

\*\*\*\*\*MARCH 12, 2001\*\*\*\*\*

The Town Council of the Town of Signal Mountain held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 12, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Mayor James H. Althaus  
 Vice-Mayor Robert E. Steel, Jr.  
 Councilmember Rachel Bryant  
 Councilmember Stephen Ruffin  
 Councilmember William C. Steele, Jr.

Also present were:

Town Manager Hershel Dick  
 Town Recorder Diana Campbell  
 Town Attorney Joe Wagner  
 See list at end of minutes for additional people

The Mayor called the meeting to order and Billy Steele offered the prayer. The Recorder called the roll.

Vice-Mayor Steel made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2001, regular monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruffin and passed unanimously.

During the citizens' opportunity to address the Council, Mrs. Bobbie Hawkins, 619 Timberlinks Drive, addressed the Council. She stated that she and her husband had been cheated out of \$3,000. She further stated that when the Timberlinks Drive project was started, the Town Attorney, Joe Wagner, contacted her about taking part of her front yard for the road. She explained that she had an appraisal two months previous for \$75,000 and then when the Town's appraiser made the appraisal, it was only \$72,000. She stated the Town had paid to her mortgage company \$1,400 for the property. An additional item she noted was the water meter at her house had not been read for two years because it was buried under dirt. She stated that she has paid her water bills in the two years. She asked what the Council thought about her situation.

The Mayor responded by stating that he could not comment on the situation publicly because she had threatened to sue the Town in discussion with the Mayor and in discussions with the Town Manager. He explained that, if there was pending legal action, it would be inappropriate to discuss the case in an open meeting with the press present. He explained that Mr. Wagner has stated that since Mrs. Hawkins had turned him over to the State Ethics Committee, which threw the case out, he is recusing himself, and the case will be handled by the Town's advisory attorney, Phil Noblett. Mrs. Hawkins stated that she could not sue the Town. Mayor Althaus offered to meet with Mrs. Hawkins and the Town Manager to discuss her situation.

Mrs. Lou Oliphant addressed the Council representing the Signal Mountain Community Guild. They would like something done to clean up downed trees and dead brush on the way up the mountain.

Mr. Sam Powell informed the Council that he had applied for a grant to build bridges across Green Gorge and Rainbow Lake. His application was successful, and he was able to pick up a check from the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation for \$2,500.

Mrs. Lou Oliphant, Secretary of the Planning Commission, noted that minutes of the Planning Commission meeting were included in the packet to the Council.

Town Manager Hershel Dick requested approval of Mr. Terry McElveen to the Recreation Advisory Board. Councilmember Billy Steele made a motion to approve the appointment. Councilmember Bryant seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Althaus noted that the meeting with the Recreation Advisory Board that was scheduled for March 14 would be postponed. A meeting will be scheduled for another date.

The Town Manager introduced Mr. Sean Caskie who was representing Signal One. He explained that he is the Vice-President of Business Development for Signal One. He pointed out a report was included in the packet to the Council covering details of their proposal to put a tower at the Town's transfer station.

During the discussion that followed, it was noted that the Town's ordinances require the existing towers be utilized first. The rent of \$500 a month offered the Town in the proposal was inadequate. The towers would be 180 feet tall and need to be in the middle of four acres of land. The Mayor stated he would not want another tower. Councilmember Steele noted he would not approve the location. Councilmembers Bryant and Ruffin both noted they would not be in favor of a tower. Other locations were suggested to Mr. Caskie, and he said he would get in touch with the Town Manager and explore those other locations.

Councilmember Ruffin noted the Town's flag looked a little faded and wanted the Town to get another flag. The Mayor said he would write a letter to Zack Wamp to request a flag..

Vice-Mayor Steel noted there was a fire in February covered by Walden's Ridge Emergency Service, but the Town's Fire Department provided help in fighting the fire.

Town Attorney Joe Wagner presented an ordinance "Amendments to Title 14, Chapter 1, Municipal Planning Commission, Sections 14-103, 14-105, 14-109, and 14-110; Providing for Election of a Vice-Chairman; Six Members of the Planning Commission Shall Constitute a Quorum; Changing T.C.A. Code Section Reference from 13-4-701 et seq. to 13-4-201, and Removing Requirement that Planning Commission Report to Signal Mountain Town Council. Mr. Wagner explained the changes. Councilmember Steele made a motion to approve the amendment. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Steel and was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

  
Recorder

  
Mayor

Others present:

Sean Caskie  
Bobbie Hawkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shartle  
Lou Oliphant  
Jean Dolan

Laure Martin  
Greg Goodgame  
Sam Powell  
John Kinard