a say in the district. Council agreed to continue further discussion at the next worksession.

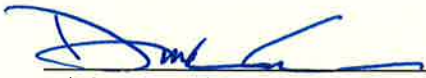
Vice Mayor Gee said the Town has an opportunity to review and revise its architectural standards before the 5 commercial buildings vacant at the stop light are sold. He asked Mr. Veal request the Design Review Committee (DRC) come up with a proposal for architectural standards for the Town. Vice Mayor Gee made a suggestion that the Chairperson of the DRC attend a worksession to get clarification as to the Councils concerns.

Mr. Veal informed the Council that the re-design has been completed on the fire station. He said the revised estimated construction cost is \$2,050,000.00. He said the project is ready to go out to bid if the Council agrees. The Council agreed to proceed with this revised design. Eric Mitchell,

Fire Chief, explained that based on the current tentative schedule the project will go out to bid on June 30<sup>th</sup> and that there will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>. He said that bids would be completed and received by the Town by August 1<sup>st</sup>. He said he anticipates having information for the Council at their August worksession.

Mr. Veal stated he is continuing to work on the RF for the water system and hopes to send it to Mr. Noblett in the next few weeks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



---

Dick Gee, Vice Mayor



---

Recorder