

The special called meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on February 3, 2022 at 9 a.m. at the Town of Murphy Fire Department. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss goals and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

Town Manager: Chad Simons

Attorney:

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

Cherokee Scout was present

Mayor Radford opened the meeting at 9 a.m.

Town Manager Chad Simons presented a financial overview of the General Fund, Murphy Rural, and the Water/Sewer Fund.

Mayor Radford discussed his communications with Verizon on their lack of service network, and what he is trying to do to help them improve; his efforts to assist the NC Driver's License Office, joining the Housing Consortium, economic development at the Wiggles Building, quarterly meetings with Andrews and Cherokee County, and his efforts to address the issues pertaining to Murphy's increasing homeless population.

Mr. Frank Dickey stated that he was opposed to allowing anyone to rent/lease the Town's alleyway space.

Ms. Gail Walker Stansell stated that the Town should approve the first two rental requests for the alleyway to see how it goes, inform all businesses of the new space, and later cement an alleyway rental agreement form. Ms. Stansell also stated how the chairs and tables needed to be bolted down to prevent theft.

Mr. Barry McClure also said needed to make every business aware of the alleyway space. Mr. McClure also stated that the town needed to add additional staff to the Fire Department for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mrs. Barbara Hughes said she was looking forward to help the Mayor tackle the homeless problem.

Mrs. Charlene Smith said the Town needed to figure out a way to ensure all businesses have an opportunity to rent the alleyway space, and perhaps look into charging a fee along with a deposit.

Mrs. Keisha Dockery wanted the Council to explore a social district for downtown, better control over recreational opportunities at Konehete Park, allowing food trucks in the General Business District, annual business licenses for downtown businesses, stricter regulations on allowing dumpsters in downtown parking spaces, imposing minimum standards for property owners in the downtown business district, and to mandate that property owners in the downtown district must use first floor of their buildings for retail space.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell, to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.