

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Bradly 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

Absent:
Mayor Eric Barna

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Catherine McBride, resident, made an appealing invitation to the Council to participate as judges for the National Christian Forensics and Communication Association's (NCFCA) Regional Qualifying Speech and Debate Tournament. The tournament will be held March 12-14, 2015 at the First Baptist Church of Frisco, Texas and April 9-11, 2015 at the First Baptist Church in Wylie, Texas. She stressed the need for participants to come and listen to the speeches and the debates. Anyone 18 and older and is a high school graduate is qualified to be a judge.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation of the Annual Traffic Contact Report for 2014 for the Murphy Police Department (also known as the Racial Profiling Report).

Lt. Adana Barber presented the report on behalf of Police Chief Cox. She stated the Police Department contracts with Dr. Ales del Carman who develops the mandatory annual report. Questions and comments from Council included no real changes in this report as compared to prior reports and how the ethnicity of a person is derived.

B. Presentation of financial report as of January 31, 2014.

Finance Director Truitt stated the investment report has an increase due to the property tax payments. The interest rate is still .10%, sales tax has increased above last year, and the revenues and expenditures are on track to meet the approved budget numbers. Permits and

licenses are down since building in the area has slowed due in part to the fewer number of available lots.

Council requested the number of lots which are available for building. Animal Shelter expenditures were discussed.

6. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

A. Discussion of the Draft FY 2014 Comprehensive Financial Report.

Finance Director Truitt requested Council to have their questions and/or concerns sent to her by 8:00 am Monday, February 23, 2015. Staff continues to review the CAFR and would like to address changes with the auditors prior to the next meeting.

Council discussed the varying percentages and how they change through the year and would like more clarification as to why the numbers change.

COUNCIL ACTION (6.A.):

NO ACTION

B. Discussion of FY 2015 Budget.

City Manager Fisher stated that staff has reached the 95% to 98% managing the budget. The numbers move because of the constant change in revenues and expenditures received and spent. Staff wants to continue to provide Council with accurate reporting. An up-to-date picture of some unplanned unbudgeted items which are occurring will also be explained at the Planning Session.

Council discussed the need to perhaps discuss at the 2015 Council Planning Session how to fine tune certain items. Also requested is the calculation of the percentage of actual funds to budgeted funds for the last five years which might be helpful to have at Planning Session.

COUNCIL ACTION (6.B.):

NO ACTION

C. Discussion regarding 2015 Spring Events.

Recreation Manager Caitlyn Mullins updated the Council regarding the discussion that was held with Park and Recreation board on February 9, 2015. A PowerPoint was presented covering the Rainbow Trout Roundup (February 21, 2015), Experience Murphy (April 11, 2015), Keep Murphy Beautiful Trash Off and Recycling Event (April 18, 2015), Moonlight Movies (Fridays in May) and Sounds at Sundown Summer Concert Series (Fridays in June).

Following the presentation, Council and staff discussed the various events and the growth each one has seen as they continue. The Rainbow Trout Roundup already has over 200 people preregistered. Experience Murphy began last year. Challenges regarding food vendors, the need for rebranding the event has the Park's Board as well as staff looking at the possibility of postponing the event until 2016. Questions regarding the type of event as to whether it should be a cultural event or a talent show were asked. The event should have continuity year after year, which is one reason to postpone and revamp Experience Murphy this year. Central Park needs some adjustments to be better utilized. The new Farmers Market was discussed as well

as the Chamber of Commerce new Spring Fling Event happening around the same time period. Consensus by Council was to postpone the event and to engage the Park's Board and others to make this event better.

COUNCIL ACTION (6.C.):

NO ACTION

D. Discussion regarding the 2015 Council Planning Session.

City Manager Fisher wanted to remind Council of the dates and to encourage Council to be prepared to discuss the challenges. City Council was requested to come up with one to three critical questions that can be discussed at the Planning Sessions. These questions will serve to determine what type of city we want to be, what it will take to get there, how we will get there, what we will look like and what are the costs involved to develop and maintain this vision. Other nearby cities have recently completed strategic planning exercises. At the March 17, 2015 Council meeting an in-depth financial overview of the 2015 budget is to be presented. The 2014 Comprehensive Financial Report is to be presented at the March 3, 2015 Council meeting so hopefully some of the financial concerns will be addressed. On March 19, 2015 will be a dinner, then on Friday, March 20, 2015 should begin the real discussions and tentatively is set from 3 pm to 8 pm and then Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 9 am until about 1 pm. This will take place at the Activity Center.

