

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on April 4, 2022 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.

Town Manager: Chad Simons

Attorney: Mack Cowan

Council: Barry McClure, Frank Dickey
Keisha Dockery, Gail Stansell
Barbara Hughes, Charlene Smith
Mayor Tim Radford

Mayor Tim Radford lead the town with the pledge of allegiance

Public Comment

Bram Farbstein of Red Brick Deli spoke out against the proposition of food trucks in the General Business District.

April Scayloa of The Mason Bar and Mimo's Ice Cream spoke out against the proposition of food trucks in the General Business District.

Ben Adams spoke in favor of allowing food trucks in the General Business District.

Charlene Smith read aloud Ms. Selina Jones' letter, owner of Legend's Steakhouse, which spoke out against the proposition of food trucks in the General Business District.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Hughes to approve the March 7, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

NCDEQ Resolutions

Town Manager Chad Simons presented three separate resolutions for water/sewer projects, which are required for the upcoming NC Department of Environmental Quality funding round – due May 2. Mr. Simons said the resolutions are for the Ice Plant Lift Station rehabilitation, the downtown water line rehab project, and the downtown sewer line rehabilitation. Mr. Simons said the downtown project needed to be separated between water and sewer.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell, to approve the three resolutions as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolutions are attached in the minute book.

Request to Maintain Fort Butler Memorial Site

Graham Hill, with Shepherd of the Mountain Church, requested permission for his organization to maintain Fort Butler Memorial Park – which has been neglected for several years. Mr. Frank Dickey and Ms. Stansell said the Civitas Club used to maintain the park, but they no longer exist.

Mr. Hill said their organization is insured, and is willing to work for free – although funding from the town would be appreciated for future enhancements.

Town Manager Chad Simons said he does not see any reason not to move forward with the partnership, especially since the organization is insured. Mr. Simons said they could have the Town Attorney draw up an MOU between the organization and the town, much like they have with the Southern Appalachian Bicycle Association for the Piney Knob bike/hiking trails. Mr. Simons said they could approve of the MOU next month.

Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by Hughes, to grant permission to Shepherd of the Mountain Church to begin maintaining Fort Butler Memorial Park immediately, and to direct Town Attorney Mack Cowan to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and Shepherd of the Mountain Church for approval as soon as possible. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to Annex property located at Fort Butler

Motion was made by Dockery, seconded by Smith to approve the second Resolution of Intent to annex a tract of land containing 18.83 acres owned by the Town of Murphy, which joins the corporate limits of the Town of Murphy. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

Approval of the 2021 2022 Audit Contract

Ms. Keisha Dockery asked about the due date of the audit. Town Manager Chad Simons said the audit is due by October 31, 2022.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by McClure, to approve the 2021 2022 Audit Contract. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the audit contract is attached in the minute book.

Discussion of Konehete Park Capital Project

Mayor Radford presented an idea from County Commissioner Hippie Westmoreland to construct an outside stage/pavilion at Konehete Park. Mayor Radford said the county wanted the town to put forward \$70,000 to pay for half of the costs.

Ms. Dockery expressed reservations about the \$70,000, and was hoping the town could secure grant funding if it moved forward with the project.

Downtown Director Laura Lachance spoke out upcoming grant opportunities that could help the town cover the costs.

Ms. Charlene Smith said the town should look at Warner Park, as they would be a better location and is not prone to flooding.

Monthly Reports

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

Discussion

Frank Dickey asked if the town could decide on the food truck matter now. Mr. Simons stated the town already voted to send a draft amendment to the Planning Board to consider.

Town Manager Chad Simons wished the North Carolina Tar Heels good luck in the national championship game, after the team defeated Duke 81-77 in the Final Four.

Adjourn

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Hughes, to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed Tim Radford