

*****August 14, 2017*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, August 14, 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 Robert Spalding
Councilmember Amy Speak

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. Stacey Seals, Fire Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Mayor Howley thanked Bill Wallace for his attendance. Phil Noblett, Town Attorney, reviewed the Rules of Decorum.

Minutes

The minutes for the June 23rd worksession were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

The minutes for the July 10th regular meeting were presented. There was one minor correction due to a typographical error which did not change the substance of the minutes. The minutes were approved with this correction.

Beer Board

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

The Council considered a request from Mr. Irfan Joseph owner of Hill Stop Mart. The request is for package resale only.

Councilmember Landrum motioned to approve the package resale beer permit for Hill Stop Mart. Councilmember Spalding 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.

Mike McCamish, Old Chestnut Ridge Road, informed those present that Hamilton County Department of Education (HCDE) will have a panel discussion regarding the Town of Signal Mountain's investigation into the potential of a municipal school district. Mr. McCamish said Dr. Johnson, the new HCDE Superintendent, will be in attendance along with Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger, legal counsel for both HCDE and Hamilton County, and Dr. Friedel, Chair, of the School System Viability Committee (SSVC).

Don Strickland, Whippoorwill Road, spoke in opposition to the Town having formed the SSVC. He questioned the costs for training and travel associated with this issue. Mr. Strickland said the SSVC is not looking at land or building costs. He asked who will determine which students will attend a municipal school.

David Evans, James Boulevard, spoke about the Town's Planning Commission meetings not being open to citizen comments. He expressed doubt and disbelief regarding the Town's estimates to build a road. He stated that he was able to obtain a construction quote considerably less than the Town's estimates, and also stated his belief that the Town has the equipment needed to pave Carolina Road themselves.

Betsy Kates, Carolina Avenue, spoke about other roads in similar situations to Carolina Road that she said are paved.

Bill Speek, Middle Creek Road, spoke in favor of the efforts and activities of the SSVC members.

Public Hearing – 2017 Tax Rate Increase

The regular meeting was temporarily suspended for the Council to convene a Public Hearing on the proposed Resolution to set the 2017 Tax Rate.

Mayor Howley invited comments from the audience.

Council held extensive discussions regarding the loss of Hall Tax revenue.

Don Strickland, Whippoorwill Road, asked questions regarding budget changes between budget versions, and the anticipated loss of Hall Tax for the next several years. Mr. Veal explained that the Town is budgeting a loss of \$125,000 for each annual 1% decrease in the Hall Tax. Finance Director, Carol White, explained that the funding differences between versions was staff implementing Council direction obtained during budget meetings.

Mayor Howley suggested a recap at the regular meeting of items discussed during the worksessions. Council agreed with the suggestion.

There being no further public comment, the meeting was resumed.

Public Hearing – FY 2017-2018 Budget

The regular meeting was again temporarily suspended for the Council to convene a Public Hearing on a proposed Ordinance to adopt the FY 2017-2018 Budget.

Mayor Howley invited comments from the audience.

Dun Monroe, Cherokee Lane, said that the Council has reviewed the budget line by line and item by item. He said he has every confidence that staff and the Council has been very thorough.

There being no further public comment, the meeting was resumed.

Ordinance

1. “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2018 HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS THE “FY 2017-2018 BUDGET ORDINANCE.”

Vice Mayor Gee motioned to approve the first reading of the Ordinance. Councilmember Spalding seconded the motion. The Ordinance was approved on the first reading with a vote of 4 in favor and Councilmember Landrum opposed.

Resolutions

1. “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PURCHASE PORTABLE DIGITAL RADIOS AND ACCESSORIES, TENNESSEE STATE BID NUMBER 418-45079 FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$15,000.00) DOLLARS TO BE USED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN.”

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

2. “A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ADELAIDE (BECKY) DAVENPORT/YOUNG AS A MEMBER OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN’S MOUNTAIN ARTS COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD.”

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

3. “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A “HOOK-LIFT” TRUCK SYSTEM FROM LEE SMITH, INC. FOR THE AMOUNT OF THREE HUNDRED NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY ONE DOLLARS (\$309,271.00)

FOR USE BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PURCHASE.”

Mr. Veal explained that staff has been working with the Council for over a year to purchase this equipment. He said that staff had anticipated that the budgeted and re-allocated funds already assigned to this purchase would secure 2 hook lift systems. He explained that bids had been higher than anticipated and exceeded the budget for 2 systems. Therefore, he said, Public Works Director, Loretta Hopper, is proposing to purchase 1 hook lift truck, 1 automated leaf machine, 2 dump beds and 1 brine system with available funds.

