

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on November 7, 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 led the town with the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Dockery to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Mrs. Edie Spence spoke out in opposition to a proposed social district in downtown Murphy.

Council Member Charlene Smith read a letter from Mr. Lawrence McNabb, who spoke out in favor of the proposed social district in downtown Murphy. A copy of his letter is attached.

Mr. Joseph Simon spoke out in favor of the proposed social district in downtown Murphy.

Mr. Jack Lang did not take a position on a proposed social district in downtown Murphy, but wanted more answers to certain questions before proceeding.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the October 3, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the minutes are attached in the minute book and posted online at townofmurphync.com

Tax Releases

None

Social District Ordinance

Mrs. Keisha Dockery stated that she would like to see a trial period for a few months, for special events and art walk, before proceeding with a social district on a weekly basis. Mrs. Dockery also stated the Council could rescind the ordinance if the police department had problems enforcing the ordinance.

Mr. Frank Dickey said he was opposed to the district no matter what, but also asked questions about the town paying for, and possibly losing money, on the purchase of cups that would be used for a social district.

Mrs. Dockery said the Murphy Business Association or another entity could possibly pay for the cups.

Ms. Stansell stated she was opposed to the district as written, and wanted to gradually move forward on the proposal with a trial period.

Mr. Barry McClure stated he was concerned about the town purchasing signs for the trial period, and possibly more for the post-trial period if the social district remained intact.

Ms. Charlene Smith said both sides made good points, and that the Board needed to carefully evaluate how their constituents feel on the issue. Mrs. Smith said it made sense to have a trial period before proceeding with a social district on a weekly basis.

Mrs. Barbara Hughes appreciated the input of each Board member, but also expressed concerns about the district causing more alcohol issues in the community.

The Council decided to not take action on the proposed ordinance, and consider it again next month.

Ice Plant Sewer Lift Station Project Ordinance Amendment

Town Manager Chad Simons introduced an amendment to the Ice Plant Sewer Lift Station Project, which now includes \$360,000 in revenue from NCDEQ as a direct earmark appropriation, \$300,000 from Appalachian Regional Commission, \$264,000 in American Rescue Act Funding, and \$500,000 in Golden Leaf Funds. Mr. Simons stated the town was on the hook for about \$70,000 of the project costs, which will not be an issue to cover from the annual operating budget.

Motion was made by Smith to approve the Ice Plant Sewer Lift Station Project Ordinance Amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the amendment is attached in the minute book.

Request for Qualifications Acceptance and Contract Approval for Ice Plant Sewer Rehab Station Engineering

Town Manager Chad Simons stated only one firm responded to the town's RFQ advertisement. The proposed contract from McGill & Associates coincides with the budget previously submitted to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Golden LEAF, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Motion was made by McClure to approve the contract with McGill Associates for professional services for the Ice Plant Sewer Lift Station Project as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the agreement contract is published in the minute book.

Memorandum of Understanding for Hiwassee Street Boat Ramp

Town Manager Chad Simons explained that a local limited liability company wanted to construct a boat ramp/dock at the Hiwassee River Street launching area in downtown, and that the LLC agrees to pay for the construction and ongoing maintenance. Mr. Simons also stated that the LLC understands that the boat ramp will be a public asset, and available to the public at all times. Mr. Simons said it was a win-win for the Town of Murphy.

Motion was made by McClure to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Ridges Marina Boat Club, LLC. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the MOU is attached in the minute book.

Alleyway Reservation Policy Amendment

Town Manager Chad Simons said they ran into issues with reservation requests being submitted after Town Council meeting dates. Mr. Simons asked the Council to delegate the responsibility to town staff, like the town does for rental requests for the L&N Depot.

Motion was made by McClure to delegate authority of approving reservations for the Town Alley to town staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Project for performance stage at Konehete Park

Mayor Radford explained to the Council that they received \$70,000 from the state of North Carolina to help Cherokee County construct a performance stage at Konehete Park.

Motion was made by McClure to accept the \$70,000 grant award. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports

Motion was made by Smith to approve the monthly reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the monthly reports are attached in the minute book.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.