

**The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on July 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm in the City Hall building with the following present:**

**Town Manager:** Chad Simons  
**Attorney:** Mack Cowan

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

**WKRR:** Tim Radford  
**Cherokee Scout** - Matt Osborne

### **Public Comment**

No person spoke during the public comment period.

### **Approval of the minutes**

Karen Watson requested for the Town Clerk to add the Murphy High girls track team to the June 4, 2018 draft minutes.

**Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Hughes to approve the June 4, 2018 meeting minutes as presented, with the one addition requested by Watson. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Water and Sewer & Tax releases & Refunds**

**Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by Hughes to approve the water and sewer adjustments of \$618.41. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Larry Limon - Veterans**

Larry Limon requested for the Town to add "Veterans" to the Konehete Park sign, stating Native Americans have fought in every war the United States has ever had. Mr. Limon informed the Council that he was assuming leadership of the local American Legion, and that he believed the change would not offend the Cherokee in any way.

Mayor Ramsey informed Mr. Limon that he had spoken to local veteran Oscar Valdez in the recent past, and after informing him of the heritage associated with the park, Mr. Valdez agreed that the best thing to do would be to keep the name of the park the same; so as not to offend the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

### **Billy Ray Palmer - Konehete Park**

Local historian Billy Ray Palmer briefed the Town Council about the history of the Cherokee and Konehete Park, stating how he believed changing the name of the park would offend the Cherokee.

Karen Watson stated that both sides deserved recognition, and asked for a compromise. Noland Smith suggested that the Tribal Council could offer some input on the matter, and believed they should be consulted in order to reach a compromise.

**Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Stansell to recommend a resolution from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians on the name of Konehete Park. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Budget Amendment - Hiwassee Wellness Center Foundation**

**Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Smith to appropriate \$12,000 from general fund balance to support the Hiwassee Wellness Center Foundation. Motion carried unanimously.**

Frank Dickey and Barry McClure requested that Dr. Mitchell provide supporting documentation to Finance Officer Chad Simons, to include minutes from their foundation Board, proof of non-profit status, and other necessary documentation to support the Town's appropriation.

#### **Hill Street properties**

Town Manager Chad Simons informed the Board about the Town's efforts to liquidate town-owned properties that the Town has no use for. Mr. Simons said the two parcels on Hill Street fall into that category, and putting the properties back on the tax base would ultimately benefit the Town. Mr. Simons said this was one of the Town's goals discussed at their retreat in March. Mr. Simons said they would pursue the upset bid process strategy. Mr. Simons said no action was necessary.

#### **Zoning - Resolution to schedule a public hearing on an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to zone certain properties located within the Town limits that are currently not zoned.**

Town Attorney Mack Cowan informed the Council that some properties were not zoned when they were annexed by the Town years ago. The Council became aware of this when new zoning maps were created.

**Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Watson to approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the resolution is attached.**

#### **Zoning - Resolution to schedule a public hearing on an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance changing the definition of game rooms.**

Town Attorney Mack Cowan said the amendment was requested by the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and would allow certain types of game rooms in town.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Dickey to approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the resolution is attached.**

### **Camping Ordinance - To consider a law to prohibit camping on public property and rights of way**

Town Attorney Mack Cowan informed the Council that this ordinance was recommended by the Police Chief.

Frank Dickey recommended to alter the language in the proposed ordinance to allow the Mayor to issue a special camping permit to groups in Town. The Council agreed with the recommended changes.

**Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by Watson to approve the Camping Ordinance with the noted change. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the ordinance is attached.**

### **Brunch Bill - Discussion and possible vote on allowing for Sunday alcohol sales**

Karen Watson said she supports businesses, and that alcohol use is a personal choice, but also believed noon on Sundays was appropriate. Mrs. Watson stated she could not vote for the proposed ordinance.

Frank Dickey stated that he respected Mrs. Watson's position. Mr. Dickey asked about when the law would take effect. Town Clerk Chad Simons said the ordinance would need four (4) council-member votes of approval to go into effect immediately upon adoption, otherwise a second reading would be required in August.

**Motion was made by Smith, seconded by McClure to approve the Ordinance allowing for Sunday alcohol sales beginning at 10 a.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to `1. Karen Watson voted against the ordinance.**

### **Alcohol at Events - Discussion on alcohol regulations for special events**

Gail Stansell stated that the Town should consider eliminating all local ordinances, and adhere to existing state laws to make things easier. Frank Dickey recommended that the Town allow for the Mayor to issue special use permits for certain events.

After much discussion, the Council agreed to a compromise on allowing the Mayor to have discretion in issuing a special permit to allow alcohol sales (malt beverage and unfortified wine) and possession on public streets, alleyways, or parking lots for certain events.

**Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by McClure to approve an amendment to the Ordinance to allow the Mayor to issue a permit to allow for certain alcohol sales and possession on public streets, alleyways and parking lots for special events. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the ordinance amendment is attached.**

### **Gary Chamberlain - Anti-litter Proclamation**

The Council agreed to table the matter.

### **CDBG Project Certification**

Town Manager Chad Simons requested for the Council to approve the certification, which would formally name him as the new contact person for the Regal Street CDBG grant project.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Watson to certify Chad Simons as the new CDBG grant project contact person. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Monthly Reports**

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

### **Discussion**

Gail Stansell and Barry McClure informed the Council on their recent visit to the water and sewer plants, and how impressed they were with the plant supervisors and operators.

Karen Watson updated the Council on the Mayor's youth round-table discussions.

Town Manager Chad Simons said the rain date for the fireworks is July 5th, and that the Regal Street grant project is going out to bid in early August.

### **Adjourn**

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