

**The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on December 3, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall building with the following present:**

**Town Manager:** Chad Simons  
**Attorney:** Mack Cowan

**Mayor:** Rick Ramsey  
**Council:** Barry McClure Frank Dickey  
Karen Watson Gail Stansell  
Barbara Hughes Noland Smith

**WKRR:** Tim Radford  
**Cherokee Scout** - Kelsey Richardson

Mayor Ramsey opened the meeting by complimenting the volunteers that organized the Christmas Parade and tree lighting ceremony.

### **Public Comment**

No person spoke during the public comment period.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Smith to approve the November 5, 2018 regular meeting minutes and the November 27, 2018 special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Water and Sewer & Tax Releases & Refunds**

Town Manager Chad Simons explained that the true adjustment for water and sewer this month totaled \$749.37, but due to a billing error the Council would need to approve a \$13,311.31 adjustment.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson to approve the water and sewer adjustments of \$13,311.31 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Presentation of 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Audit and Approval of 2019 Audit Contract**

Holly Turner presented the Town's 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Audit. Ms. Turner stated that the Town had a clean audit. Ms. Turner informed the Council that the Town experienced a loss in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, and stressed that the Town needed to constantly monitor their fund balance.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Hughes to adopt the 2018-2019 fiscal year audit contract. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **System Development Fee Ordinance**

Noland Smith asked Frank Dickey about his thoughts on how the proposed fees impacted the building business. Mr. Frank Dickey said people complain when they have to pay them. Town Manager Chad Simons said the Council will continue to have the ability to waive system

development fees for economic development purposes. Karen Watson and Mayor Ramsey stressed that the ability to waive the fees in certain situations is important.

Mrs. Watson asked how much capacity the water plant had. Town Manager Chad Simons said the plant was at fifty percent capacity.

Karen Watson asked Town Manager Chad Simons if he had received complaints regarding the fees. Mr. Simons stated he had not directly, but believed Mayor Ramsey had. Mayor Ramsey said he had received complaints from a few people in the community, but believed the ability to waive fees gave the Council the ability to encourage economic development.

Frank Dickey said there were developments pending before the recession that could have put the Town into an immediate need to expand the water and sewer plants. Town Manager Chad Simons said the proposed fees were much less than what the Town could charge, according to the study.

**Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Stansell to adopt the System Development Fee Ordinance as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Amendment to Depot Rental Agreement Form**

Town Manager Chad Simons stated that the amendment would allow, with explicit written permission from the Mayor and/or Town Manager in the Mayor's absence, for Depot renters to consume/possess alcohol within the Depot building.

**Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Hughes to approve the amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the amendment is attached.**

#### **Directional Signs for Murphy Riverwalk - Heritage Partners**

Sara Posey - Secretary of Heritage Partners Board - Ms. Posey explained that Heritage Partners was attempting to install directional signs to the Murphy River Walk. Ms. Posey requested permission to install signs off of Depot Street and Thomas Street.

Mayor Ramsey asked for a description of the sign. Ms. Posey said she could easily bring back a description of the sign in the coming weeks. David Vanderlaan would be the person designing the signs, Ms. Posey said.

Noland Smith also said they should think about getting up with NCDOT to install signs off the four-lane. Gail Stansell also said mileage signs on the trail should be looked into. Ms. Posey responded that they would look into each recommendation.

Ms. Posey added that Heritage Partners was attempting to respond to numerous complaints and inquiries regarding the location of the River Walk. Ms. Posey said the signs should help with this effort.

**Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Watson to approve the request to install directional signs for the Murphy River Walk on Thomas and Depot Streets by Heritage Partners. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Reappointment of Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Members**

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson to reappoint Chairperson Carl Auvil, John Fowler and Noland Smith to the Planning Board/Board of Adjustment for another three (3) year term: to run from December 3, 2018 through December 3, 2021. Vote: 5 to 0. Noland Smith abstained from voting.**

**Amendment to Town of Murphy Drug and Alcohol Policy**

Town Manager Chad Simons presented an amendment to the Drug and Alcohol Policy that would make the Town compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Stansell to approve the amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Monthly Reports**

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith to approve the monthly reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Adjourn**

**Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Mayor

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Clerk