

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on April 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm in the City Hall building with the following present:

Town Manager: Chad Simons

Attorney: Mack Cowan

Assistant Clerk: P. J. Siler

WKRR: Tim Radford

Mayor: Rick Ramsey

Council: Barry McClure

Karen Watson Gail Stansell

Barbara Hughes Noland Smith

Public Comment

Gary Chamberlain thanked the Town Council for their support in the anti-litter campaign.

Barbara Hughes updated the Council on the public library.

Excused Council Member

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by McClure to excuse Frank Dickey from the meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by McClure to approve the March 2, 2018 special meeting minutes and the March 5, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Water and Sewer Releases

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the water and sewer adjustments of \$988.43. **Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Tax Releases

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the release of \$.33 in interest not due for Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems. **Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Zoning Ordinance Amendment regulating sidewalk vendors in GB

Mayor Rick Ramsey stated that he did speak with the Arts Council regarding the proposed zoning amendment.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Stansell to approve of the zoning ordinance amendment as presented. **Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Resolution - Public Hearing on amendment to Town charter

Barry McClure stated that Murphy was one of only eight towns, out of 533, that have partisan elections. McClure also stated that the Town has more registered independent voters than any other affiliation, and

added that the Town would not have had to spend \$11,000 on a primary election if the Town had non partisan elections.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the resolution setting a public hearing on amending the Town Charter to establishing non-partisan elections. **Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Resolution on Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance

Town Attorney Mack Cowan explained which properties wanted to be rezoned, and he also stated that the Town's Board of Adjustment recommended the rezoning request for Mr. Noland Smith's properties and Mr. Bill Forsyth's property.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell, to approve the resolution setting a public hearing on the amendment to the zoning ordinance on May 7, 2018. **Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0. Noland Smith recused himself from voting.**

Spring Festival - Street Closure

Wayne Peacock asked the Board if they would approve their street closure request for Tennessee Street for the Murphy Business Association's Spring Festival, scheduled for May 5, 2018. Town Manager Chad Simons told the Council that the Fire Chief was fine with the closure since the Farmer's Market has relocated, leaving Railroad and Depot Streets open for access to Joe Brown Highway. Mr. Simons also said that the Police Chief was fine with the street being closed as well, and recommended for the street to be closed from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the event.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Smith to approve of the Murphy Business Association's request to close Tennessee Street from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, 2018 for the Spring Festival. **Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Speed Limit Ordinance - SR 1556

Town Attorney explained that the state initiated this request for the speed limit change, although it looks like the Town is doing so. Mr. Cowan told the Board that the speed limit would change from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour for about a quarter of a mile on Martins Creek Road. Town Manager Chad Simons told the Council that the state was requesting the change for signage conformity.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson to adopt the ordinance to establish the speed limit change for a section of State Road 1556 in the Town of Murphy. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Budget Amendment - Police Vehicle

Town Manager Chad Simons requested \$11,000 increase in the miscellaneous revenue appropriation and to appropriate \$21,300 in fund balance to purchase a new patrol vehicle, after one patrol vehicle was totaled in an accident in March.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson to approve the budget amendment as presented. **Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Hiwassee Valley Recreation Foundation request for funding

Dr. Brian Mitchell and Ralph Robinson, manager of the Hiwassee Valley Recreation Center, presented

their request for funding.

The Town Council asked questions about their advertising, operations, and membership. Town Manager Chad Simons briefed the Council about the budgetary process, and also added that the Town needed to reduce spending going into the new fiscal year. Town Manager Chad Simons asked Dr. Mitchell how much they were requesting, and if they were expecting funding annually. Dr. Mitchell replied that they were asking for a permanent subsidy of \$45,000 to cover operational expenses.

Mayor Rick Ramsey and Karen Watson stated that they would consider the request during the budget process.

Monthly Reports

Noland Smith asked Town Manager Chad Simons about unaccounted for water. Town Manager Chad Simons said that rural water also assessed the numbers, and came up with a similar percentage. Mr. Simons explained that it could be unmetered lines and leaks, but was likely due to aging water lines.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Watson to approve the monthly reports. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

CDGB Complaint Procedure and Survey

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to adopt the housing complaint procedure and survey. **Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Clerk

Town Manager Chad Simons told the Council that Mr. Joseph Almond would begin his service as a volunteer firefighter on April 3, 2018.

Adjourn

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. **Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey

