

**The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on February 1, 2021 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**

None

### **Approval of the Minutes**

**Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Dickey to approve the January 4, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

None

### **Street Lights Contract with Murphy Power Board**

**Motion was made by Stansell, seconded by McClure, to approve the contract with Murphy Power Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the contract is attached in the minute book.**

### **Preliminary Engineering Agreement with NCDOT for US 129**

Town Manager Chad Simons presented an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for utility engineering on US 129. Mr. Simons said the work is projected to begin in 2022. Mr. Simons said the work will interfere with existing town utilities, and may require the town moving the Decker lift station. Mr. Simons informed the Council that the NCDOT is paying the town to hire a firm since they have a population of less than 10,000 people.

**Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Stansell to approve the Utility Preliminary Engineering Agreement with NCDOT as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the agreement is attached in the minute book.**

### **Amendment to Parade and Demonstration Ordinance**

Town Manager Chad Simons stated that the town needed to change the parade and demonstration ordinance in order to get in compliance with federal requirements. Mr. Simons stated that the existing ordinance for demonstrations required groups of two or more persons to get a permit at the police department. That number will change to five if the Council passes the amendment, Mr. Simons said.

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Dickey, to approve the amendment to the Parade and Demonstration Ordinance as presented. A copy of the amendment is online at townofmurphync.com and is attached in the minute book.**

### **Report of Uncollected Taxes**

**Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Smith to approve the report of uncollected taxes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the report is attached in the minute book.**

### **DAC Director Update**

Mrs. Laura Lachance – the town’s downtown development director- updated the Council on the upcoming Vision Forum that will be conducted via zoom, and encouraged everyone to participate. Mrs. Lachance also briefed the Council about the retail and consumer surveys she had conducted with help from the Small Business Center at the community college.

### **Monthly Reports**

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

### **Discussion**

Mayor Ramsey updated the Council and the public on the latest meeting concerning reactivating the Andrews to Murphy rail line, stating that a company had reached out to the town to see if we could make freight work. Mayor Ramsey said an exhaustive study is underway to evaluate the freight component.

Mr. Frank Dickey brought up an idea to incentivize town employees to get the Covid-19 vaccine, saying it might be a good idea to reward employees who get the vaccine with a day off. Mr. Dickey said this is something the Council might want to think about.

### **Adjourn**

**Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:35 p.m. pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey