

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on May 7, 2018 at 5:00 pm in the City Hall building with the following present:

Town Manager: Chad Simons

Attorney: Mack Cowan

Assistant Clerk: P. J. Siler

WKRR: Tim Radford

Cherokee Scout - Matthew Osbourne

Mayor: Rick Ramsey

Council: Barry McClure Frank Dickey

Karen Watson Gail Stansell

Barbara Hughes Noland Smith

Public Hearing: Proposed Amendment to the zoning ordinance for four (4) parcels from R-2 Residential to H-B Highway Business

Matthew Osborne asked the Town Council why the rezoning was being considered, and asked what the tax implications were. Frank Dickey said the Town recently rezoned property near the intersection to H-B Highway Business for Mr. Terry Jones, and the Planning Board believed this would open up more opportunities for growth. Mr. Dickey stated that the property owners requested the rezoning, adding that the Town is rethinking growth after not considering any zoning changes for years. Mr. Dickey also stated that no immediate tax impacts would be realized, but it certainly could benefit the Town if the properties would develop commercially.

Motion was made by Karen Watson, seconded by Barbara Hughes, to close the public hearing for the rezoning request at 5:04 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Public Hearing: Proposed Amendment to Town Charter to consider non-partisan elections

Melody Johnson and Linda Ray spoke in favor of changing the town charter to allow for non-partisan elections.

Town Attorney also clarified to the Council that the vote would occur on next month's Agenda for the Board to consider, and that it would only go on the ballot afterward if ten (10) percent of registered voters signed a petition asking for a ballot referendum. Mr. Cowan also stated that there would be a primary if there were more than two candidates for Mayor, and more than 12 candidates for Council Members would also require a primary.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Stansell to close the public hearing at 5:09 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Public Comment

Bram Farbstein of Red Brick Deli thanked the Town Council for their support of the Murphy Business Association's Spring Festival.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson to approve the April 2, 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Water and Sewer Releases

Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by Smith to approve the water and sewer adjustments of \$2,329.03. **Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Rezoning Amendment for Four(4) parcels located on the Hiawassee River between Petrie Street and U.S. Highway 19, 64, 74, 129 from R-2 Residential to H-B Highway Business.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by McClure to approve the rezoning request as presented. Frank Dickey requested for Mayor Ramsey to poll the Council on the vote. Each Council Member voted in favor of the rezoning request. Noland Smith recused himself. **Rezoning Request approved. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Piney Knob Bike Trails Update -

Rescheduled for next month.

Arts Council - David Vowell Budget Request

David Vowell asked the Town Council for funding for next fiscal year's budget, and made a report on how the funds were used last year. Mr. Vowell said the Board of the Arts Council decided to forego the one-day June Festival, and will have a two day Studio Tour instead, which is scheduled for July 28-29.

Frank Dickey asked if he was going to have a festival, and Mr. Vowell said they will not because of the Studio Tour. Mr. Dickey asked about the pavilion being used, because they were supposed to get proceeds for renting it. Mr. Vowell said they were going to revisit it in light of not doing the festival. Mr. Vowell said they had not received requests for using it like they thought they would, so their Board decided to look at using it in other ways. Mr. Dickey said he was confused about the Art Walk, and who was responsible for it. Mr. Vowell said he gets credit for doing stuff he doesn't do, but the Valley River Arts Guild created the Friday night Art Walk. Mr. Vowell said they did book the musicians.

Noland Smith asked if they were taking a bus for the studio tour. Mr. Vowell said that would not happen, but they would provide a brochure and map for visitors to use.

Mr. Dickey asked if their request was addressed in the budget, and Mr. Simons responded that their funding was unchanged from last year. Mr. McClure told Mr. Vowell that they appreciated what they were doing with the school system.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Hughes, to keep Mr. Vowell's request for funding in the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Recovery Fee Waiver for Easement

Town Manager Chad Simons told the Board that before they could go out to bid for the CDBG Regal Street project, they needed to secure four (4) easements. One such easement was required on the property of Mr. John Sandidge. Mr. Sandidge had requested a water cost recovery fee waiver for a one (1) inch water tap. The fee amounted to \$770.00. Mr. Simons explained that he had checked with the Town Attorney, and verified that he did not have the authority to waive the fee as Manager. Mr. Simons added that the easement was important because it prevented the Town from having to place the water line underneath a sidewalk.

Mr. Simons also stated that Mr. Sandidge executed the easement based only on the assurances that he would take his request to the Town Council. Noland Smith stated that the request seemed reasonable.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Watson to approve the cost recovery fee waiver for Mr. John Sandidge in the amount of \$770.00. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Murphy Housing Authority - Excess Electrical Utility Allowance and Violence Against Women Policy Update

Ms. Leah Scroggs asked the Council to approve the utility allowance.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Hughes to approve the excess utility allowance request. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Ms. Leah Scroggs asked for the Council to approve the violence against women policy update.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson, to approve the violence against women policy update. **Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Ms. Scroggs informed the Council of an upcoming block party at the Housing Authority.

Monthly Reports

Noland Smith asked Town Manager Chad Simons what a honey hole was. Mr. Simons explained that it was a manhole below the jail that gets clogged with solids frequently because of inmates flushing trash.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell, to approve the monthly reports as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Clerk

Town Manager Chad Simons presented the 2018-2019 fiscal year proposed budget and budget message, and asked for motion to set a public hearing for the budget at the June meeting.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith, to set a public hearing for 5 p.m. June 4, 2018 in the city hall Board Room. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Town Attorney Mack Cowan briefed the Council on adopting a resolution to authorize the manager to waive recovery fees under a certain amount, so the manager could negotiate with property owners in the future. Mayor Ramsey said the Council should take that under consideration.

Mayor

Mayor Ramsey informed the Council about future youth round tables.

Ms. Barbara Hughes updated the Council on the July 4th Parade, asking for volunteers. Mrs. Hughes also said they have moved the time back to 2 p.m. so it would be easier on the police department. Mrs. Hughes also said it would start at the Depot.

Council Members Stansell and Watson revealed the winner of the Town Logo Contest, Mr. Justin Mack.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by McClure to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey

