

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on April 1, 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 Hughes, seconded by Smith to approve the March 11 , 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Water and Sewer & Tax Releases & Refunds

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Hughes to approve the water and sewer adjustments of \$2,340.89. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Board of Adjustment - Appointment of Vice-Chairperson

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Hughes to appoint Town Manager Chad Simons as Vice-Chairperson to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Motion carried unanimously.

Piney Knob Bike Trails Update

Eddie Sylvester, Piney Knob Bike Trails Contractor, presented the rules and regulation signs at Jackrabbit Trails in Hayesville, North Carolina. Mr. Sylvester also updated the Council on a fundraising effort to improve the entrance to Piney Knob. Mr. Sylvester wanted the Council to look at the signs and see if they could approve of similar signs at Piney Knob Trails.

Mr. Sylvester explained that the fundraising effort would be through SABA (Southern Appalachian Bicycle Association) and would look to improve the entrance from the parking gate to the existing turn pike at the entrance bridge to Piney Knob Trail system. Mr. Sylvester said they would go in and spread gravel and mulch to improve the road, and he hoped to complete the project by May 31 of this year.

Karen Watson asked what their goal was. Mr. Sylvester said \$2,000 was their goal.

Mayor Ramsey asked if there was any discussion on the signage.

Mr. Sylvester said the signs were standard. Terry Palmeri, Southern Off-road Bicycle Association Associate Director, said the signs adhere to Forest Service Standards.

Frank Dickey said they should follow Eddie's initial request to review the signs and take it back up at next month's meeting. Noland Smith agreed with Mr. Dickey.

Mr. Dickey said the Council might need to make a motion to use the funds raised as a pass through grant, since they would go through the Town. Town Manager Chad Simons said that could wait, and they could do a budget amendment later. Mack Cowan said that would be fine.

Eddie Sylvester then gave an update on the latest trail construction at Piney Knob, saying they were half way through the second phase of the six mile trail construction. Mr. Sylvester said he hoped to have it completed by the end of this year. Mr. Sylvester said he had some safety concerns at the trail, noting how the parking gate locks were cemented together and you could not turn them. Mr. Sylvester also said someone cut the gate, explaining that they may have to take the gate down because of how it's designed. Mr. Sylvester said there has been other acts of vandalism as well.

Town Manager Chad Simons briefed the Council that he and Police Chief Jacobs were working on preventing future vandalism from occurring.

Terry Palmeri informed the Council on how important mountain biking trails are to communities, and explained how important SORBA and SABA are to maintaining trail systems. Mrs. Palmeri presented an information packet about the economic impacts of mountain bike trails to local communities. Mrs. Palmeri stated that the work that went into designing and planning Piney Knob trails was immense, particularly applying for the Recreation Trail Program Grants. Mrs. Palmeri said the RTP grants come from federal highway off-road gas tax monies.

Mrs. Palmeri said that the Piney Knob trails were not designed for equestrian use, and that would require very different standards for construction and maintenance; and other factors would have to be considered such as parking. Mrs. Palmeri said mountain bike trails that are 15 miles or more can be a boon to the local economy as well. Mrs. Palmeri concluded by asking the Council to support the original plan to construct the full mountain bike trails.

Frank Dickey said the bicycle club has done a wonderful job. Mr. Dickey said the Council should look into sharing the 700 acre property with equestrians, and move together as a community to include everyone, especially for people with disabilities. Mrs. Palmeri said making the trails co-use would require a lot of work. Mr. Dickey said he was not talking about using the existing bike trails. Mr. Dickey also said he really wanted the Town to look into handicapped accessibility too.

Budget Amendments - Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund

Town Manager Chad Simons asked for a budget amendment to pay for the water main break

repairs in early March, and a second amendment to repair the golf course water booster station.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson to appropriate \$55,500 from utility fund balance to pay for the water main break repairs and repairs to the Golf Course Booster Pump Station. Motion carried unanimously.

Capital Improvements Plan Revision - Town Manager Chad Simons

Town Manager Chad Simons updated the Council on the state denying their emergency funding application to repair the sewer main at the Forest Service property. Mr. Simons said the state encouraged the Town to apply for funding through the State Revolving Loan Program, and that application will be due April 30th. Mr. Simons said the Council needed to revise their Capital Improvements Program to include the Forest Service sewer line repair as the top priority within the Capital Improvements Plan in order to move forward on the application.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by McClure to amend the Town of Murphy's Capital Improvement Plan to include the U.S. Forest Service sewer line repair as the number one priority for the Town's wastewater system. Motion carried unanimously.

Spiff up the Town Day Proclamation - Council Member Gail Walker Stansell

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by McClure to approve the Proclamation making May 1, 2019 as "Spiff up the Town Day." Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the proclamation is attached.

Street Closure Request for Car Show - Mitch Nimcy and Kelly Williamson of Appalachian Driving

Mitch Nimcy and Kelly Williamson requested for the Town Council to close Tennessee Street on June 1, 2019 from the intersection of McClelland Street to Depot Street for their first Porsche Car show. Mr. Nimcy and Mr. Williamson said they are in the process of purchasing the old Moose building to run their Porsche driving business out of. They want to kick-off their grand opening with this car show, from 4-8 p.m.

Chief Jacobs stated that he had discussed the request with Mr. Nimcy and Mr. Williamson, and that he did not have a problem with their request.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Smith to approve of the request to close Tennessee Street from the McClelland Street intersection to Depot Street on Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 4-8 p.m. for the Porsche car show. Motion carried unanimously.

NCDOT Utility Easement Approval - Town Manager Chad Simons

Town Manager Chad Simons explained that the NCDOT needed about a tenth of an acre of the Town's property at Bealtown for a utility/drainage easement, as part of their plans to widen U.S. 64 this summer. Mr. Simons said their initial offer was \$9,200, and that the appraisal came back

at \$3,200. Mr. Simons said he discussed the offer and appraisal with the Mayor and requested \$10,000 for the permanent easement. Mr. Simons said Town Attorney Mack Cowan reviewed the easement.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Smith to approve the NCDOT permanent utility/drainage easement for .156 acres at the Town's property described in Deed Book 0492, Page 0224 in the Cherokee county Registry for \$10,000. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the easement agreement is attached.

Resolution to Oppose Catawba Indian Nation Casino in North Carolina

Mayor Ramsey said the proposed casino and the people behind its support was shocking to him, and that he felt like the Council should adopt the Resolution to show the Town's support.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Stansell to approve the Resolution to Oppose the Catawba Indian Nation Casino in North Carolina. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached.

Monthly Reports

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

Discussion

Mayor Ramsey commented on how detailed and thorough Chief Justin Jacob's annual report was, and thanked them for all that they did. Mayor Ramsey said people simply don't know what all the police department does for the community.

Frank Dickey said the Town should look into a permitting process for new parades, in order to make up for all of the money the town has to spend when a new parade occurs. Mr. Dickey said they could grandfather all of the existing parades in, and issue a permit and application fee for any new parades and festivals to help recoup expenses for the Town. Mr. Dickey said the City of Wilmington has a similar process for parades. Karen Watson expressed reservations about a permit and fee process, believing parades and festivals bring a lot to the Town and local businesses.

Adjourn

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey