

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on August 2, 2021 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.

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

Michael Wilkins presented suggested changes to the town's downtown parking system, making more room for parked vehicles and less obstructions.

Debra Vanderlaan presented information about the Valley River Arts Guild.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Stansell, to approve the July 6, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Releases and Water and Sewer Adjustments

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Watson, to approve the tax releases for \$808.14 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Region A Presentation on Housing – Region A Director Sarah Thompson

Region A Director Sarah Thompson and Region A Housing Liaison Caroline LaFranier made a presentation on affordable housing in Western North Carolina. A copy of the presentation is attached in the minute book.

Vote on Amendment to close a portion of Alley Street to vehicular use

Town Manager Chad Simons said the Public Works Director took an 18 wheeler with a 70 foot plus trailer in the alleyway, and was successful in making the first left turn. Mr. Simons added that Mr. Stillwell could have made the second turn onto Bill Hughes Avenue, but the street sign pole needed to be removed.

Mr. Barry McClure commented that council members were obligated to research every issue thoroughly before making a decision, and he was glad he had time to do so.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Smith, to approve the Amendment to the traffic regulations code to close a portion of Alley Street to vehicular use. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the amendment is attached in the minute book and posted online at townofmurphync.com.

Vote on Accept/Deny bid for 29.29 acres at Tangelwood

Mayor Ramsey recommended for the council to accept the bid.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by McClure, to accept the bid of \$50,000 by Drew Rivenbark for the 29.29 acres at Tangelwood. Motion carried unanimously.

Murphy ABC Board Reappointment

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Stansell, to reappoint Mr. John Snow III to another three (3) year term to the Murphy ABC Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution scheduling a public hearing to close a portion of Fort Butler Street

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Watson, to approve the Resolution scheduling a public hearing to close a portion of Fort Butler Street. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

Jeff Taylor – Request for Town of Murphy to take over private lift station in Peachtree community

Mr. Jeff Taylor informed the Council that he was seeking to build about 10 apartments in Peachtree, but advised that laying gravity sewer would substantially increase his costs. Mr. Taylor said Dollar General has agreed to allow the Town of Murphy to take ownership of their private lift station to support the project.

Mr. Simons said proper easements would have to be secured as well, because the town would be taking over what is now a private force main.

Mr. Dickey said Mr. Taylor may be responsible for upsizing the lift station to make this happen.

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Watson to accept Dollar General Store's private lift station provided that Mr. Taylor adhere to all Town of Murphy and State Codes and Regulations, and secure to the Town easements to maintain the force main. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Hughes, to approve the monthly reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Copies of the Monthly Reports are attached in the minute book.

Discussion

Mayor Ramsey informed the Council and Public about the assembled team to reactivate the Andrews to Murphy rail.

Adjourn

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Dickey, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey