

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on February 4, 2019 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 was present
Cherokee Scout - Matt Osborne

Mayor Ramsey led the Town with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No person spoke during the public comment period.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Hughes to approve the January 7, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Water and Sewer & Tax Releases & Refunds

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the water and sewer adjustments of \$1,951.84 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Restoration of Harshaw Chapel Funding Request - Rev. Will Posey

Town Manager Chad Simons informed the Council that Mr. Posey called and requested to be on next month's agenda. Mr. Simons did say that he asked Town Attorney Mack Cowan to research whether or not any conflict of interests needed to be considered before the Council entertained any potential funding request.

Town Attorney Mack Cowan explained that there would not be any conflict of interest with council members voting on a future funding request for Harshaw Chapel, unless they personally benefitted. Mr. Frank Dickey asked about First Amendment violations. Town Attorney Mack Cowan said he needed to look into that further before making a recommendation.

Mayor Ramsey said they would allow Mack Cowan time to research any potential issues, and take it under consideration at next month's regularly scheduled meeting.

Murphy Electric Power Board Reappointment Request

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith to reappoint Mr. Hayden Rogers to another three (3) term to the Murphy Electric Power Board; term will run from Feb. 4, 2019 - Feb. 4, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Spring Festival Planning Update - Murphy Business Association

Wayne Peacock - Murphy Business Association - Mr. Peacock informed the Council that the Business Association recently met with Murphy Fire and Police Chiefs, as well as Cherokee County Emergency Services leaders last week to discuss their plans for the Spring Festival. Mr. Peacock said the event would not begin until noon, as recommended by Murphy Police Chief Justin Jacobs. Mr. Peacock said they are requesting to close down the street from Tennessee Street intersection to Depot Street, the same as last year. Mr. Peacock also said the rain date would be May 5.

Mr. Peacock said they would be talking with residents, vendors and businesses that complained last year, in order to get out in front of those before the event.

Town Manager Chad Simons said he requested for the Business Association to be on the agenda this month to discuss their plans, so the Council could ask any questions and address any concerns before they voted on the street closure in March.

Mayor Ramsey complimented the Murphy Business Association on their success last year, and thanked them for planning ahead.

NCDOT Sidewalk Agreement

Town Manager Chad Simons said one of the benefits of the upcoming U.S. 64 Highway widening project is the opportunity for the Town to get a sidewalk on the main business side of the highway. Mr. Simons said Town Attorney Mack Cowan expressed some reservations about some of the language regarding right-of-way- acquisition. Mr. Simons said he reached out to Wesley Jamison, project manager at NCDOT, to see if that could be removed or tweaked from the agreement. Mr. Simons said the NCDOT could not remove the language, as it was a standard part of any sidewalk improvements agreement. Mr. Simons said that Mr. Jamison assured him that if the NCDOT couldn't secure adequate right-of-way, then the sidewalk would not be constructed. Mr. Simons said the Town could pay for their portion with Powell Bill monies. The estimated construction costs were \$24,800.

Mayor Ramsey said he had conversations with NCDOT District Engineer Brian Burch regarding the project recently, and was informed that they were still shooting for a July start date. Mayor Ramsey said they were also considering doing the construction work at night.

Mrs. Karen Watson asked where the sidewalk began. Town Manager Chad Simons said it would begin at Duncan BP Station, at the edge of the city limits.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Stansell to approve the proposed NCDOT Sidewalk Agreement No. 8048, associated with TIP No. R-5735.. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports

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

Frank Dickey asked if the media received the monthly reports. Town Manager Chad Simons they can get them if they want them, as the reports are a public record.

Discussion

Gail Stansell said the new banners look very good.

Barbara Hughes informed the Council about the Library's Coat campaign.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:16 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.