

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on July 5, 2022 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.

Town Manager: Chad Simons

Attorney: Mack Cowan

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

Mayor Tim Radford led the town with the pledge of allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Town Manager Chad Simons said one Council Member requested an item on the Agenda that was not included in the draft agenda sent out, and discussion of that item needed to be formally included on the agenda as a result. Mayor Radford also requested moving up the amendment to the rules of procedure as well.

Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Hughes to approve the agenda as amended, adding “Discussion of Establishing a Social District” and moving up “Approval of New Rules of Procedure for Town Council.” Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Approval of new Rules of Procedure for Town Council

Mayor Radford introduced new rules of procedure he thought would make town council meeting run much more smoothly, and rules that are easier to understand than the town’s reliance upon Robert’s Rules of Order. The new rules of procedure are identified in Trey Allen’s book entitled “Suggested Rules of Procedure by a City Council.”

Motion made by McClure, seconded by Smith to adopt the new rules of procedure as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the June 6, 2022 regular meeting minutes and the June 30, 2022 special meeting minutes with one edition: changing the listed occupation of Ms. Wendy Alexander to that of Murphy High School instead of Tri County Community College in the June 30, 2022 special meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the minutes are published in the minute book.

Sludge Study Resolution

Town Manager Chad Simons said the Town needed to officially accept the sludge study grant by approving the presented Resolution, and establishing a project ordinance for the study, \$45,000 of revenues from state grant monies and \$45,000 of expenditures to McGill Associates to conduct the study. Mr. Simons said the grant is 100 percent paid for with state monies, and that the study might give the town more opportunities to dispose of its sewer plant sludge.

Motion was made by Dickey to approve the Resolution as presented, and to adopt the project ordinance as presented. Motion carried. A copy of the Resolution and project ordinance are attached in the minute book.

Resolution for new Town Signatories

Motion was made by McClure to adopt the Resolution to add Ms. Jamie Slate and Ms. Christy Chase as new town signatories. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolutions attached in the minute book.

Duke Street Closure Request for Halloween

Mrs. Erika Twiggs of Duke Street wrote a letter to the Town Council requesting for Duke Street to be closed from 5 pm- 8pm Sunday, October 31 for Halloween. Ms. Twiggs also requested for certain intersections to be closed, and for the assistance of the Murphy Police Department.

Ms. Gail Stansell said safety concerns should lead the town to close the street.

Town Manager Chad Simons added that the street closed itself on Halloween out of tradition, and that the safest thing to do would be to grant the street closure as requested.

Motion was made by Stansell to approve of the street closure as requested. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the letter is attached in the minute book.

Junk Sales Update

Town Manager Chad Simons stated that there were no real good options to consider for the issue at Dr. Mims Dentist Office building, and that the town would have to incorporate junk yard sale regulations against all property owners in H-B Highway Business, which could be problematic. Mr. Simons said he would reach out to the health department to see if they could do anything.

Motion was made by Smith to table the matter until further notice.

Discussion on the Establishment of a Social District

Ms. Keisha Dockery presented the idea of establishing a social district in downtown Murphy, which may attract more visitors to the area. Ms. Dockery said the law was new, and that many other cities and towns were introducing such districts to enhance their downtowns.

Ms. Stansell stated that she would be open to consider such a district for art walk. Mr. Barry McClure agreed that art walk might be a good way to introduce such a social district into Murphy.

Mr. Dickey expressed displeasure about this topic coming up on the Agenda with no prior knowledge. Town Clerk Chad Simons apologized for making the mistake.

Ms. Dockery said she would send information out to each Council Member so the town could consider establishing a social district in the near future.

Monthly Reports

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

Discussion

Mayor Radford informed the Town about the Capital Hill Christmas Tree visiting Murphy on November 6. Mayor Radford also stated the town would be posting additional signage on the river walk to help combat litter and crime.

Closed Session

Motion was made by Dockery to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11, Section 3. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Dockery to enter back into open session. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Stansell to pursue legal action against the owner(s) of Urban Salon at 36 Valley River Avenue for illegally constructing steps on town property. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion was made by McClure to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk: Signed Chad Simons

Mayor: Signed Tim Radford