

**The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on June 4, 2018 at 5:00 pm 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 -**

Mayor Rick Ramsey congratulated the Murphy High School baseball and girls track teams for winning state titles, and also thanked the Town of Murphy water and sewer team for working so hard during periods of heavy flooding. Mayor Ramsey also explained to the public about the public comment ordinance, telling people that they must sign up by noon the day of the meeting to speak during the period. Mayor Ramsey said this is a law, not a policy, and stated that it helps to keep meetings orderly. Mayor Ramsey left copies of the ordinance for the public to view at the entrance table.

### **Public Hearing: 2018-2019 Town of Murphy Fiscal Year Budget**

Mayor Ramsey opened the public hearing at 5:05 p.m.

No person spoke during the public hearing.

**Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Hughes to close the public hearing at 5:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Public Comment**

Gary Chamberlain spoke about the Town adopting a proposed anti-litter proclamation in the future, and thanked the Town for their continued efforts in fighting litter throughout Cherokee County.

### **Approval of minutes**

Frank Dickey asked if the Town had voted on organizing a July 4th parade at the May meeting. Mayor Ramsey and Town Manager Chad Simons said no.

**Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Hughes to approve the May 7, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Water & Sewer & Tax releases & Refunds**

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the water and sewer releases of \$1,248.59. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Town Charter Amendment - Amendment to change Town Elections to Non-Partisan**

Frank Dickey told the Council that he was voting in favor of the measure because he did not think it was fair for independents to have to jump through so many hoops to run for office, and he felt like the current system was archaic and unfair.

Barry McClure said that he agrees with Dickey's comments, saying that it was time for the Town to take this next step.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the amendment to change town elections to non-partisan. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the amendment is attached.**

### **Town Budget - Vote on 2018-2019 FY Budget**

Mayor Ramsey thanked town staff for their hard work on the budget. Barry McClure said he appreciated the conservatism of the budget, and the transparency.

Frank Dickey informed the Board that he wanted to support the Hiwassee Wellness Center Foundation by appropriating \$12,000 to their cause. Town Manager Chad Simons stated that the Council could consider a budget amendment at next month's meeting.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith to approve the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Eddie Sylvester - Piney Knob Bike Trails Update**

The update is postponed.

### **Budget Amendments - Town Finance Officer Chad Simons**

Town Finance Officer Chad Simons presented budget amendments to close out the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Mr. Simons informed the Council that the police salaries line-item adjustment was due because proper adjustments were not made from the previous fiscal year. Mr. Simons also said holiday pay was not accounted for properly, and overtime expenses increased by about \$10,000 from last year. Mr. Simons also said the Council provided a cost of living increase of three percent for the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget. Mr. Simons told the Council that they would create an overtime line item in next year's budget to track it closely.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson to approve the budget amendments as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the amendments are attached.**

### **Murphy Business Association - Spring Festival Report and Request for Amendments to Ordinance(s) regulating alcohol.**

Wayne Peacock briefed the Town Council on the Spring Festival, including a survey of

respondents. Mr. Peacock said the majority of vendors and businesses responded favorably to the event. Mr. Peacock said parking was an issue with some businesses and visitors. Mr. Peacock said they will try to work out the parking issues for next year's festival.

Mr. Peacock submitted a proposal for the Town Council to consider regarding alcohol regulations for special events, and the brunch bill. Mr. Peacock asked the Council to consider adopting the brunch bill ordinance, which allows towns to decide on Sunday alcohol sales beginning at 10 a.m. Mr. Peacock also asked the Council to amend the current ordinances that limit where people can consume alcohol during special events, saying they were only able to have a beer garden because of a vacant private lot. Mr. Peacock said some of the proposals would allow alcohol on sidewalks, and on streets during special events.

Frank Dickey said the Town could not override state law, which has an open container law prohibiting alcohol sales on public roads, sidewalks and all parking lots.

Larry Simonds of Stickler Law Firm advised the Board about what the City of Belmont was able to do, which allows for alcohol sales on streets and sidewalks during special events.

Frank Dickey stated that the Town could not usurp state law. Mr. Dickey also said the Council should adopt the brunch bill, and look at changing the ordinances on noise. Mr. Dickey said they could look at allowing alcohol sales for events and festivals on Town owned property. Mr. Dickey said they had to keep it legal.

Mr. Dickey also said he had many people upset about the festival, and one business owner in particular was upset that the festival killed his businesses when visitors took all of his private parking spaces. Mr. Dickey also said one of his neighbors, who is handicapped, had trouble with the street closures. Mr. Dickey said the Town needed a stronger police presence at some of the detours, and believed big problems would have emerged if large trucks tried to come through downtown during the event. Mr. Dickey stated having open alcohol on the streets of Murphy on a regular basis would not be good for Murphy. Mr. Dickey also said the Murphy Business Association did a good job overall with organizing the event.

Noland Smith said the only complaint he got was that people couldn't leave the beer garden to listen to the music. Mr. Peacock said some of the breweries were upset about their location.

Mr. Smith said Hayesville owns the courthouse square, and said they simply follow state laws; they don't have local ordinances regulating alcohol. Mr. Smith asked if they could do that, and if he needed to make a motion to allow that to happen. Town Attorney Mack Cowan said he was not sure, and that he would look into it.

Mayor Ramsey said the Council needed to take the requests under consideration after the Town Attorney reviewed each one. Mayor Ramsey said there was no reason to rush. Mayor Ramsey said the festival was great.

### **Murphy Housing Authority: Collections loss/write off of uncollected debts**

Lea Scroggs - Ms. Scroggs asked for permission to write off \$3528.23.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve of the loss/write off of uncollected debts of \$3,528.23. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Murphy Housing Authority: 6/30/18 Budget Adjustment**

Lea Scroggs - Ms. Scroggs said she had more income than she anticipated.

**Frank Dickey made a motion to approve of the adjustment, seconded by Watson. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Murphy Housing Authority: 6/30/19 Fiscal Year Budget Adoption**

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the Murphy Housing Authority's 2018-2019 FY Budget Adoption. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the budget is attached.**

**Murphy Housing Authority - 5 year plan update for capital funds**

Lea Scroggs - Ms. Scroggs asked for approval of a five year plan update for capital funds.

**Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Stansell to approve the Five (5) year plan update for capital funds. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the plan is attached.**

**Murphy Housing Authority - Checking Account for HRA**

Lea Scroggs asked permission to open a checking account for an HRA fund. Ms. Scroggs stated that with the Town changing to a new benefits plan, they wanted their plan to be similar for their employees.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson to allow Murphy Housing Authority to set up a checking account for the purposes of establishing and utilizing an HRA fund. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Monthly Reports**

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

**Clerk**

Frank Dickey requested for Town Manager Chad Simons to have David Vowell come before the Council once again regarding their use of Town funds. Mr. Simons responded that he would contact Mr. Vowell in the next few weeks to make that happen.

**Adjourn**

**Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.  
Motion carried unanimously.**