

*****September 11, 2017*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, September 11, 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. Town Manager, Boyd Veal, gave the invocation.

Minutes

The minutes for the August 4th worksession were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

The minutes for the August 14th regular meeting were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

Presentation

Eagle Scout, Ethan Fell, Cool Springs Road, brought the Council up-to-date on his Eagle project to build a walkway on Shackelford Ridge Road to Nolan Elementary. He explained that he has had difficulty contacting local contractors who might help with the project and thanked Town staff who have assisted him in those efforts. He said he expects the walkway to be completed by the 23rd or 24th if the funds are available. He stated that of an anticipated need of \$5,000 he has raised \$1,050.

Vice Mayor Gee suggested a Go-Fund-Me campaign. Ethan Fell asked the Council to consider providing some funding for this project. Mr. Veal explained that the majority of the walkway will be on private property. Mayor Howley asked that a discussion of this issue be placed on the next worksession agenda.

Councilmember Speak said that Ethan Fell is an outstanding student and is an example to others.

Citizen Comments

Mayor Howley invited comments from the audience.

Michael McCamish, Old Chestnut Ridge Road, spoke in opposition to the proposed Municipal School District since he does not believe the Hamilton County Department of Education (HCDE) will release the school buildings to the Town.

Kevin Menzel, Middle Creek Road, spoke in favor of studying the potential of a Municipal School District.

Elizabeth Baker, Carriage Hill, said she is opposed to the Mayor being seated in the meetings of the School System Viability Committee (SSVC). She said she believes the SSVC will provide a biased report.

John Friedl, North Palisades Drive, spoke to the Council as the Chair of the SSVC. He explained that Mr. Bennett, Attorney for HCDE, only provided the HCDE's view of transferring ownership of the school buildings to the Town when he spoke at a recent public meeting held by HCDE. Mr. Friedl also said that he takes his responsibilities as Chair of the SSVC seriously and will not allow any bias in the SSVC's final report. He assured the Council that the final report will state any obstacles along with any benefits in forming a Municipal School District.

Renee Shoop, Kell Road, asked the SSVC to include information from Signal Mountain teachers and school administrators in their findings.

Charlie Poss, Brady Point Road, asked how the SSVC can do a budget without knowing the cost of facilities.

Ray Laliberte, Pinehurst Lane, asked what problem the Town is trying to solve by studying a potential Municipal School District.

Rebecca Miller, Whispering Pines Drive, spoke in opposition to a Municipal School District. She said it is good that the investigation of a potential Municipal School District has gotten conversations started in the community and also gotten the attention of the HCDE, but said it appears that the current outlook does not fit the framework set forth in Tennessee law for creating a Municipal School District.

Marco Perez, Kentucky Avenue, spoke in opposition to a Municipal School District.

Resolutions

1. "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING OCTOBER 18, 2017, AS ARBOR DAY WITHIN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE."

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

2. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE TML RISK MANAGEMENT POOL "DRIVER SAFETY" MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM."

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

3. "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE AVAILABILITY OF MATCHING FUNDS FOR AN APPLICATION TO THE 2018 TDOT TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT PROGRAM BY THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN"

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

4. "AN INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INCURRENCE OF INDEBTEDNESS BY THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE BY THE EXECUTION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000,000, TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE TOWN, AND TO FUND THE INCIDENTAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES RELATED THERETO"

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

5. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOAN PURSUANT TO A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE, AND THE PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000,000; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF SUCH LOAN AGREEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO SAID LOAN; APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF A BOND BY SUCH PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE PROCEEDS OF SAID LOAN AND THE PAYMENT OF SUCH INDEBTEDNESS; CONSENTING TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE TOWN'S OBLIGATION UNDER SUCH LOAN AGREEMENT; AND, CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS"

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

6. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWELVE (12) ROUTERS, ANTENNAS AND COMPLIANCE SECURITY SOFTWARE FOR MOBILE TABLET COMPUTERS FROM SOURCE, INC. FOR THE AMOUNT OF TWELVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY-SIX DOLLARS AND 88/100 (\$12,996.88) FOR USE BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PURCHASE."

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

7. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWELVE (12) MOBILE TABLET COMPUTERS AND MOUNTING HARDWARE FROM MOBILE DEMAND FOR THE AMOUNT OF FORTY SEVEN THOUSAND SIXTY ONE DOLLARS AND 98/100 (\$47,061.98) FOR USE BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PURCHASE."

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

8. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PURCHASE ONE (1) PIERCE ENFORCER 1500 GPM PUMPER FROM PIERCE MANUFACTURING, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE AND 00/100 (\$551,439.00) DOLLARS TO BE USED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PURCHASE.

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

9. "A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE TOWN MANAGER AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO ESTABLISH THE ESTIMATED COST ASSOCIATED WITH EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOL FACILITIES LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN AND THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING LIKE FACILITIES IF NECESSARY."

Councilmember Landrum motioned to approve the resolution. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Council requested the proposal be placed on the next worksession agenda for discussion.

Other Business

Councilmember Spalding asked the status of the James Boulevard paving project. Public Works Director, Loretta Hopper, explained that the Town is still waiting for a response from the State.

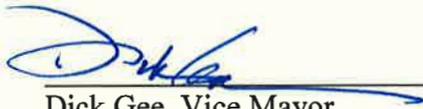
Mayor Howley spoke about the question of why the Town is looking at the possibility of a Municipal School District. He said that one reason he supports the SSVC study is because there is an unsustainable trend in steadily declining attendance at the High School and donations to Mountain Education Foundation (MEF) over the last 3 years. He said the HCDE is asking local residents to fund basic requirements. Otherwise, he said, it would be necessary that decisions be made as to which programs are cut.

He cited statistics from the Tennessee Department of Education (TDE) website, which includes a report card for school districts based on the TCAP test based on 12 categories. He noted that this

report card indicates that only in 1 category did Hamilton County have a score of 50% or greater of enrolled students testing at, or above, grade level.

He stated that in only 4 of the 12 categories do students at Signal Mountain High School test at, or above, 50%. He said this is the best High School in the HCDE area. He said he thinks the local teachers and administrators are great. He said the results of the SSVC study should help provide a better education for not only the local students but for all students in Hamilton County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Dick Gee, Vice Mayor



Recorder