

**The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on November 6, 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  
Cindy Chastain

Mayor Radford opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Approval of the Minutes**

**Motion was made by McClure to approve the October 2, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Cyber MOA NCLM**

Town Manager Chad Simons said the North Carolina League of Municipalities received American Rescue Act funds to assist towns with cyber security services, grant writing, and other professional services. Mr. Simons said the agreement will ensure the Town of Murphy can take advantage of funds they have available to pursue grants for stage and splash pad, and engineering services for the sewer plant preliminary engineering report.

**Motion was made by Smith to approve the NCLM MOA as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Amendment to Animals Ordinance prohibiting dogs, cats and other domestic animals from entering or being on the premises of Sunset Cemetery.**

Each Council Member said they had heard from citizens concerning this issue. Town Attorney Mack Cowan informed the Council that due to a criminal penalty imposed by the ordinance, it must come back to the Council for a second reading and approval next month before it is enacted.

**Motion was made by Stansell to approve the amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the ordinance is attached in the minute book and posted online at [townofmurphync.com](http://townofmurphync.com).**

**Ordinance Directing Public Officer to proceed to demolish or remove the burned dwelling house located on the property at 28 Texana Road.**

Town Manager Chad Simons said warning letters and public hearings were set concerning this property that were not responded to. Mr. Simons said the structure was deemed unsafe by Cherokee County Code Enforcement last May due to a fire, and that the structure is very unsafe and poses a health hazard. Mr. Simons said the structure was ablaze last Saturday evening, forcing Town of Murphy firefighters to respond once again.

**Motion was made by Dickey to approve the Ordinance directing the Public Officer to demolish or remove the burned dwelling house located on the property at 28 Texana Road. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the ordinance is attached in the minute book.**

**Special Event Approval**

Downtown Development Director Laura Lachance requested a street closure from 7 am – 9 pm from downtown intersection on Tennessee Street to Depot Street, and Valley River Avenue downtown intersection to Hickory Street on Saturday, May 4, 2024 for the annual Spring Festival.

**Motion was made by McClure to approve the street closure for the Spring Festival as requested. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Buck Bald Shepherd's Men Concert Request**

Patrick Keenan with Buck Bald Brewing requested a street closure from the downtown intersection of Tennessee Street to Depot Street for Saturday, April 13, 2024. The closure will support a concert to raise money for Shepherd's Men Center – which supports Veterans.

Mr. Frank Dickey complimented Mr. Keenan on their efforts last spring with the concern.

**Motion was made by Dickey to approve the street closure as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOU Friends of Main Street Murphy**

Downtown Director Laura Lachance presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town Council and a non-profit group, "Friends of Main Street Murphy, which would support downtown economic development activities. Mrs. Lachance state the group can do more things with fundraising and grants then the town can in some cases because of their non-profit status.

**Motion was made by Smith to approve the MOU with Friends of Main Street Murphy as presented. Motion carried unamiously.**

### **Designated Agent LOI FEMA**

Town Manager Chad Simons informed the Council about a grant opportunity they have with rehabbing a lift station located within the floodplain. Mr. Simons stated FEMA requires the Town appoint an agent and a secondary agent in order to apply for the grant. Mr. Simons requested to have himself and Mayor Radford serve as the respective agents for FEMA.

**Motion was made by Stansell to approve the FEMA LOI agent request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Shop with a cop Fundraiser**

Assistant Chief Ryan Cunningham requested to use the Town parking lot and to close Bill Hughes Avenue and a portion of Alley Street on December 16, from 11 am until 4 p.m Mr. Cunningham said they are trying to get a head start for next year to avoid scrambling the final few months to make 2024 Shop with a Cop successful.

**Motion was made by Smith to approve the closure request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Monthly Reports**

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

### **Discussion**

Town Manager Chad Simons said the police department construction is ahead of schedule, and the contractor was doing a good job so far. Mr. Simons also informed the Council about meeting with the state Historic Preservation Officer to put the Museum and L&N Depot on the historic registry. Mr. Jan Davidson also met with the agent to inquire about placing his home on the historic register as well.

**Motion was made by McClure to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

