

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on December 7, 2020 at 5:00 pm at the Murphy Fire Dept.

Town Manager: Chad Simons
Attorney: Mack Cowan

Mayor: Rick Ramsey
Council: Barry McClure Frank Dickey
Karen Watson Gail Stansell
Barbara Hughes Noland Smith

WKRR was present

Mayor Ramsey led the Council with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

Mary Kay Mason spoke about the town's parade and demonstration permit, which requires groups of two or more to obtain a permit to demonstrate in town. Ms. Mason stated that she felt like the permit requirement violated her constitutional rights.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Smith to approve the November 4, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Water and Sewer & Tax Releases & Refunds

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by McClure to approve the tax releases of \$1354.01. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment for Recreation

Town Manager Chad Simons informed the Council about the paving job at Piney Knob Bike/Hiking trails, stating that the work ended up going over budget by about \$4,000. Mr. Simons said the town appropriated \$8,000 for gravel to shore up the road throughout the year, which would leave the town and Tourism Development Authority about \$4,000 short to fully pay for it.

Ms. Karen Watson asked if Heritage Partners was aware that future funding issues needed to be known ahead of time, preferably before the project begins and certainly before it ends. Mr. Simons said he did have a conversation with Heritage Partners about that issue, and does not feel as though it will be a problem moving forward.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to appropriate \$4,000 from fund balance to Recreation Capital Outlay for the Piney Knob Road paving project. Motion carried unanimously.

The Valley River Avenue, Duke Street, and Oak Street intersection Four Way Stop Proposed Ordinance

Mrs. Barbara Hughes stated that increased traffic and speeders prompted the need to approve this ordinance.

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Watson to approve the Valley River Avenue, Duke Street, and Oak Street Intersection Four Way Stop Proposed Ordinance as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the ordinance is attached in the minute book.

Resolution authorizing the sale of 18.88 acres located outside the corporate limits of the Town near Tangelwood Subdivision through receipt, solicitation or negotiation of an offer to purchase and advertisement for upset bids.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Dickey to approve the Resolution authorizing the sale of 18.88 acres of town property near Tangelwood subdivision as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

Budget Retreat Meetings

Town Manager Chad Simons explained that he felt as if the Council should meet as soon as possible before the budget process kicks off to discuss departments. Mr. Simons said he wanted the Council to have several, separate meetings to discuss potential department changes at the police, fire and public works departments. Mr. Simons said it was ultimately up to the Council when those meetings would take place.

Mr. Dickey said he would rather wait past February due to the pandemic. Mayor Ramsey said the Council could think about certain dates and get back with the manager about it.

Resolution to set a public hearing to consider amendment to zoning ordinance making medical facilities subject to conditional use

Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by Smith to approve the Resolution setting a public hearing to consider amendment to zoning ordinance making medical facilities subject to conditional use as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

Monthly Reports

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

Discussion

Karen Watson requested for the Downtown Development Director to give or submit monthly reports along with other departments to help keep the entire Council updated on progress. Ms. Watson also requested for office staff to submit a monthly report as well.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Stansell to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:40 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey