

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on April 3, 2023 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.

Town Manager: Chad Simons

Attorney: Mack Cowan

Police Chief: Tim Lominac

Assistant Police Chief: Ryan Cunningham

Council: Barry McClure, Frank Dickey

Keisha Dockery,

Charlene Smith,

Mayor Tim Radford

Gail Walker Stansell called into the meeting and was present via speaker phone for entire length of session.

Mayor Tim Radford led the town with the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by McClure to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Dickey to approve the March 6, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Releases

None.

Murphy Housing Authority Capital Fund Program

Motion was made by Smith to approve Murphy Housing Authority's Capital Fund Program as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the program is attached in the minute book.

Annual PHA Plan

Motion was made by Dickey to approve the 2023 Annual PHA Plan for Murphy Housing Authority as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the plan is attached in the minute book.

Update to Maintenance Charges

Motion was made by Dockery to approve the updated list of maintenance charges for Murphy Housing Authority as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the charges are attached in the minute book.

Financing Resolution for Downtown Waterline Rehabilitation Project

Town Manager Chad Simons presented a financing resolution for the downtown waterline rehabilitation project. Mr. Simons said he issued a Request for Proposals to three financial institutions, to include Truist

Bank, United Community Bank and First Citizens Bank. Mr. Simons said they received two responses from United Community Bank and Truist. United Community Bank had the lowest 10 year option of 4.26%. Mr. Simons recommended the Town Council to approve of using United Community Bank as the financial lending institution for the downtown waterline project, to borrow no more than \$900,000 over a 10 year period at 4.26%.

Motion was made by Smith to approve of the presented Resolution making United Community Bank the official lender for the town's borrowing of no more than \$900,000 over a 10 year period as issued in United Community Bank's response to the Town's RFP. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

Budget Amendment for Fire Dept. Relief Fund

Motion was made by Smith to appropriate \$6,500 in Department of Insurance revenue for fiscal year 2022-2023 in the Fire Department Relief Fund; Motion carried unanimously.

Bike-Pedestrian Planning Grant Application Resolution

Motion was made by Smith to approve the Resolution for the Town of Murphy to apply for the Bike-Pedestrian Planning Grant through the North Carolina Department of Transportation, requiring a 10 percent match. Motion carried unanimously.

Outdoor Stage Design Contract

Town Manager Chad Simons said the town received a direct appropriation from the state to help construct a stage at or near Konehete Veterans Park. Mr. Simons said they issued a request for qualifications to respective architectural firms, and received one response from Farmer Morgan. Mr. Simons said the contract included a feasibility study to select an appropriate site at the park or Warner Park, and a schematic design for the stage with plans for expansion in the future.

Motion was made by Dickey to approve the feasibility study and design contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Take Home Vehicle Policy Discussion

Town Manager Chad Simons said take home vehicles for police department is a critical recruiting/retention piece, as every department in western North Carolina offers take home vehicles for their police department. Mr. Simons said every town owned vehicle had a gps device installed in it, which will make this transition easier for town supervisors. Mr. Simons said the policy change would cost about \$12,000 annually – and would vary depending upon gasoline prices.

Mrs. Smith asked if the policy would improve response times for critical events. Police Chief Tim Lominac said it would, and cited the recent Murphy High School shooting hoax as an example – stating two of their off-duty officers responded much slower than they would have otherwise because they had to head to the police station first.

Mr. Dicky asked about liability issues emerging from out of jurisdiction vents. Mr. Lominac said the town's jurisdiction ends one mile outside of the city limits, and the town's MOU with Sheriff's department would protect the town.

Mrs. Dockery said she spoke with a town officer about the potential change, and agrees it is the right thing to do for the department.

Mayor Radford asked how much the policy change would them with recruiting. Police Chief Lominac and Assistant Chief Cunningham said it was critical, as their completion offers it to their sworn personnel now. Chief Lominanc said they are recruiting two people now, and will likely get one of them – but take home vehicles was critical because they are already getting the perk from their employer now.

Mr. Dickey said he would vote for it, but added it would be up to Town Manager and Police Chief to manage the policy successfully.

Motion was made by McClure to approve the take home vehicle policy for the police department as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports

Motion was made by Smith to approve the monthly reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Mrs. Dockery asked why the new owners, Brightview, that took over operations from the previous New Leaf Center on Valley River Avenue did not obtain a special use permit to operate

Town Attorney Mack Cowan said the property was being used for its current use prior to the town subjecting Medical facilities to special use – which exempted them from the requirement.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.