Council does think having examples from other cities as well as the previous plan would be useful. Some discussion items have been received and will be presented. Themes were the focus of the last strategic plan and then each one was discussed as to how to be successful in those items but the financial ramifications were not discussed as in-depth as they should have been. Staff's input was also requested as to what may be needed that Council may not be aware. The citizen's survey was mentioned again. Principles should be reviewed and discussed. The question was asked if the Leadership Team should attend all of the discussions. The Mayor's input is needed to address this question. The restaurant has not been determined.

COUNCIL ACTION (6.D.):
ACTION

NO

E. Consider and take action, if any, on a Resolution opposing Senate Bill 343.

City Manager Fisher explained the challenge of Senate Bill 343 as it will deeply erode the authority of cities. The people of Murphy voted for the City to be a Home Rule city.

The bill will probably be challenged in the courts if it passes. In other states, funding is provided to the city level but Texas was not founded that way and to change our way of governing will be challenging. Zoning and Development Codes are just two areas that would be negatively affected by the passage of this bill. Council's voice regarding this bill will be heard during Collin County Days at Austin in March.

COUNCIL ACTION (6.E.):

APPROVED

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui moved to approve Resolution Number 15-R-812 opposing Senate Bill 343. Councilmember Fincanon seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0 (Mayor Eric Barna was absent).

7. CITY MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS

A. North Murphy Road Construction Update

Storm drains and other issues are being worked on presently as they are hoping for more good weather days in order to complete the pours. Other issues are being addressed and resolved.

B. Collin County Days, March 2-3, 2015

Councilmembers Spraggins and Fincanon as well as city staff; Bernie Parker, James Fisher, Kristen Roberts, Tina Stelnicki and Susie Quinn all plan to attend.

C. Timbers Nature Preserve

Timbers Nature Preserve is on schedule with a couple of concerns as one resident thinks the restrooms may be constructed to close to their property line. The soft trail will be looked at this week. The drainage cleaning is about to begin using the Core of Engineers permit but it was emphasized that it is strictly a scoop and pull out. It cannot be landscaped in the process or made to look pretty during the scoop and pull out.

D. South Maxwell Creek Parallel Trunk Sewer Line

The contract documents have arrived and will be reviewed and once they are signed the preconstruction meetings will begin.

E. Trout Fishing Round-Up to be held February 21, 2015

The Trout Fishing Round-up will be on Saturday. City Manager Fisher thanked Councilmember St. Clair in assisting with the Park and Wildlife Game Warden's attendance to be present to set up a booth to encourage and promote fishing and visiting State Parks. He also recognized the good job done by Caitlin Mullins, Kayla McCord and all the staff at the recreation department to make this a very successful event.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council convened into close Executive Session at 7:25 pm pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:

- A. §551.087** Deliberation regarding economic development negotiations (1) to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body and with which the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations; (2) to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect described by Subdivision (1).

- B. §551.072** To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.

- C. §551.071 Consultation with Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter in regard to Safe Routes to School.

9. RECONVENTE INTO REGULAR SESSION

The City Council reconvened into open session at 8:13 pm with the Mayor's announcement that no action was taken in Executive Session, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:

- A. §551.087 Deliberation regarding economic development negotiations (1) to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body and with which the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations; (2) to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect described by Subdivision (1).
- B. §551.072 To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.
- C. §551.071 Consultation with Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter in regard to Safe Routes to School.
- D. Take Action on any Executive Session Items.

COUNCIL ACTION (9.A., 9.B., 9.C.)

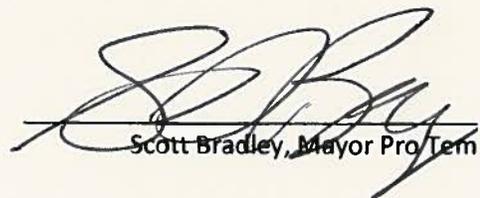
NO ACTION

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

APPROVED BY:




Scott Bradley, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Susie Quinn, City Secretary