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

4. “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN JACK KRUESI AND THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN BONDING REQUIREMENTS AND PROVISIONS FOR THE DEDICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WILD RIDGE SUBDIVISION WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS.”

Councilmember Speeks addressed the need to accommodate additional traffic as a result of new housing.

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

5. “A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING EXISTING STREETS IN THE WILD RIDGE SUBDIVISION AS PUBLIC STREETS IN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN.”

Vice Mayor Gee motioned to approve the resolution. Councilmember Spalding seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and Councilmember Speek opposed.

6. “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE AVAILABILITY OF MATCHING FUNDS FOR AN APPLICATION TO THE 2017 TDOT CMAQ GRANT PROGRAM BY THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN.”

Mr. Veal said that this grant is for congestion mitigation and air quality improvement. He said the project is for a sidewalk from Rolling Way through the Town Hall complex with a signaled crosswalk at the highway. He explained that this action is not a contract and that the Council will still have to accept the grant if it is awarded.

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

Discussions

Mr. Veal reminded the Council that as the plans for the new Fire Station were drawn, reviewed and finalized, it became apparent that construction costs were going to be higher than originally anticipated. He said staff and the architect revised the plans to amend the anticipated construction cost to \$2.0 million. Mr. Veal said there were 5 bidders for the construction of the station, with the apparent low bid being \$2,698,000.00. He said that he, Fire Chief Eric Mitchell, the architect, and the president of the apparent low bid contracting firm have met and determined that there are some small deducts that can be achieved. He said that the Town will continue to work on the design to find any other savings that might be possible.

Mr. Veal explained that the projected construction and equipment costs for the fire station, including the truck will be approximately \$3.4 million. He asked the Council if they wish to proceed with the current construction plans, or do they wish to start over.

The Council discussed the long-term usability of the buildings. Mr. Veal replied that the current plans are expected to provide the needed fire department personnel and equipment in that area for the next 50 years. Council discussed efforts to form a cooperative agreement with Walden's Ridge regarding fire safety coverage.

Mayor Howley thanked Chief Mitchell for his efforts to obtain the nearly \$1.0 million SAFER grant which provides personnel funding over 3 years. Council discussed the timing of new personnel and the anticipated completion date of the new station. Chief Mitchell stated that he believes the personnel will have to be hired prior to the completion of the building. Mr. Veal said that the Town will ask to extend the hiring deadline.

Mr. Noblett reminded the Council that the Town had agreed to conduct a study of the need for emergency services in the proposed annexation properties and to provide those services found to be necessary. He said the study recommended this new fire station and the proposed location as needed for the safety and welfare of the residents in the annexed properties.

Mr. Veal explained that staff anticipates \$700,000.00 will be available from the current note. Combine that with the new \$3.0 million debt and the \$440,000 assigned for the station construction, and he believes there will be sufficient funds to build and equip the new fire station. Council agreed to continue the project based on the current plans. Mr. Veal stated that he wanted to have this discussion at this meeting so that the Council might consider authorizing a construction contract at the next work session.

The Council then discussed the need to make improvements to Shackelford Ridge Road, which led to a discussion about the need to respond to the residents requesting paving of Carolina Avenue. The Council agreed to send a letter to the residents stating that the Town will not provide a street as requested in the right-of-way on Carolina Avenue. However, the Council agreed to support efforts by the citizens to pave it, provided they give the Town a waiver against claims of damage to the surface.

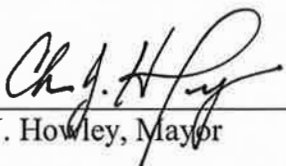
During discussions regarding the need for a sidewalk across from Nolan Elementary School. Mr. Veal said that the Town needs to look at how situations like this are done in other areas and that the Town should develop a plan on how to deal with these issues in the future.

When asked for an update, Mr. Veal said that work continues on the retention pond in the Danbury Subdivision. He informed the Council that a sewer service line had been cut near that location. He said that the Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA) has been notified and they are in the process of obtaining easements for the service line.


Council discussed the need to do something official regarding recording of meetings. They agreed to continue with the current practice and evaluate it at a later time. Councilmember Landrum stated that a 3 hour meeting takes about 5 hours of production time.

Mayor Howley said he is honored to be part of the current Council. He said the Council Members are very proactive and pursue ideas. He also complimented staff for the same reasons.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Chris J. Howley, Mayor



Recorder