

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on August 3, 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
Cherokee Scout**

Mayor Ramsey led the Council with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Hughes to approve the July 6, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Water and Sewer Releases

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Stansell to approve the water and sewer adjustments of \$4,767.68. Motion carried unanimously.

Fair Housing Complaint Procedure

Town Manager Chad Simons stated that North Carolina is requiring the Town to approve the procedure once again due to some minor changes.

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Watson to approve the Fair Housing Complaint Procedure as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the procedure is attached in the minute book.

Vactor Truck Acquisition

Public Works Director Joe Stillwell informed the Council that the Vactor truck would allow the town to clean up sewer spills more efficiently and safely, as well as jet and maintain sewer lines more effectively and efficiently. Mr. Stillwell said the town's current jetter is old and has 1500 psi. The 2007 vactor truck jetter attachment has 2000 psi along with more volume. Mr. Stillwell also said the town could clean lift station wet wells and bar screens with the vactor truck.

Mayor Ramsey asked if he had a chance to look at the truck. Mr. Stillwell said they brought the truck to the town, and allowed town crews to use it. Mr. Stillwell said it operated well. Mr. Stillwell said the city of Wilmington stormwater used it previously.

Town Manager Chad Simons stated that the town had to call Bryson City to borrow their vactor

truck when the health department lift station went down last fall. Mr. Simons also said vactor trucks were used and needed for maintenance at the Ice Plant and Lift Station Number One the past few weeks, and the town had to rent them. Mr. Simons said many utilities across the state have a vactor truck in their inventory.

Mr. Simons advised the Council that the Town could afford the truck as well.

Mr. Frank Dickey said the Council needed to state in the motion which option they preferred, either the five or four year financial option.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Hughes to approve the five (5) year lease purchase agreement for the 2007 vactor truck as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the proposed and approved agreement is attached in the minute book.

Surplus Item Generator

Town Manager Chad Simons said the 17kw Coleman generator has sat dormant in the town warehouse for years, and the town cannot use it to run any lift stations. Mr. Simons said he does not have the authority to surplus items valued at more than \$5,000.00.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Stansell to surplus the 17kw Coleman Generator on Govdeals. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution rescinding the suspension of late fees/utility disconnects

Town Manager Chad Simons informed the Council that they will not be disconnecting customers immediately, and will try to send out notices to all who are behind. Mr. Simons said Gov. Cooper's executive orders allows residential customers to develop a payment plan, giving them up to six months to pay off their balance.

Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Smith to approve the Resolution rescinding the suspension of late fees/utility disconnects. Motion carried unanimously.

Ice Plant Station Rehab Project – Budget Amendment

Town Manager Chad Simons said a budget amendment is no longer needed due to the fact that NCDOT is going to replace the sewer line between McDonald's and No Name Deli. Mr. Simons said the Ice Plant lift station is the town's number one priority moving forward, as it is undersized. Mr. Simons said it lacks a generator and serves all of Peachtree and 64 West.

Mayor Ramsey said this could very likely be a shovel ready project. Mr. Dickey said the MGM brakes project was shovel ready at the time, which benefitted the town greatly. Mr. Dickey said the Council should consider more projects in the future.

Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by Smith to approve the prioritization of the Ice Plant Lift Station rehab project to include the future design and permitting of the project.

Planning Board GS 160D Legislative Changes Budget Amendment

Town Manager Chad Simons said the state legislature decided to create a uniform statute to address all land use regulations, and towns will have to be in compliance by July 1, 2021. Mr. Simons said if towns

do not conform to the statute than their zoning regulations will be nullified. Mr. Simons said he called the League of Municipalities and Region A to see if they could assist with the project. Mr. Simons said they did not have the resources to help. Mr. Simons said Region A recommended a firm, which offered a proposal. Mr. Simons said the Town Attorney reviewed the proposal, and added that the firm is assisting other towns with complying with the statute.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson to appropriate \$20,000 in general fund balance and to increase \$20,000 in 10-420-Professional Services line item to pay for the proposal. 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 Walker Stansell inquired about when the library was going to reopen to the public. Town Manager Chad Simons said they had a plan to reopen by appointment only in order to control their own environment, but regional staff was apprehensive about it. Mr. Simons said he hopes to reopen to the public by appointment only in the near future.

Mayor Ramsey reminded the staff about funding availability for local businesses and entrepreneurs to get advice and financial assistance in response to the pandemic.

Mr. Dickey said the Town needed to take proactive measures to prevent more Covid 19 cases, to include making a decision on the art walk. Mayor Ramsey said they are planning to cancel it.

Gail Walker Stansell informed the Council about her plan to install “Masks on Murphy” signs on city limit signs in order to promote mask wearing for the general public. Mayor Ramsey and Frank Dickey said that the public health education campaign was a great idea.

Adjourn

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:45 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey

