

**The regular meeting of the Murphy Town Council was held on February 5, 2024 at 5:00 pm at City Hall.**

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

Mayor Tim Radford  
Council: Barry McClure,  
Charlene Smith, Gail Walker Stansell  
Cindy Chastain, Keisha Dockery

Mayor Radford opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **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 McClure to approve the January 2, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Audit Contract Approval and Audit Presentation**

Holly Turner, with Turner&Associates, C.P.A., presented the summary of the Town's 2023 fiscal year audit. Ms. Turner stated there was no reported findings or internal control issues.

Town Manager Chad Simons presented the 2024 Audit Contract. Mr. Simons said the five percent increase is more than reasonable given the numerous grant projects that will be audited in 2024.

**Motion was made by Dockery to approve the 2024 Audit contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the contract is attached in the minute book.**

### **Recreational Planning Grant Information and Budget Amendment**

Downtown Development Director, Laura Lachance, and Sarah Posey Davis presented a planning grant to the Town Council. The grant will fund the preliminary phases to extend the Murphy Riverwalk to Valley River Apartments and to the Valley River Casino Resort and Hotel.

Town Manager Chad Simons requested a budget amendment to account for the grant project. Increase Economic Development Revenue (10-334-05) by \$24,000 and an increase to Recreational Mis/Professional Services (10-620-12) by \$24,000.

**Motion was made by McClure to approve the budget amendment for the grant project as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Report of Uncollected Taxes**

Town Manager Chad Simons presented the real and personal property uncollected reports to the Town Council, as required.

Mrs. Dockery asked what the collection rate was at this time. Mr. Simons stated that the town had collected 100 percent of its budgeted amount for the fiscal year, and about 85 percent of the total billed amount.

**Motion was made by Smith to approve the uncollected taxes report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Resolution authorizing Town Clerk to begin demolition cost recovery for property located at 28 Texana Road**

Town Manager Chad Simons stated the resolution would begin the process of recovering the town's expenses of demolishing the abandoned structure at 28 Texana Road.

**Motion was made by Stansell to approve the Resolution authorizing the Town Clerk to begin demolition cost recovery for property located at 28 Texana Road. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached in the minute book.**

### **Property Surplus – 1981 Fire Department Mini Pumper**

Town Manager Chad Simons said the Fire Department recently completed the conversion of a 2013 Chevy from Public Works into a pumper truck. As a result, the Town would be able to surplus the 1981 mini pumper on Gov Deals.

**Motion was made by Dockery to surplus the 1981 Fire Department Mini Pumper on Gov Deals website. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Budget Amendment – BRIC Grant Application Services**

Town Manager Chad Simons said McGill has assisted with over 50 hours of time on the FEMA BRIC Grant application that could possibly enable the town to build a new lift station at the health department – taking it out of the 500 year floodplain. Mr. Simons said the town refurbished the lift station in the late 90s or early 2000s, and it was well past its useful life. Mr. Simons said the Town could get 90% of the project paid for if the application is successful since the town is classified as a rurally disadvantaged community. Mr. Simons said the project will coincide nicely with Cherokee County's plans to build a health department/senior center complex in the area.

**Motion was made by Stansell to approve the budget amendment as proposed; to increase (30-399-00) Prior YR Fund Balance/Retained Earnings by \$17,500 and to Increase (30-810-04) Professional Services line-item by \$17,500. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Budget Amendment – Sewer Plant Blower**

Town Manager Chad Simons said the blower for the digester, which processes the sludge from the sewer plant, needs to be replaced. Estimated costs for a new blower are \$25,000.

**Motion was made by Stansell to increase (30-371-01) Sewer Charges Revenue by \$25,000, and to Increase (30-811-51) Capital Outlay Equipment by \$25,000. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Budget Amendment – Pump Station Repairs and Utility Maintenance**

Town Manager Chad Simons said generator maintenance along with needed repairs to the Ice Plant, Golf Course and Hospital lift stations require a budget amendment.

**Motion was made by McClure to Increase (30-810-16) Equipment Maintenance by \$10,000, Increase (30-810-71) Pump St. Repairs by \$20,000, and to Increase (30-371-01) Sewer Charge Revenue by \$30,000. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Monthly Reports**

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

#### **Discussion**

Mayor Radford asked if the Council wanted to push back May meeting date to May 13 since he would be out of town the first Monday of the month for a Raleigh meeting.

**Motion was made by Smith to approve moving the May 2024 meeting to May 13. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Frank Dickey reminded the Board and the public about the grant dollars received by the Town for water/sewer and Riverwalk improvements.

#### **Closes Session**

**Motion was made by Chastain to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (5). Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by McClure to enter back into open session at 6:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Chastain to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**