

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 19, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barna called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barna 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 Eric Barna
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Bradley
Councilmember Betty Nichols Spraggins
Councilmember Sarah Fincanon
Councilmember Rob Thomas

Councilmembers Absent:

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui
Councilmember Ben St. Clair

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marv Williams, resident, addressed the Council representing the Exchange Club. He was giving an update on their plan to fly American Flags this Memorial Day Weekend, weather permitting. They will be flying the American Flags twice over the weekend once on Saturday, at the annual Decatur Maxwell cemetery and at the pond by the fire station on Monday, Memorial Day. They are looking for volunteers to assist with placing the flags on both days.

Gus Delaney, resident, addressed Council in regards to the property behind the gas station. Because visibility is not advantageous for just commercial retail, he suggested building a two story building with living areas above commercial retail, and/or zero lot townhomes to make better use of that property.

Lorraine Chalkley, resident, addressed Council regarding her location at the North West corner of Betsy/Murphy discussing agenda items 8C & 8D (the Betsy lane road widening/ sewer line.) Her property was annexed in 1997 with the promise of a "proper sanitary sewer" on her road frontage. She would like this to be fixed along with the other sewer lines that are being reviewed with this project. The Mayor asked City Manager, James Fisher to check into this.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation of the Sergeant Kyle Kucauskas Scholarship.

Background was given about Sergeant Kyle Kucauskas and how this scholarship came to be designated. There were enough funds to give 2 (two) scholarships out this year, one recipient could not attend tonight's meeting, so the second one will be presented in June. The recipient that was able to attend was Daniel Moszak. He is currently a freshman at Sam Houston University. He was joined by Sergeant Kyle's parents and members of the City of Murphy Police Department to receive his award.

B. Presentation of financial report and investment report as of April 30, 2015.

Finance Director, Linda Truitt gave the financial report to Council. The month of April is slightly down from previous months from .1 % to .03%. We are still working with Wells Fargo on the interest rate, and we should see that increase in May. The Sales Tax is 13% ahead of last year; the general fund is 13% above. Revenues for the general fund are at 58%, April collections are at 75%. Expenditures are at 50% of the budget, and should come in at approximately 90 – 95%. Water sales are down due to the abundant amount of rain, but sewer sales are up. There were no questions from Council.

City Manager Fisher, came back to this item, to discuss expenditures of where we are right now; our compensation plan is \$23,500, open records admin assistant is at \$30,500, Recording for Windy Hills \$7,000, Windy Hill Engineering is at \$35,000. We asked Council and you agreed to provide a Thanksgiving Turkey and Christmas Lunch which came out to \$4,500. We have a complete list of the Councilmembers who have served since 1958 and we want to honor them with buying a brick for central park with their name and dates served on it. With the Animal Shelter it's currently at \$63,343, the challenge is the project has been stretched out over several budget cycles and it has all come to a head in FY15. Timbers nature preserve we are about 150,000 we have to fund. Betsy lane, when estimated was \$2.6 million and it came back at \$2.9 million. We have requested additional funding but that has not come back. Central park, we have requested \$167,000 from the county and have no heard anything back on this. We have had savings due to unfilled positions, so we have places to absorb some of the costs.

C. Presentation on emergency management awareness.

Fire Chief, Mark Lee, presented "Are You Ready" to the Council. The recent storms in Van, which was an EF-3, 10 miles long, 1200 yards wide, made him think what that would look like in Murphy. He Google Map plotted a storm 9 miles long, and 500 yards wide and it took out a good portion of Murphy. He also showed a Google Map showing the approximate locations of employee's homes and pointed out to council the struggles employees would have getting to the city due to potential traffic flow backups. He suggested having citizens be more aware of the things they will need in an emergency. Gave details about a 72 hour preparedness kit, and gave the following website address, KnowWhat2do.com for more information. It has a very good video for people to review and lists items people should have on hand.

