

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on September 6, 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 Smith to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing on amendment to the Town of Murphy Zoning Map and Zoning Ordinance to include the 18.83 acre tract owned by the Town, and annexed in May of 2022, in the R-2 High Density Residential District

Mayor Radford opened the public hearing at 5:01 p.m. No person signed up to speak during the public hearing.

Motion was made by McClure to close the public hearing at 5:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Billy Ray Palmer, representing the Cherokee County Historical Museum, asked the Town Council to consider alternative options for some of the police vehicles parked in front of the museum. Mr. Palmer said it prevents people wanting to visit the museum from coming, especially senior citizens.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Hughes to approve the July 8, 2022 special meeting minutes and the August 1, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Vote on Amendment to Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map to zone 18.83 acre tract at Fort Butler owned by the Town of Murphy as R-2 High Density Residential.

Motion was made by McClure to approve the amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the amendment is attached in the minute book.

Lavita Hill – Resolution to change Clingman’s Dome to Kuwohi

Motion was made by Dockery to approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

CDBG Valley River Apartments – McGill Associates

Karen Kiehna, grant administrator for the project, presented items to the Council for approval. Town Manager Chad Simons stated that one major revision was to the grant project ordinance, which shows that the Town is not on the hook for any expenses for the project.

Motion was made by McClure to approve the Community Development Block Grant project items as presented, with the exception of the proposed grant project ordinance, which was approved as amended. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the items are attached in the minute book.

Interlocal Agreement Renewal Nantahala Regional Library

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the interlocal agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the agreement is attached in the minute book.

Murphy Housing Authority – Public Housing Assessment Score

Murphy Housing Director Lea Montgomerie updated the Town Council about the latest public housing assessment score, which saw the Town of Murphy score very well. The Town Council thanked Mrs. Montgomerie for her efforts. A copy of the assessment score is attached.

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the Fain Alley reservation request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution appointing new Tax Collector

Motion was made by Smith to approve the Resolution appointing Jamie Slate to serve as the Town's new tax collector. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

Cost Recovery Fees for Department of Social Services temporary shelter

Town Manager Chad Simons said DSS was constructing a temporary shelter for kids and families in need, and did not believe the connection warranted capacity fees given the public benefits of the project.

Motion was made by Dockery to approve the waiver of cost recovery fees, \$4200, associated with the temporary shelter. Motion carried unanimously.

Letter of Support for North Carolina Cycling Event – Main Street Director Laura Lachance

Mrs. Laura Lachance explained that the cycling event brings in hundreds of people for an August weekend. This event would be for August of 2023. Mrs. Lachance stated they would use Konehete Park and the Rock Gym for camping facilities. Mrs. Lachance said other towns hold the event in high regard.

Town Manger Chad Simons said the event in Bryson City was very well coordinated and organized, and the participants worked very well with public safety officials.

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the letter of support for the cycling event. Motion carried unanimously.

Street Closure Request for Christmas Event

Mrs. Laura Lachance presented a street closure request for an event the day of the Christmas Parade, which would host arts and crafts vendors. Mrs. Lachance said they wanted to close Peachtree Street from 10 am – 6 pm. From the downtown intersection to Bill Hughes Avenue.

Motion was made by Dockery to approve the street closure request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment for Streets and Police

Motion was made by McClure to approve the two budget amendments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Insurance Recovery Appropriation Increase (10-399-60) - \$50,000

Maintenance Building Expenditure (10-510-15) - \$50,000

Increase in Fund Balance appropriation (10-399-03) - \$30,000

Increase in Contracted Services for Grant Writing and Downtown Streetscape Design (10-560-45) - \$30,000.

Prohibiting Smoking in Pedestrian Alleyway

Ms. Stansell stated that the Town needed to prohibit smoking in the alleyway to make it more accommodating, and to prevent cigarette buds from accumulating there. Ms. Stansell said the smoking ban would make it more welcoming for everyone, including families.

Mr. Frank Dickey said this is a good, small step in the right direction and believed it was the right thing to do.

Mrs. Keisha Dockery stated she had reservations because smokers would likely park in front of her stores or other stores and smoke instead. Mrs. Dockery wanted the Council to explore a wider ban as well.

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the no smoking ordinance in the pedestrian alleyway as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 1. Voting against: Keisha Dockery. A copy of the ordinance is attached in the minute book.

Discussion on request to allow Farmer's Market to access L&N Depot Facility

Representatives of the Farmer's Market stated they needed to use the Depot primarily for restrooms, and had done so in the past without issues. They told the Town Council that maintaining the porta john's was difficult to do.

The Council discussed various options and agreed to move on without taking any action.

Monthly Reports

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

Discussion

Mr. Frank Dickey asked the Town Manager to work with new police chief about accommodating the museum's request for parking. Mrs. Dockery asked if the Town could use the gravel lot behind the courthouse. Mr. Dickey discussed the issue of parking in downtown.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed Tim Radford