

\*\*\*\*\*July 9, 2018\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, July 9, 2018, 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 Speek (left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.)

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, Town Attorney, gave the invocation.

Mayor Howley recognized audience members as well as Councilmember Dan Landrum who are candidates for the Signal Mountain Town Council. Mayor Howley also recognized Elizabeth Baker who is a candidate for County Commission District 2.

### Minutes

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

### Citizen Comments

Dun Monroe, Cherokee Lane, said the Town cannot make an informed decision on the water system until a financial analysis is performed of all the proposed options.

Brad Shumpert, Ridgerock Road, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

George Ross, Druid Drive, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Steve Kuhn, Louisiana Avenue, said there is insufficient data and a lack of transparency regarding the potential sale of the water system.

Mary Hutson, James Boulevard, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Jason Strength, Brady Point Road, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Don Strickland, Whippoorwill Drive, said the Council would violate the open meetings act if it voted at this meeting on the future of the water system. Mr. Strickland spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Bill Lusk, North Palisades Drive, spoke in opposition to selling the Town's water system. He said a 30-40% rate increase would be acceptable with residents.

Thomas Goggaus, Kentucky Avenue, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Daphne Kirske, Applewood Circle, spoke as a Tennessee American Water (TAW) employee. She reminded the Council that TAW has provided the Town's water for almost 100 years. She said TAW current rates are more than \$10.00 less than Walden's Ridge Utility District (WRUD). She said the Town has held 4 special meetings regarding the water system and that a presentation by Mr. Veal indicated a 25-55% increase would be needed if the Town keeps the system.

Andrew Romanek, Whispering Pines Drive, said deciding the future of the water system is not an easy task and that there are many factors to be considered. He said he trusts the Council to do their job and will respect whatever decision they make.

Kent Walker, Kentucky Avenue, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Melissa Cantrell, South Drive, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Claire Griesinger, Carriage Hill, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Lisa Crowder, Rock Crest Lane, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Chuck Pruett, Anderson Pike, Hamilton County, spoke in opposition to selling the water system to TAW.

Eugenia Alderdice, Carriage Hill, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Wendy Morgan, James Boulevard, presented a petition to do additional studies before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Anne Haygood, James Boulevard, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

Kurt Stafford, Stonecrop Lane, distributed copies of the Town's 2011 ARCADIS study of the water system.

Rick Saputa, Primrose Lane, asked how the proceeds from a sale of the water system would be distributed to the water system customers.

Jackie Benkert, Miles Road, spoke in favor of additional study before the Council makes any decisions on the future of the water system.

### **Budget Action**

Mr. Veal explained that since the Town is much further into the year than when the initial FY 2018-2019 budget process began, there are more current estimates as to the FY 2017-2018 ending cash and fund balances. He explained that the revised budget adoption ordinance also incorporates additional costs that were not in the original budget ordinance, including: repairs to the tennis courts, increased cost for playground equipment at Timberlinks, and an additional \$200,000 for MACC renovations. Council held extensive discussion regarding the estimating of year end fund balances.

### **Ordinance**

1. "AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY CONTINUE THE FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019."

Mayor Howley 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.

### **Public Hearing**

FY 2018-2019 Budget

Mayor Howley motioned to table the public hearing on the FY 2018-2019 budget. Councilmember Speek seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the public hearing was tabled.

### **Water System Action**

Phillip Noblett, Town Attorney, said the Town has held at least 4 public hearings on the subject of what action should be taken in regards to the water system.

Councilmember Landrum asked the Council to reconsider allowing citizens to make a presentation at a regularly scheduled Council meeting about appointing a committee to study the water system

options similar to the School System Viability Committee (SSVC). Council agreed to have the ad hoc citizens group make a presentation to the Council at the next regular meeting.

Vice Mayor Gee gave a brief history of the events leading to consideration of the options to: (1) outsource management, (2) sell, or to (3) maintain ownership of the Town's water system.

Councilmember Landrum made a motion to accept the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) offer to evaluate the viability of the Town's water system. Vice Mayor Gee seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

Mayor Howley made a motion to table action of items 8b, 8c, 8d, and 8e for further consideration. Councilmember Speek seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

### **Council Vacancy Action**

Council held extensive discussions regarding options available to fill the upcoming vacancy on the Council due to Vice Mayor Gee relocating outside of the Town limits.

Councilmember Landrum made a motion to seek applications to fill the vacant seat. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mayor Howley made a motion to appoint Don Close to the vacant Council seat when Vice Mayor Gee leaves on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Spalding seconded the motion. The motion failed with Mayor Howley and Councilmember Spalding in favor. Vice Mayor Gee, Councilmember Landrum, and Councilmember Speek opposed to the motion.

Councilmember Spalding made a motion to accept names of interested persons by their submitting an application. Councilmember Speek seconded the motion. The motion was amended to add a closing date for applications of August 3<sup>rd</sup>. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

Council agreed to submit their questions for candidates to Mr. Veal who will draft an application form.

### **Resolutions**

1. Mayor Howley made a motion to table item 10a –a Resolution Accepting Property Tax Payment Policy – Accepting Partial Payment on Delinquent Balances. Councilmember Speek seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.
2. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PURCHASE ONE (1) HOOK-LIFT HOIST SYSTEM TRUCK, FROM LEE SMITH, INC., CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND AND THIRTY DOLLARS (\$181,030.00) TO BE USED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE."

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

Councilmember Speek left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

3. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PURCHASE ONE (1) AUTOMATED LEAF MACHINE, FROM LEE SMITH, INC., CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND FORTY DOLLARS (\$83,740.00) TO BE USED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE."

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

4. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE TML RISK MANAGEMENT POOL "SAFETY PARTNERS" LOSS CONTROLS MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM WHICH SHALL BE AWARDED IN AUGUST OF 2018."

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

### Discussion

Councilmember Landrum said there have been 34,842 volunteer hours donated to MACC projects. He said the Signal Mountain Education Preservation Fund has set up a Facebook page.

Councilmember Spalding asked about the resolution to allow the Centennial Celebration Committee (CCC) to have funds donated through the Community Foundation. Mr. Veal said he will have the resolution for the next worksession.

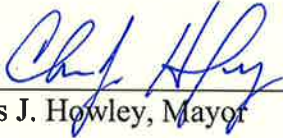
Mayor Howley said that Signal Mountain was rated by the on-line safety resource "Safewise" as the 3<sup>rd</sup> safest town in Tennessee.

Mayor Howley said that the Small Cities Coalition has asked to have 2 representatives do a presentation at the August worksession.

**Other Business**

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris J. Howley, Mayor



\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder