

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on March 2, 2020 at 5:00 pm in the City Hall building with the following present:

Town Manager: Chad Simons

Attorney: Mack Cowan

Cherokee Scout and WKRK was present

Mayor: Rick Ramsey

Council: Barry McClure Frank Dickey

Karen Watson Gail Stansell

Barbara Hughes Noland Smith

Mayor Ramsey led the Town Council with the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Smith to approve the February 3, 2020 regular meeting minutes and the February 24, 2020 special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Water & Sewer & Tax Releases & Refunds

Motion was made McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the water and sewer adjustments \$546.53. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the 2019-2020 Annual Audit Contract

Town Manager Chad Simons presented the audit contract to the Town Council. Mr. Simons stated that the contract price did not increase.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Watson to approve the 2019-2020 Annual Audit Contract. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the contract is attached in the minute book.

Appalachian Driving – Expansion of Previously Approved Street Closure

Town Manager Chad Simons said Mr. Mitch Nimcy could not be here tonight, but was going to request an expansion of the previously approved street closure to accommodate more cares for their show in June. Ms. Gail Walker Stansell stated that she thought they needed more room anyway. Mr. Frank Dickey said the Council should go ahead and make the approval tonight, without their attendance.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the additional street closure request, from Tennessee Street intersection to Depot Street intersection for the June 13 car show. Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer at EMS Station Interlocal Agreement

Town Manager said he worked with Town Attorney Mack Cowan to develop an interlocal agreement, as instructed by the Council. Mr. Simons said the costs are based on the preliminary estimate presented by McGill Associates, and that no change orders can be approved without the permission of both boards. Mr. Simons also said they did not know whether or not some of the work could be performed in house or not.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Hughes to approve the Interlocal Agreement for the Sewer EMS Station with Cherokee County. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the interlocal agreement is attached in the minute book.

Speed Bump Petition for East Avenue

Mr. Barry McClure said all but one property owner signed the petition, and the one wanted to remain neutral. Mr. McClure said the road has become a detour for through traffic.

Mr. Dickey asked if East Avenue went all the way to Dillard Street. Mr. McClure said it does, and that property owners on Dillard Street will likely bring a petition next month. Mr. McClure said this would be the first petition approved without 100 percent of the owners signing up for it, but added that the Council should consider approaching the petitions differently. Mr. McClure stated that a hold-out could occur, and they could be the constant speeder, for example. Mr. McClure said the Council might want to consider getting 80 percent of property owner approval, instead of unanimous approval with speed bump petitions.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by McClure to approve installing speed bumps on East Avenue in response to the petition. Motion carried unanimously.

Amendment(s) to Sewer and Water Codes on Taps and Water/Sewer Line Responsibilities

Town Manager Chad Simons said the amendments are fair to the customers, and added that NCDOT did not want a contractor to dig up their streets. Mr. Simons said he did not want them to dig into the town streets. Mr. Simons stated that the onus would still be on the property owner to call a licensed plumber, and camera their line in order to verify that the failure is in the road, or on their property. As it is drafted, the ordinance would require the Public Works Director to be present as well.

Mr. Dickey said he has wanted this change for a long time, and that this was the only rational way to do it.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Stansell to approve the water and sewer adjustments of on taps and water/sewer line responsibilities. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the amendments are in the minute and code book.

Budget Amendments

Appropriate **\$13,500** in Prior Year Powell Bill Fund Balance (15-399-00)

15-570-17 - **\$6,500** for Street Sweeper Repairs

15-570-45 – **\$7,000** for patching Overlay for Blvd, Bayless, Mooreland Heights, and other Town Streets

Appropriate **\$45,000** in Utility Fund Balance to replace 500 ft. section of sewer line on US 64 to Hiwassee Street (30-399-01)

30-810-74 - **\$45,000** for Capital Outlay

Appropriate **\$10,000** in Utility Fund Balance (30-399-01) for new pump for Health Department Lift Station and repair of old pump; will give Lift Station back-up pump in the future.

30-810-74 - **\$10,000** in Capital Outlay

Appropriate **\$10,000** in Utility Fund Balance (30-399-01) for bypass pumping at Forest Service through April

30-810-74 - **\$10,000** in Capital Outlay

Appropriate **\$15,000** in Utility Fund Balance (30-399-01) for water/sewer inventory (pipe, fittings, meter, setters, etc) through July.

30-810-34 - **\$15,000** in System Supplies

Appropriate **\$25,000** in Utility Fund Balance (30-399-01) for power expenses at wastewater treatment plant (Belt Press operating)

30-811-13 - **\$25,000** for utilities

Appropriate **\$10,000** in Utility Fund Balance (30-399-01) to install Dissolved Oxygen Meters into SCADA (Telemetry interface) for Wastewater Treatment Plant

30-811-51 - **\$10,000** for SCADA Upgrade

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell, to approve the budget amendments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Dogwood Grant Acceptance and Budget Amendment

Town Manager Chad Simons informed the Council about getting a grant award to pay for an investigator vehicle. Mr. Simons said the Council needed to approve the grant acceptance and appropriate the monies into miscellaneous revenue and capital outlay for the police department.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by McClure to accept the grant and appropriate \$12,800 into miscellaneous revenue and increase 10-510-51 by \$12,800 for the vehicle.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to Appoint Mayor to act as Housing Supervisor

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the Resolution to appoint the Mayor to act as Housing Authority Supervisor. Motion carried unanimously.

Informal Bid Approval for Detention Center Bar Screen

Town Manager Chad Simons presented the informal bar screen bids to the Council. Mr. Simons said the Town no longer has to fund the bar screen through the Hiwassee River Sewer Repair Project, which is a loan with interest. Mr. Simons said they could get this funded with existing CDBG monies that are a 100 percent grant. Mr. Simons said they had to procure bids once again. McClam and Associates was the low bid.

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Stansell to approve the informal bid to McClam and Associates for \$49,216.55, pending NCDEQ approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports

Mayor Ramsey commented on the work of the Police Department's active shooter training at MGM Brakes and Murphy Library. Mayor Ramsey also said the Murphy Fire Department's annual dinner was extremely well done, and noted their impressive response time of six minutes and one second average within the city limits.

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

Discussion

Mayor Ramsey updated the Council on the upcoming Downtown Associate Community Program, reminding the Council how unique Murphy's geographic situation is relative to Raleigh.

Mr. Dickey asked if the Council will have another budget retreat this spring or summer. Mr. Simons said he recommended it. Mayor Ramsey said the Board needs to do it. Mr. Dickey asked the Town Manager to come up with dates and let the Council decide on a time. Mr. Dickey said the meetings are helpful, and that they are new innovative ways to fund beautification and streetscape improvements without the taxpayers sharing all of the burden. Mr. Dickey said Dillard Street needed to be looked at for street paving. It has been neglected, Mr. Dickey said. Mr. Dickey added that people need to slow down, start a little earlier in their morning commute.

Adjourn

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

