

*****February 23, 2009*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Mayor Bill Lusk
 Vice-Mayor Susan Robertson
 Councilmember Annette Allen
 Councilmember Paul Hendricks
 Councilmember Hershel Dick

Also present were: Town Manager Honna Rogers
 Town Recorder Mark Johnson
 Town Attorney Phil Noblett

The agenda for the March 9th regular meeting was discussed as follows:

- The reappointment of Steve Jacoway to the Recreation Board.
- Transportation Committee appointments.
- Second reading of the fowl ordinance.
- Memorial ordinance amendment; standardization of markers used to commemorate trees and the related expense/responsibility.
- Approval of minutes, including those for the January strategic planning session.

State law requirements regarding the Planning Commission were discussed; the membership should represent the demographic makeup of the town.

Mayor Lusk asked that all minor punctuation and format corrections in the minutes be submitted to Mr. Johnson without being discussed during the public meeting.

The "Sunshine Laws" and how they relate to involvement of the press were discussed.

Frank Powell and Bob Franklin were present to discuss a proposal for development of the property behind Signal Crossing, which might include a grocery store. A preliminary map reflecting the proposed development was reviewed, and the effects on the surrounding properties and logistical considerations were discussed. It was agreed the proposal would require discussion in multiple public meetings before any formal request could be made.

Police Chief Boyd Veal was present and participated in a discussion of road closures. Requests had been submitted by various parties for road closures to facilitate events such as foot races, parades, etc. Ms. Rogers reviewed a formal recommendation by Chief Veal that addressed legal, timing, staffing, and permitting issues, etc. The provisions of the current ordinance governing this issue were discussed.

A request to amend the climbing ordinance that would allow recreational climbing on town and private property was discussed further. Ms. Rogers noted that MTAS, TML, and the police and fire departments all recommend against such an amendment citing safety, staffing, and liability issues. Vice Mayor Robertson moved to not rescind the ban on climbing. Councilmember Hendricks amended the motion to not rescind the ban until evidence can be presented that would alleviate staff concerns. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion, and the Council voted unanimously not to amend the climbing ordinance at this time.

Chuck Gearhiser, Stormwater Official, was present and participated in a discussion of stormwater penalties. Ms. Rogers noted she and Mr. Gearhiser attended an MTAS course recently regarding administrative civil penalties. The possibility of creating an administrative hearing board to govern disputes over fines was discussed. The Council agreed to allow Mr. Noblett to research this issue and amend the current ordinance for future consideration.

Ms. Rogers asked the Council if the Town should make a donation to the Lions' Club for the annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration. A donation was given in June 2008. The Council agreed to budget the donation, provided that the Club encourage the Town of Walden to contribute also.

Ms. Rogers gave an update on the stimulus package. She noted that out of the original eight projects submitted for funding requests, a resubmission of only three to five of the most important ones were allowed due to changes in funds availability.

Ms. Rogers updated the Council on the WWTa Lateral Program. An engineering firm had been chosen and the project seemed to be on schedule.

Councilmember Allen indicated that she would like to reestablish the Town's connection with, and discussion over, the TVA Consumer Connection Program for commercial development planning.

The Council discussed the status of the website update. Ms. Rogers said the Town contracted with someone to perform this work; however, the subcontractor hired by them went out of business. She said the content is essentially complete; it just needs to be designed and formatted.

Councilmember Hendricks agreed to be a liaison to the Design and Review Commission and speak with its members regarding revising the sign ordinance.

Ms. Rogers asked if the Council would approve of her attending the next ICMA conference in Montreal. The Council approved.

The Board ordinance was reviewed. The Council discussed term limits, service on multiple Boards, membership limitations, and voting power. It was agreed to continue

the discussion at the next agenda session, which was scheduled for March 30th at 12:00 p.m.

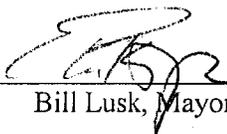
Chief Veal noted that on March 7th, at 6:00 p.m., a retirement dinner would be held for Officer Ken Stephens at the MACC.

Vice Mayor Robertson noted there would be an Arbor Day celebration at Nolan and Thrasher elementary schools on Friday, March 6th at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Recorder



Bill Lusk, Mayor