

**The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on February 7, 2022 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.**

Town Manager: Chad Simons

Attorney: Mack Cowan

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 with the pledge of allegiance

### **Agenda Approval**

**Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by McClure to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Approval of the Minutes**

**Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Dockery to approve the January 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes, and the February 3, 2022 special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Tax Releases and Water and Sewer Adjustments**

None.

### **Vote on Amendment to Abandoned Structures/Minimum Housing Ordinance to eliminate health and safety hazard on Valley River Avenue Property**

Town Attorney Mack Cowan informed the Council about the process of establishing the lien against the property. Mr. Cowan said this amendment will ensure the town will get their money back, which requires the town to publish a notice of the lien. The published notice will protect the town should the property sell.

Barbara Hughes asked about improvements made to the property. Town Manager Chad Simons said the town spent about \$5,000 to clean out the inside of the home.

Frank Dickey said this was a good thing the town is doing, and several people are interested in purchasing the property and will clean it up.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith, to approve the amendment to Abandoned Structures/Minimum Housing Ordinance to eliminate health and safety hazards on Valley River Avenue property. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the amendment is published in the minute book.**

### **RFQ update on downtown rehab utility project**

Town Manager Chad Simons informed the Council about the state statute covering the procurement of professional engineering services. Mr. Simons said he is negotiating a price with McGill Associates, and plans to bring forward a proposal for the Board to consider at their March meeting.

### **Amendment to Parking Schedule Ordinance**

Town Manager Chad Simons said the ordinance would remove the two hour and thirty-minute parking regulations that exists in certain downtown parking spaces, and make all parking spaces subject to the three hour limitation.

**Motion was made by Dockery, seconded by Hughes, to approve amendment to the Parking Schedule Ordinance as presented – making all parking spaces subject to the three-hour limit. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the amendment is attached in the minute book, and posted online at townofmurphync.com.**

### **USDA funding application update**

Town Manager Chad Simons said the town does not qualify for the \$50,000 USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) funding application for capital purchases, explaining that the town's fund balance is too high by USDA's standards. Mr. Simons said USDA will pay for the advertisements, since they failed to notify the town before such advertisements were published in the newspaper.

### **Spring Festival Street Closure Request**

Downtown Development Director presented a street closure request for the Spring Festival.

**Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by McClure to approve the street closure request for the Spring Festival; closure will be on May 7th with a rain date contingency for May 8<sup>th</sup> - closing Tennessee Street from the downtown intersection to the intersection of Depot Street from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Audit Contract Amendment**

Town Manager Chad Simons informed the Council that several things occurred, which prevented the audit from being presented on time. Mr. Simons said the audit would be presented at the March meeting. Mr. Simons said the Council needed to approve the audit contract amendment to account for the delay to the Local Government Commission.

**Motion was made by Smith, seconded by McClure to approve the Audit Contract Amendment as presented.**

### **Report on Uncollected Taxes**

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to approve the report on uncollected taxes in accordance with NCGS 105-369. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the report is attached in the minute book.**

### **Alleyway Rental Draft Policy/Discussion/Alleyway Rental Requests**

Mr. Frank Dickey said the town shouldn't charge anything to use the space.

The Town Council discussed the draft policy at length, including changing the alcohol ordinance to allow the alleyway renters to serve alcohol while keeping the space open to pedestrian traffic, how to ensure the rental process is as fair as possible, and other things.

The Council will consider adopting an amendment to the alcohol ordinance, and adopting the alleyway rental policy at the March meeting.

Gail Stansell said that it takes a lot of work to plan for special events, and that's why they needed to approve the first date for Mimo's/Mason Bar.

**Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Smith, to approve the request from Mimo's Ventures, LLC. to rent the alleyway space for a special event on April 1, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Monthly Reports**

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

### **Discussion**

Gail Stansell asked about the town's status with Main Street. Downtown Development Director Laura Lachance said that should happen later this year, stating how the NC Commerce are happy with the town's progress.

Citizens inquired about the comprehensive plan. Town Manager Chad Simons explained the process, including the public engagement piece.

Mr. Frank Dickey explained how citizens can sign up for the public comment process.

### **Adjourn**

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

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed Tim Radford