

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE AMENDING TITLE 3, CHAPTER 1, TO CREATE A NEW SECTION 3-114 OF THE TOWN CODE RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF COLLECTION AGENCIES TO COLLECT MUNICIPAL FINES AND COSTS.

WHEREAS, T.C.A. 40-24-105(d) authorizes the Town to employ private collection agencies to collect municipal court fines and costs; and

WHEREAS, Town records indicate that a significant amount of fines and costs are currently unpaid and may provide additional revenue for the Town if they are collected; and

WHEREAS, T.C.A. 40-24-105(d) requires any municipality to adopt an authorizing ordinance before contracting with any collection agency to do so.

NOW, THEREFORE

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE, that Title 3, Chapter 1 is amended to include a new Section 3-114 of the Town Code which shall state as follows:

3-114. Collection Agencies. The Town of Signal Mountain is authorized to employ a collection agency to collect fines and costs assessed by the municipal court where the fines and costs have not been collected within sixty (60) days after they were due. Any fees of the collection agency shall be assessed as court costs in connection with the Town offense. Any such contract with a collection agency shall be in writing, and shall include a provision specifying that the collection agency may institute an action to collect fines and costs in a judicial proceeding when authorized by the Town Manager. The collection agency may

be paid an amount approved by the Town Manager which does not exceed any statutorily approved fees authorized by T.C.A. 40-24-105(d.)

SECTION 2. Date of Effect. This amendment shall be operative from and after final passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed 1st reading 11/9, 2009.

Passed 2nd reading 12/14, 2009.



MAYOR



RECORDER

12/14/09

DATE

12-14-09

DATE