

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on March 1, 2021 at 5:00 pm at the Murphy Fire Dept.

Town Manager: Chad Simons
Attorney: Mack Cowan

Mayor: Rick Ramsey
Council: Barry McClure Frank Dickey
Karen Watson Gail Stansell
Barbara Hughes Noland Smith

Mayor Ramsey opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Hughes, to approve the February 1, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Releases and Water and Sewer Adjustments

Town Manager Chad Simons said there were no water and sewer adjustments for the second straight month, but reminded the Council that this was due to the new water/sewer leak adjustment policy approved by the Council several months ago.

Town of Murphy Social Media Policy

Town Manager Chad Simons stated that their insurance provider has been pushing the adoption of a social media policy for several months, believing it is a best practice to create guidelines for town employees. Mr. Simons stated that the policy is three (3) pages, but primarily encourages town employees not to use discuss Town of Murphy matters on their personal social media pages.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Hughes, to approve the social media policy as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the social media policy is attached.

Resolution to sell Tangelwood Property through Public Auction

Mayor Ramsey explained the town has received several calls concerning the property, but no offers. Town Manager Chad Simons said the resolution would set a specific date and time for an auction and would hopefully serve as the quickest way to get the property off the town books.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson, to approve the Resolution to sell the Tanglewood Property through Public Auction procedures. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

2019-2020 Audit Presentation and Approval of 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Audit Contract

Town Manager Chad Simons stated that the town and Murphy Housing Authority received a clean opinion on the 2019-2020 fiscal year audit. Mr. Simons also stated that the town's fund balance has increased every year in the general and enterprise funds since the Council convened in December of 2017.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Hughes, to accept the 2019 2020 audit report. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the audit is available on the town's website.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Watson, to approve the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Audit Contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reappointment of Murphy Power Board Member David Hilton

Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by Hughes, to reappoint Mr. David Hilton to serve another six (6) year term as Murphy Power Board Member; term to begin March 1, 2021 through March 1, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports

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

Discussion

Noland Smith commented on the high usage of the newly acquired vactor sewer truck.

Barry McClure thanked the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce for hosting the online zoom Main Street Vision Forum.

Frank Dickey inquired about getting deer crossing signs on Andrews Road and Valley River Avenue from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Town Manager Chad Simons informed the Council that the plan was to reopen the library for regular hours, under Governor Cooper's guidelines. Mr. Simons said the time was right, and he believed the town could do so safely under the CDC guidelines.

Barry McClure inquired about getting a crosswalk near Chevelle's restaurant, believing it was desperately needed.

Adjourn

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey