

**The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on May 6, 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

**Cherokee Scout** - Penny Ray  
WKRK was present

**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 Watson, seconded by Stansell to approve the April 1, 2019 regular meeting minutes and the April 24, 2019 special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Stansell to approve the water and sewer adjustments of \$9,171.42. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Ramsey stated that the Council was going to switch items No.4 and No.6 on the Agenda.

### **Recreational Trail Use at Marble Creek Watershed - Gerri Winston**

Ms. Gerri Winston presented to the Council a map of the Marble Creek Watershed property owned by the Town. Ms. Winston requested for the Council to consider allowing horses to access the property and use the old road as a bridle trail, as it has been used for that purpose for over 150 years. Ms. Winston said the Department of Veterans Affairs has monies appropriated for equestrian programs to treat disabled veterans. Ms. Winston stated that a sign was posted several years ago that prevents horseback riders from accessing the property.

Mr. Frank Dickey stated that this would be a good thing, believing the dispute over the bike group and horseback riders was over nothing.

Mayor Ramsey said the Town needs to honor the words of the conservation easement.

Town Manager Chad Simons asked if the proposed bridle trail interfered with the existing bike trails. Ms. Winston responded that portions of the trail do, but believed it could be worked out so that no group was excluded.

Mr. Simons thanked Ms. Winston for the presentation, stating that she was doing the right thing to get the ball rolling. Mr. Simons said the Town would have to consult Clean Water Management officials about the request before proceeding any further.

**Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by Watson to recommend the proposed plan to Clean Water Management Trust, and to consult Clean Water Management officials about Ms. Winston's request for equestrian use trails at the Marble Creek Watershed Property. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Sign(s) Approval for Piney Knob Bike Trails**

Signs recommended by Eddie Sylvester were introduced in April for the Council to consider approving. The signs would be placed for the Piney Knob Bike Trails.

**Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Smith to approve two signs to install at the Piney Knob Bike Trails. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the signs are attached.**

#### **CIP and Rate Analysis Presentation - Marty Wilson, NC Rural Water Financial Analyst**

Marty Wilson presented to the Town Council a 10 year capital improvements plan draft, explaining that the proposed projects are not a wish list, but projects that must be done at some point in the near future. Mr. Wilson explained that the proposed projects exceed \$20 million, and that the prospect of attaining grant funding for most of the projects are slim. Mr. Wilson said he has conducted rate studies all across the state, but has not seen rates as low as the Town of Murphy's.

Town Manager Chad Simons noted that sewer charges for the Town barely pay for the operational expenses of the sewer plant, let alone the collections system.

Mayor Ramsey stated that the Town will have difficult decisions to make in the near future, but said they needed to get to work.

#### **Resolution to Oppose HB 917 and the privatization of the ABC system**

**Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by McClure to approve the resolution opposing HB 917 and the privatization of the ABC system. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached.**

#### **Main Street Resolution - Mayor Rick Ramsey**

Mayor Ramsey explained the benefits of the Main Street program, and how it could allow the Town to put a concrete vision into place for the downtown community.

**Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Smith to approve the Resolution of commitment to the NC Main Street and Rural Planning Center to participate in the Downtown Associate Community Program. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is**

attached.

**Monthly Reports**

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

**Monthly Reports**

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

**Discussion**

Gail Stansell thanked the Council and other volunteers for assisting with "Spiff Up the Town Day" efforts, and also congratulated the Murphy Business Association for doing a great job organizing the second annual Spring Festival.

**Adjourn**

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

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey