

*****August 10, 2026*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a regular meeting on Monday, August 10, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Those present were:

- Mayor Elizabeth Baker
- Vice Mayor Clay Crumbliss
- Councilmember Andrew Gardner
- Councilmember Charles Poss
- Councilmember Miles Jorgensen

Also present were:

- Town Manager Matthew Justice
- Finance Director John Harr
- Town Attorney Harry Cash
- See attached list for others present

Mayor Baker led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was observed.

Roll Call

All Councilmembers were present.

Minutes

1) July 13, 2026

Vice Mayor Crumbliss made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 meeting with a correction to reflect that Vice Mayor Crumbliss, rather than Mayor Baker, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Poss seconded the motion. Councilmember Jorgensen abstained. The remaining four councilmembers being in favor, the motion passed.

2) July 27, 2026

Councilmember Jorgensen made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2026 meeting. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion. Councilmember Gardner abstained. The remaining four councilmembers being in favor, the motion passed.

Citizens' Opportunity to Address Council

Mayor Baker asked if anyone present wished to address Council. There were no requests to address Council.

Resolutions

R2026-38 “A TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN ANIMAL SHELTERING AND ANIMAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HUMANE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY”

Councilmember Jorgensen made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Poss seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

R2026-41 “A TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING UP TO 15 UNPAID INTERNSHIP POSITIONS AND DELEGATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TO THE TOWN MANAGER”

Councilmember Jorgensen made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Poss seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

R2026-42 “A TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A \$32,000 WATER FUND PAYMENT IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026”

Vice Mayor Crumbliss made a motion to approve the resolution. Mayor Baker seconded the motion. Town Manager Justice explained that the annual payment is made from the Water Utility enterprise fund to the Town's General Fund in lieu of ad valorem taxes. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

Public Hearing Regarding FY 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance

There were no requests to address Council regarding the FY 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance.

Ordinances

O2026-18 “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, HEREIN KNOWN AS THE FY 2026-2027 BUDGET ORDINANCE” – Second Reading

Councilmember Jorgensen made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Councilmember Poss seconded the motion. Mayor Baker and Vice Mayor Crumbliss noted that the budget does not include a property tax increase, includes employee pay increases, and provides for investments including paving projects and improvements at Althaus Park. They thanked the Town Manager, Finance Director, department heads, and staff for their work on the budget. All present being in favor, the motion passed on second reading.

Discussion

1) TDOT Land Acquisition

Mayor Baker reported that TDOT requested an additional portion of Town-owned Tract 55 following geotechnical work associated with the state stormwater improvement project. Vice Mayor Crumbliss made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the transfer of Tract 55S, approximately 0.3 acres, to the Tennessee Department of Transportation for \$2,955.00. Councilmember Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Council discussed the valuation and the state appraisal process. Town Manager Justice noted that the property is steep, undevelopable terrain and that the acquisition is important to the road stabilization project. All present being in favor, the motion passed.

2) Solicitation Permit Processes

Council discussed recent complaints regarding aggressive door-to-door solicitation and whether the Town's current permit process, fee, duration, and enforcement provisions should be revised. Discussion included possible changes to permit duration and fees, a surety bond or similar requirement, a resident do-not-solicit list, permitted solicitation hours, and distinctions between commercial solicitors and exempt activities.

Council also discussed the possibility of a young entrepreneur program for Town residents and whether commercial permit revenue could lawfully support such a program. Town Manager Justice stated that staff would review the ordinance, applicable legal requirements, possible revisions, and examples for further Council consideration. Council reached consensus that the solicitation permit program should be revisited.

3) Communications and Reports from the Mayor/Council

Vice Mayor Crumbliss raised a resident concern regarding pool accessibility for seniors and others with mobility limitations. Council discussed removable steps, ramps, and other possible options. Town Manager Justice agreed to research available solutions for consideration before the next pool season.

Mayor Baker raised a safety concern regarding softballs traveling from the softball fields toward adjacent areas, including the pickleball courts. Council discussed protective netting or other solutions, and Town Manager Justice agreed to look into options.

Mayor Baker discussed violations of the Town's political sign regulations observed during the recent election and proposed providing candidates and political parties with written notice

of the Town’s sign requirements before the November election. Council reached consensus to provide the notice. Town Manager Justice was asked to determine whether a fine is available for violations of the sign ordinance.

4) Manager’s Report

Town Manager Justice thanked Town employees for their work during the 127 Yard Sale and noted Police Department signage used to encourage motorists to slow down and remain alert. He reported that the MACC hosted a heavily attended vendor event during the yard sale weekend and thanked staff, including Public Works, for preparing and maintaining the facility.

5) Reports from Boards and Commissions

Mayor Baker reported on the Parks and Recreation Board meeting. She stated that the Board is considering another movie series and noted opportunities for collaboration with Community Development.

Councilmember Poss reported that the Planning Commission continues its review of the subdivision regulations. Discussion included whether the Town should retain both conventional and conservation subdivision options and possible revisions to the definition and calculation of conservation land, including treatment of retention ponds and other required or developed areas. Council noted that subdivision regulations are adopted by the Planning Commission, although Council may provide recommendations.

The Mayor announced the next meeting to be Monday, August 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

With no further business, Councilmember Jorgensen made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Poss seconded the motion. With all present in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Elizabeth Baker, Mayor

John Harr, Recorder

Date

Date