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 the May 5, 2015 regular meeting minutes.
- B. Consider and/or act upon the May 11, 2015 special joint meeting minutes.
- C. Consider and/or act upon a Resolution authorizing continued participation with the Atmos Cities Steering Committee; and authorizing the payment of five cents per capita to the Atmos Cities Steering Committee to fund regulatory and related activities related to Atmos Energy Corporation. (Approved as **Resolution Number 15-R-817**)
- D. Consider and/or act upon a Resolution approving the settlement reached between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (ACSC) and Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division. (Approved as **Resolution Number 15-R-818**)
- E. Consider and/or act upon authorizing the City Manager to execute the renewal of the North Texas Municipal Water District Multijurisdictional Pretreatment Agreement.
- F. Consider and/or act upon authorizing the City Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the adoption of the Texas Department of Transportation's Federally-Approved DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) Program by City of Murphy, Texas.

COUNCIL ACTION (6.A. through 6.F.):

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Bradley moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Sarah Fincanon seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

7. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- A. Consider and/or act upon on the 2015 Planning Session.

City Manager, James Fisher updated Council on the Community Survey which will be discussed with Council on June 2nd, the Comp plan is due back June 8th, and the Compensation study is still being developed. Fisher proposes we adopt the Vision and principles so we have the steps for 2015, and when the survey comes back look at what we can do to support our principles. Council also needs to appoint a Community Improvement Committee no later than August or September.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Bradley moved to adopt the Vision and Principle as identified in the 2015 Council Planning Session. And to request the City Manager to move forward on the Community Survey, the City's Comprehensive Plan, recodification of the City's Ordinances, as well as the appointment process for a Committee for the Capital Projects to all be implemented during the Fiscal Year 2015. Councilmember Rob Thomas seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

B. Discussion on the City's Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Annual Budget.

City Manager Fisher explained to Council the tentative dates for the budget meeting dates, to get their thoughts on attending. For the May 26th meeting Councilmember Thomas is not sure if he will be available. Mayor Barna suggested keeping the dates, and those who can attend will attend. Fisher also explained that he wants to keep the sessions to 2-2 ½ hours to accommodate the busy schedules of Council and staff.

C. Discussion on the hiring process for a new Chief of Police.

City Manager, Fisher explained the hiring of a Police Chief is one of the most important positions to hire because of the magnitude of the position. There were a lot of changes that took place in the Murphy Police Department. We will have a retirement party on June 4th at 3 P.M. for Chief Cox. We are still working on naming an interim chief. We want to be very aggressive on this; we will advertise the position from May 22nd to June 22nd. Then Fisher will narrow it to seven to ten semifinalists. The Police Chief of Waxahachie will be doing background and reference checks. A community panel and a few members of council, and Fisher will narrow it down to no more than four. Then those final four will be asked for final interviews; Fisher has been narrowing the process down to different ways to do this, possibly a town hall meeting so members of the community could meet and interact with the candidates. Part of the aggressiveness in the search is to allow the new Chief who may have family/kids to move and get settled prior to the beginning of the new school year.

All of our police officers have to go through psychological tests and the interviewees will be no different. Mayor Barna suggested having Councilmember St. Clair on the panel, and opened it up to 1 (one) more councilmember. All Councilmembers indicated they were interested. He hopes Council will be able to provide input on the final 2 (two) candidates.

8. CITY MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS**A. Upcoming Town Hall Meeting – May 28, 2015**

Scheduling a Town Hall Meeting with TxDOT and HOA's, moving to June 3rd. We are trying to get all the issues addressed at one time regarding the damage to HOA's entrances, etc.

B. Timbers Nature Preserve

Still under construction, but when it is finished it will be beautiful.

C. Betsy Lane Road Widening Project

This project should begin in mid-June.

D. South Maxwell Creek Parallel Trunk Sewer Line

We are trying to see if we can start working on the other end, since the end of the sewer line is still underwater due to the rain.

E. North Murphy Road

Still addressing issues in regards to this. The City is also working on a mosquito plan and to encourage residents to dump out all standing water at their homes. Mayor Pro Tem Bradley suggested communicating with the residents regarding the sidewalks. It currently looks like there will not be sidewalks available in areas where plans had been identified to build them. So communication with them is essential.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council did not convene into closed Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:

- A. §551.072 To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, including fee simple and easements.

10. RECONVENTE INTO REGULAR SESSION

The City Council did not reconvene into open session since they did not convene into closed Executive Session.

- A. §551.072 To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, including fee simple and easements.

- B. Take Action on any Executive Session Items.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.



APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Barna', is written over a horizontal line.

Eric Barna, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susie Quinn', is written over a horizontal line.

Susie Quinn, City Secretary

