

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on August 6, 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 - Kelsey Richardson

Public Hearing - Amendment to Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map to include Snap-On Tools property and the Bulldog Drive properties (Lowe's, Sports Convenience Store, and the former location of Sonic) in the H-B Highway Business District.

No person spoke during the public hearing.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Hughes, to close the public hearing at 5:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing - Amendment to Zoning Ordinance changing the definition of game-rooms.

No person spoke during the public hearing.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith, to close the public hearing at 5:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

No person spoke during the public comment period.

Approval of the minutes

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by McClure to approve the July 2, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Water and Sewer & Tax releases & Refunds

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith, to approve the water and sewer adjustments of \$7,048.54. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Roundtable Presentation

Mayor Rick Ramsey and Karen Watson briefed the Council and the audience on the reasons and the steps taken to make the youth roundtable discussion a reality. They also thanked the students that participated, and their parents, and stated that each person did a remarkable job in facilitating ideas and recommendations to improve the Town of Murphy. Topics such as a campground and beach area in downtown, getting the train back to Andrews and Murphy, the

need for public restrooms, a community events center to host athletic tournaments, a visit Murphy app, and other topics were presented by the following students: Abram Abling, Maddy Holt, Riley LaChance, Haley Hernandez, and Adam Fleischer. Each student was presented with an appreciation plaque. The Town Council thanked each student.

Erlanger Murphy Medical Center Update - CEO Mark Kimball

Mr. Mark Kimball discussed his background and how excited he is to be in Murphy, North Carolina. Mr. Kimball discussed the need to recruit more primary care physicians to the area, an on-demand service for Erlanger customers to use with their smart phones, and other recent changes such as valet service for customers.

Frank Dickey and Karen Watson spoke favorably about the valet service and their most recent experience with Erlanger Murphy Medical Center staff. Mayor Ramsey thanked Mr. Kimball for attending the meeting and giving an update.

Economic Development Incentives Grant - EDC Director Paul Worley

Mr. Paul Worley explained to the council about the need for an incentives program, and how he has discussed such a policy for the Town along with Mayor Ramsey and Town Manager Chad Simons for several weeks. Mr. Worley said the grant program is designed around tax rebates, which would only be paid by the Town after a company or developer has made improvements to the property(ies). Mr. Worley said the county's program is designed around certain industries that the Town is unlikely to get, which is why the Town's grant program leaves discretion to the Town Council to decide on a case by case basis regarding potential applications.

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by McClure, to approve the Town of Murphy Economic Development Grant Policy. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the policy is attached.

Vote on Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map to include the Snap-On Tools property and the Bulldog Drive properties (Lowe's, Sports Convenience Store, and the former location of Sonic) in the H-B Highway Business District

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Stansell, to approve the zoning ordinance and zoning map amendment. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Amendment is attached.

Vote on Amendment to Zoning Ordinance changing the definition of game-rooms

Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by Smith to approve the amendment to the zoning ordinance changing the definition of game rooms. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the amendment is attached.

Drug and Alcohol Policy - Town Manager Chad Simons

Town Manager Chad Simons said the proposed policy addresses liability issues, and includes pre-employment and post employment drug and alcohol testing. Mr. Simons said the policy will protect the Town, employees and the public. Mr. Simons also said that the Town Attorney has reviewed the policy, and did not find any issues with it.

Karen Watson asked Mr. Simons if town employees had reviewed it. Mr. Simons stated that all department heads reviewed the policy.

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by McClure, to approve the Town of Murphy's Drug and Alcohol Policy as presented. A copy of the policy is attached.

Personnel Policy Draft - Town Manager Chad Simons

Town Manager Chad Simons told the Council that the proposed personnel policy updates the Town's procedures in many ways, to include providing for an established grievance process, updating the Town's vacation leave accrual, and establishes guidelines for the Town to adhere to state and federal personnel laws. Mr. Simons asked the Council to review the policy over the next month, and to ask any questions they might have before they voted to approve the new policy in September.

Frank Dickey said he agrees with the vacation changes, notably the change that would allow employees to accumulate over 240 hours and transfer those unused hours into unused sick leave at the end of each calendar year. Mr. Dickey said the policy emulates the state of North Carolina.

Budget Amendments - Town Finance Officer Chad Simons

Town Manager Chad Simons briefed the Council about Murphy Fire securing funding from the Cherokee County Rescue Fund for confined space equipment.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Watson to increase Murphy Rural's miscellaneous revenue by \$19,000 and to increase Murphy Rural's supplies expenditure line-item by the same amount to account for the reimbursement. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Chad Simons requested for the Council to increase miscellaneous revenue in the General Fund by \$8,500, and spending in the Recreation Department by the same amount to account for a reimbursement from Tennessee Valley Authority for a no-rise study on a potential pedestrian bridge at Konehete Park.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Hughes to increase miscellaneous revenue in the General Fund by \$8,500 and to increase spending in the Recreation Department by \$8,500 to account for a Tennessee Valley Authority reimbursement on a no-rise study. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Chad Simons requested to use General Fund monies to transfer into Fund Sixteen (16) for the second phase of the Piney Knob Bike Trails construction. Mr. Simons said the state is going to reimburse the Town \$100,000 for the second phase, and that no Town monies will be spent on the match. The match will be paid by a non-profit organization, as stipulated in the original grant application.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the request for the second phase of the Piney Knob Bike Trails construction. Motion carried unanimously.

Alcohol at Events - Discussion on alcohol regulations for special events

Gail Stansell stated that the Town should consider eliminating all local ordinances, and adhere to existing state laws to make things easier. Frank Dickey recommended that the Town allow for the Mayor to issue special use permits for certain events.

After much discussion, the Council agreed to a compromise on allowing the Mayor to have discretion in issuing a special permit to allow alcohol sales (malt beverage and unfortified wine) and possession on public streets, alleyways, or parking lots for certain events.

Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by McClure to approve an amendment to the Ordinance to allow the Mayor to issue a permit to allow for certain alcohol sales and possession on public streets, alleyways and parking lots for special events. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the ordinance amendment is attached.

Discussion

Frank Dickey commended the youth for their presentation, and stated that most of these projects not going forward comes down to the Town not having the money to fund them.

Town Clerk Chad Simons briefed the Council about the CDGB Regal Street water and sewer project bid opening set for August 7 at 2 p.m. in City Hall.

Mr. Simons also informed the Council that the latest Code of Ordinance supplement included an online version.

Mr. Simons also told the Council to look into Chapter 114 in the Town Code to evaluate the taxi-cab ordinance, and see if they wanted to enforce it or eliminate it. Mr. Simons said the ordinance came up when a local private transit company inquired about getting permission from the Town to operate inside the city limits.

Mr. Dickey asked Town Manager Chad Simons to look into updating the Town's website. Mayor Ramsey told the Council that his wife is interested in maintaining the website, and the Council agreed that would be ideal.

Adjourn

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey