

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING (COMMUNITY ROOM)
APRIL 12, 2016 AT 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eric Barna called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

2. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

City Secretary Susie Quinn certified a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

Mayor Eric Barna
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Bradley (arrived at 6:16 pm)
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui
Councilmember Betty Nichols Spraggins
Councilmember Sarah Fincanon
Councilmember Rob Thomas

Absent:

Councilmember Ben St. Clair

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion regarding Council direction for the FY 2017 Budget.

Interim City Manager Bill Shipp explained the reason for the meeting is to get preliminary direction from council on their views as to which items are important to review for the budget so staff can look at budgeting those items accordingly. Also to look at the level of service Council wishes to have for the residents so staff can get a realistic idea of where the projected budget revenues should be allocated.

Shipp stated all department heads have been working on their respective budgets, and will continue to do so and mold them to fit Council's vision. Currently there is a pay plan that is being worked on by key staff members that will impact the budget if adopted. The pay plan will be presented at another meeting or work session very soon.

Shipp explained he would like input from each Councilmember on the items they would like discussed for this and/or future budget work sessions. Items that were discussed is the possibilities of creating Assistant positions for both Chiefs and if those are necessary now or in the near future, the possible need for an Assistant City Manager/Planning position. Since the City of Murphy is moving towards build out what strategy should be established in moving towards more of a maintenance mode of operation for the City. Traffic signals were discussed especially regarding Betsy at North Murphy Road and lighting along Betsy Road. Other signals discussed were the ones along Murphy Road and whether to remove Murphy Road from TxDOT maintenance. Other items discussed where the cosmetics in Murphy such as the medians, key intersections, lighting for the Murphy Entrance signs, and distinct painting along FM 544 and Murphy Road. Parks were discussed in regards to finding the gaps in the trail system and getting those corrected, and how to use the multipurpose fields for more sports such as Cricket. There was a request to separate expenses from consumption expenses and investment capital. Prioritize capital items, trim the City's reserves from thirty percent (30%), and look at all expenses and scrutinize if they are really necessary. The possibility of additional City employees was mentioned concerning whether the City has enough in police and fire personnel, emphasizing the level

of service Murphy requires and if the city has enough to fill that need. The last fiscal budget was discussed and it was requested that staff look for surplus funds, and questioned about any personnel that were budgeted but never hired in the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year budget, and if any personnel were hired for acute need. This was asked to help Council get a better understanding. The tax rate was discussed at length in regards to what factors can and will affect it for the upcoming budget year.

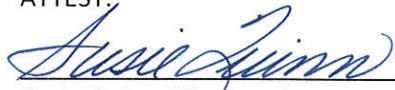
B. Presentation and discussion regarding Revenue projections for the FY 2017 Budget.

Finance Director, Linda Truitt gave information about the current projected revenues and explained that actual numbers for the gas and electric have been included. Projected numbers for permitting are based on single family homes (approximately 50 of them) and a few commercial buildings. The city's current projected revenue, without including property taxes is about \$5.8 million. There were questions regarding the debt service (Interest & Sinking) and the Operations and Maintenance (O & M). Working with a proposed tax rate of \$.50 (fifty) cents which equates to approximately \$10.8 million in revenues. Shipp mentioned it is much easier to lower taxes slowly as opposed to having to raise taxes if needed. He wanted everyone to keep that in mind during the tax rate conversations. Truitt explained at the projected revenues including taxes and other sources the budget indicates a total of \$13,838,100.00 in revenues for the FY2017 Budget.

4. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the special joint council meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

ATTEST:



Susie Quinn, City Secretary



APPROVED BY:



Eric Barna, Mayor