

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Betty Nichols-Spraggins gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

**3. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Bradley  
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui  
Councilmember Ben St. Clair  
Councilmember Betty Nichols Spraggins  
Councilmember Sarah Fincanon  
Councilmember Rob Thomas

Councilmembers absent: Mayor Eric Barna

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**5. PRESENTATION ITEMS:**

A. Presentation of financial report and investment report as of August 31, 2014..

Finance Director Linda Truitt presented the August 31<sup>st</sup> financial report and investment report to the City Council.

Ms. Truitt stated that there was no change in the interest rate of .10%. Sales tax should be close to meeting the budget. She reported that the current budget year was 83% completed. Ninety-two percent of the revenues have been collected with general fund expenditures being at 75% to 80%.

She also reviewed the utility fund and stated that water revenues continued to be under budget but the utility fund expenditures were on track.

Ms. Truitt answered questions from the City Councilmembers.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

All consent agenda items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

A. Consider and/or act upon meeting minutes:

1. September 2, 2014 Regular City Council Meeting
2. September 10, 2014 Special Joint Meeting with City Council and Park Board

**COUNCIL ACTION (6.A.):**

**APPROVED**

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui moved to accept the consent agenda. Council Member Fincanon seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0. (*Mayor Barna was absent*)

**7. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

- A. Consider and/or act upon approval of an Ordinance adopting the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget and appropriating funds to a sinking fund to pay interest and principal on the City's indebtedness, and appropriating funds to support the City of Murphy for the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2014 and ending on September 30, 2015.

Staff was complimented for their hard work to stay on budget and creating an appropriate new budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley stated that this budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$547,752, which is a 5.86 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$252,218.

**COUNCIL ACTION (7A.):**

**APPROVED**

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui moved to approve an Ordinance adopting the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2014 and ending September 30, 2015 and making the appropriations as reflected in said budget. Councilmember Rob Thomas seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0. (*Mayor Barna was absent*)(*Ordinance No. 14-09-984*)

- B. Consider and/or act upon ratifying the property tax revenue increase reflected in the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget.

Staff explained that the state requires a vote by Council to ratify the fact that the budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$547,752 or 5.86%, and of that amount \$252,218 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

**COUNCIL ACTION (7.B.):**

**APPROVED**

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui moved to approve ratifying the property tax revenue increase reflected in the budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Councilmember Rob Thomas seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0. (*Mayor Barna was absent*)

- C. Consider and/or act upon approval of an Ordinance levying ad valorem taxes for use and support of the municipal government of the City of Murphy for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2014 and ending September 30, 2015.

Staff explained that the property taxes are being decreased two cents from \$.57 to \$.55 per \$100 valuation and that the two prescribed public hearings have been held with little public comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley thanked staff.

**COUNCIL ACTION (7.C.):**

**APPROVED**

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.550000, which is effectively a 3.43 percent increase in the tax rate. Approve an ordinance fixing and levying municipal ad valorem taxes for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2014 and ending on September 30, 2015, and for each fiscal year thereafter until otherwise provided. Councilmember Rob Thomas seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0. *(Mayor Barna was absent)(Ordinance 14-09-985)*

- D. Consider and/or act upon approval of a resolution authorizing signature authority to sign and endorse checks and drafts of the City of Murphy bank account.

Staff explained that since the election and the appointment of the Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, the bank signature cards need to be updated to reflect the new authorized signers.

**COUNCIL ACTION (7.D.):**

**APPROVED**

Council Member Fincanon made the motion to approve a resolution authorizing signature authority to sign and endorse checks and drafts of the City of Murphy bank accounts. Councilmember Rob Thomas seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0. *(Mayor Barna was absent)(Resolution No. 14-R-805)*

- E. Hold a public hearing and consider and/or act on the application of Allen Tari requesting a variance to sign requirements as stated in the Code of Ordinances Section 28-22, Monument Signs-Business Districts, for a sign at the business known as Tari Car Lot, located at 729 W. FM 544.

Staff explained the history of the sign and the changes that the applicant has made to the sign but the alterations are still in not in compliance with the sign requirements. Planning and Zoning denied the variance request at the August 25, 2014 meeting. The written appeal was received timely. Staff made recommendations to the applicant to bring it into compliance.

Aron Frydberg discussed details of the sign and his request for the height variance.

The public hearing opened at 6:33 pm. No one requested to speak. The public hearing closed at 6:33 pm.

The members of the City Council discussed this item at length.

**COUNCIL ACTION (7.E.):**

**DENIED**

Council Member Rob Thomas made the motion to not overturn the Planning and Zoning decision and to deny the applicant's variance request. Council Member Betty Nichols Spraggins seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0. *(Mayor Barna was absent)*

- F. Discuss upcoming 2014 Community Events.

Staff discussed the following upcoming 2014 Community Events:

**Maize Days – Saturday, September 27, 2014**

**Keep Murphy Beautiful Community Clean & Green Event and 3rd Annual Arbor Day  
Celebration – Saturday, October 11, 2014**

**Murphy Animal Shelter Grand Opening and HOWL-O-WEEN Fest! – Saturday, October 25,  
2014**

**Christmas in the Park – Thursday, December 4, 2014**

**COUNCIL ACTION (7.F.):**

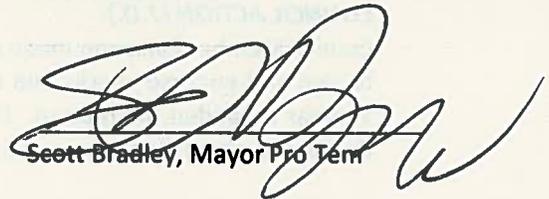
No action was required on this item.

**NON-ACTION ITEM**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

APPROVED BY:

  
Scott Bradley, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

  
Susie Quinn, City Secretary

