

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on February 6, 2023 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.

Town Manager: Chad Simons
Attorney: Mack Cowan

Council: Barry McClure, Frank Dickey
Keisha Dockery, Gail Stansell
Charlene Smith, Barbara Hughes
Mayor Tim Radford

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment

None.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Dockery to approve the January 3, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Releases

None.

Resolution of Support for Medicaid Expansion

Mayor Radford presented a resolution to close the health insurance gap in North Carolina, as it would support Senator Corbin's effort in the legislature.

Motion was made by Dickey to approve the Resolution of Support for Medicaid expansion as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

Property Surplus

Town Manager presented a surplus item, the sewer plant's 2008 Chevrolet with over 200,000 miles. Mr. Simons said it would be posted to govdeals.

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the surplus item as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Hazard Mitigation Plan

Motion was made by McClure to approve the Resolution adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Set Public Hearing on Amendment to Zoning Ordinance to regulate temporary emergency shelters

Motion was made by Dockery to approve the Resolution setting a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to regulate temporary emergency shelters. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.

Spring Festival – Downtown Director

Downtown Director Laura Lachance requested to close down Tennessee Street to Depot Street, and Valley River Avenue to Hickory Street for the Spring Festival scheduled for Saturday, May 6 – with a rain date for the following day on May 7. Tennessee Street will have arts and crafts vendors, food trucks, music, and a beer garden. Valley River Avenue will host kids' activities.

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the street closure request for the Murphy Spring Festival: from the downtown Tennessee Street intersection to Depot Street and from downtown Valley River Avenue to Hickory Street on Saturday May 6, 2023 with a rain date on Sunday, May 7, 2023; from the hours of 8 am through 9 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Third Thursday of the Month

Downtown Director Laura Lachance presented a new event with food trucks and live music. The event will be once per month instead of twice a month, and will be in downtown instead of the L&N Depot. The event will support downtown retail. Mrs. Lachance stated they would rotate streets. The street will be closed from 4 pm until 8 pm. The closures would go from the center of the downtown intersections to Willow Street on Tennessee Street, to Hickory Street on Valley Avenue and Bill Hughes Avenue on Peachtree Street. Mrs. Lachance stated they will work on notifying residents and merchants about the upcoming street closures. The event will run from May through September.

Mr. Dickey wanted to clarify the issue that unlicensed and on premise malt beverage holders will not be able to sell alcohol. Mrs. Lachance stated that only breweries and wineries can sell within the street closure.

Motion was made by McClure to close the streets as requested for the Third Thursday of the month event. Motion carried unanimously.

Shepherds Men Street Closure Request

Downtown Director Laura Lachance said the event was supposed to take place in October, but was cancelled. The event is designed to raise funds for the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. April 22, 2023 is the date chosen. The mission of the Shepherd Center is for Veterans to seek treatment and assistance for post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries for all post 9/11 Veterans, Lachance added.

The event will take place on Tennessee Street. The street will be cordoned off with waist high fencing for the concert goers.

Mr. Dickey asked if people would have to pay to access the sidewalk. Mrs. Lachance said no, they would not. A wrist band will allow people to purchase food, beer and wine within the cordoned off area. They will have six entrances and exits.

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the street closure request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Riverwalk Enhancement Bids

Town Manager Chad Simons said The Town of Murphy received a \$50,000 grant coordinated by the Southwestern Commission to extend the boardwalk on Fisherman's loop by 200 feet from the pedestrian pavilion – keeping the trail accessible year round. Mr. Simons said the project also included riprap installation at a nearby location. Mr. Simons said the bid was posted in January, and they received 5 bids, with Atlas/Kephart Construction the low bid at \$36,390.

Motion was made by McClure to accept the low bid for the Riverwalk Enhancement project made by Atlas/Kephart Construction in the amount of \$36,390. Motion carried unanimously.

Streetscape Grant Project Fund Approval

Town Manager Chad Simons said the Council needed to approve a separate project ordinance for the Rural Transformation Streetscape grant Project.

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the project ordinance as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the project fund is attached in the minute book.

Monthly Reports

Motion was made by McClure to approve the monthly reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the monthly reports are attached in the minute book.

Discussion

Mr. Frank Dickey congratulated the Mayor for being appointed to the Southwestern Commission Board.

Mrs. Charlene Smith thanked the police department for a quick response on a call made by a family member.

Mrs. Gail Walker Stansell said she is excited about the downtown events scheduled this year, and how it adds more value to the town.

Mayor Radford welcomed Randy Foster to the Cherokee Scout, and thanked Jared Putnam – the former editor- for his service to the local paper.

Mrs. Barbara Hughes congratulated the downtown development director for the great planning of activities.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

