

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on April 5, 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

Mayor Ramsey opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Hughes, to approve the March 1, 2021 regular meeting minutes, and the special meeting minutes from March 4, March 5, and March 19, 2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Releases and Water and Sewer Adjustments

None

July 4th Downtown Event – Laura Lachance

Laura Lachance presented a plan for a downtown event for the July 4th Holiday. Mrs. Lachance said they are requesting to close Tennessee Street at the intersection to Depot Street. Mrs. Lachance said vendor booths would focus on local arts and crafts, and they would also host a beer garden in addition to food trucks. Mrs. Lachance said the event would take place from 2-8 p.m. Mrs. Lachance said she spoke with the Police and Fire Chiefs regarding the emergency routes.

Mrs. Lachance asked if the sidewalk dining ordinance would negate the need for an ABC Permit. Town Attorney Mack Cowan said the sidewalk dining permit applies to that specific location only.

Mr. Frank Dickey recommended to close the street at 10 a.m., and reopen at 10 p.m. to accommodate taking the stage down.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Hughes, to close Tennessee Street at the intersection to Depot Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to cancel Tangelwood auction

Town Manager Chad Simons said he was unaware the town owned 10 acres located behind the 18 acres they were proposing to sell. Mr. Simons said the town really needed to survey the property and sell the 10 acres along with the 18 acre lot, otherwise they will be stuck with a property that is landlocked.

Mr. Frank Dickey said they put a new road in when the land was developed, and he advised for the town to check and ensure that the town not sell right of way for the old road that goes into the reservoir.

Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by Watson, to approve the Resolution to cancel the Tanglewood Property through public auction scheduled for April 21 in addition to ensuring the right-of-way going into the reservoir is preserved. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

Formal Approval of National Guard Armory for Murphy Rural Fire District

Mayor Ramsey stated that the plan was a no-brainer, and that it will benefit Cherokee County and the Town.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Stansell, to approve of the plan to acquire a portion of the National Guard Armory for the Murphy Rural Fire District, which will cost Murphy Rural Fund \$200,000 paid out in annual \$50,000 increments over four (4) years. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the approved plan is attached in the minute book.

Approval of Belt Press Engineering Agreement

Town Manager Chad Simons explained that the Sewer Plant's belt press needs to be replaced, and requires engineering. Mr. Simons said the new belt press will replace the existing one from 1997.

Motion was made by Dickey, seconded by Smith, to approve of the Belt Press Proposal for Engineering Services as presented. Motion carried.

Monthly Reports

Town Manager Chad Simons stated that the Ice Plant Lift station is giving the town maintenance crews issues, and that action to repair the asset may need to occur much sooner than anticipated.

Mr. Dickey asked about the engineering agreement for the ice plant lift station. Mr. Simons said they would need to approve an engineering agreement once they get notified of the Appalachian Regional Commission grant acceptance or denial.

Mr. McClure asked about the leftover monies from the ARC grant for the Forest Service Project since the county opted not to pursue the larger lift station for the EMS project. Mr. Simons said they are working with McGill and ARC officials to use those monies for another project.

Mayor Ramsey asked about the money provided by the federal government in the Covid 19 Rescue Package. Mr. Simons said the monies are supposed to be provided to local governments sixty days after the passage of the law, and the second payment is supposed to come to sixty days thereafter. Mr. Simons said local governments are still waiting on official treasury guidance on how to use the monies, but strongly believes the town will be able to use it for infrastructure projects.

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

Closed Session - To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Dickey to enter into closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Town Council discussed amending the Town Manager employment contract, considering education expenses and a salary increase.

Motion was made by McClure, seconded by Smith to enter back into open session.

No action was taken.

Adjourn

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

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed David Rick Ramsey