

The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on August 10, 2023 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.

Town Manager: Chad Simons
Attorney: Mack Cowan
Police Chief Tim Lominac

Mayor Tim Radford
Council: Barry McClure, Frank Dickey
Charlene Smith, Gail Walker Stansell

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

Public Comment

Mayor Radford noted Apryl Scayola's letter to the Town Council concerning pool hall regulations, and her desire to allow for pool tables with certain restrictions. The letter is attached in the minute book.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Smith to approve the July 10, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Releases

None.

CDBG Valley River Apartments Bid Approval

The Town received one bid from Mills Construction to get water/sewer to the Valley River Apartment Complex site behind Wal-Mart. Town Manager Chad Simons referenced the engineer's letter of recommendation to award the bid in the amount of \$2,202,534.55. Mr. Simons said Federal HUD, which oversees CDBG programs, is likely to award the Town more monies in the near future – totaling over \$1 million. Mr. Simons said this would help WNC Housing, the owner/manager of the site, reduce costs.

Motion was made by McClure to approve the bid to Mills Construction Company of S.C., INC. in the amount of \$2,202,534.55. Motion carried unanimously.

Pool Hall Regulations

Mr. Frank Dickey noted past issues with pool tables in town, and said he would be voting against any motion to amend or rescind the existing ordinance.

Mr. Barry McClure said he would be okay with allowing one pool table per business, hours from 7 am – 11 pm.

Ms. Gail Stansell said the age limitations should be 18 and over and for businesses to be operating at a minimum of 12 months before acquiring a pool table. Ms. Stansell asked about gambling regulations. Town Manager Chad Simons said state regulations should address gambling.

Mr. Dickey argued that we should not need any regulations if pool tables did not bring issues. Mr. Dickey asked what would be defined as operating. Town Manager Chad Simons said perhaps they could use water/sewer billing system for that aspect of the proposed amendment.

Motion was made by McClure to amend Chapter 113 of the Town of Murphy Code of Ordinances to allow businesses to have at most one pool table per establishment for ages 18 and up for all businesses in operating for a minimum of 12 months – with hours of 7 am – 11 pm. Motion carried. Vote: 3 to 1. Voting against, Frank Dickey.

Streetscape Construction Design Contract

Town Manager Chad Simons said the costs are higher than expected, and that the Town would need to consider other options for construction administration as a result. Mr. Simons aid Regeneration by Design is the firm staff wanted to get the project to the construction stage.

Motion was made by Stansell to approve the streetscape construction design contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the contract is attached in the minute book.

Street Name Request for Valley River Apartments

Motion was made by McClure to name the future street leading to Valley River Apartments, “Rick Ramsey Street.” Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution of Solidarity to Address Homelessness in Cherokee County

Mayor Radford read the resolution drafted by County Attorney Darryl Brown.

Mr. Frank Dickey commented that the resolution reads well, but noted that the Town of Murphy is carrying the burden of the homeless shelter being in Murphy.

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

Public Restroom Hours Discussion

Mayor Radford presented a letter from business owner Sandy Dobson concerning issues with the town’s restrooms drawing illegal activity and drug users to her area in town. Mrs. Dobson’s letter stated the issues did not exist until restrooms were constructed, and wanted the Town to consider opening restrooms for special events only.

The Council discussed the issue at length.

Motion was made by Dickey to set Town of Murphy Public Restroom Hours from 10 am – 5 pm Monday – Saturday, closing Sundays. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports

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

Discussion

Town Manager Chad Simons informed the Council that the Charters of Freedom Memorials were going to be relocated to Konehete Veterans Park within the next five days.

Mr. Frank Dickey said the Town needed to do a better job regulating sidewalk access, and not allowing businesses to place signs in the pocket parks – noting an explicit ordinance banning signs in all four pocket parks.

Mr. Dickey recognized Mr. Carl Auvil's service to the Town of Murphy Planning Board.

Adjourn

Motion was made by McClure to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.