



City of Murphy
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Murphy Boards and Commissions seeking volunteers

MURPHY (September 4, 2020) The 54 volunteers who serve on the City's eight boards, commissions and committee have a critically important advisory role in City government. Appointed by the City Council, these volunteers provide the residents' perspective on key municipal decisions.

"We have begun the annual process of asking citizens to step forward and become part of that decision-making process," says Susie Quinn, City Secretary. "Only through an active and involved citizenry can the process work the way it was intended. Current members whose terms are ending are urged to reapply for reappointment if they so choose."

Presently, there are 29 openings that require people in the community to step forward and become involved. Of these, 26 positions are occupied by members eligible to reapply for their current seat. Appointments are staggered on the various boards, and the new appointments are scheduled for two-year terms starting on Jan. 1, 2021 and ending on Dec. 31, 2022.

Deadline to apply for consideration to an appointment is Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020. The online application form can be found at <https://murphytx.civicweb.net/Portal/CitizenEngagement.aspx>. Here is a list of the advisory bodies along with a brief summary of their duties.

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

This committee discusses ideas that help ensure that the Animal Shelter remains in compliance with the State Department of Health rules pertaining to animal shelters. It makes recommendations concerning operations, policies, procedures, new programs, and the improvement of existing programs.

The committee is composed of six persons including one licensed veterinarian, one municipal official, one person whose duties include the daily operation of the animal shelter and is employed by the City as an Animal Control Officer, one representative from an animal welfare organization, and two citizens of Murphy.

It meets at least three times a year as needed at Murphy City Hall. Committee members are appointed for two-year staggered terms. The City Council fills all vacancies on the committee excluding the Animal Control Officer. Three seats on this committee are open.

Board of Adjustment

This board meets to consider applications for variances to zoning ordinance regulations, and makes decisions on appeals, special exceptions and requests for variances that are in the best interest of the general public.

The Board consists of seven regular members who are qualified City voters appointed to staggered two-year terms. Up to four additional alternate members may be appointed by City Council to serve in the absence of the regular board members. Board members can't serve more than three consecutive full terms, excluding any unexpired terms.

The Board meets as needed at Murphy City Hall. Seven seats on this Board are open, four regular and three alternates.

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Building and Fire Code Appeal Board

This board hears appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the Building Official or Fire Official relative to the application and interpretation of various building and fire codes. The board consists of five members appointed by the City Council to staggered two-year terms.

Recommendations for board members, all of whom must be qualified City voters, are from the following professions: a) Registered design professional with architectural experience or a builder or superintendent of building construction; b) registered design professional with structural engineering experience or a builder or superintendent of building construction; c) registered design professional with mechanical and plumbing engineering experience or a mechanical/plumbing contractor; d) registered design professional with electrical engineering experience or an electrical contractor; and e) registered design professional with fire protection engineering experience or a fire protection contractor or state Fire Commission certified fire personnel.

The Board is required to meet at least once a year and then as needed. Two seats are open.

Ethics Review Commission

This commission seeks to uphold and enforce high ethical standards. The Commission serves as an advisory board to City Council, making appropriate recommendations concerning standard operating procedures and guidelines as described in the Code of Ethics involving City officials and City employees.

The Commission is composed of five members, appointed by the City Council to staggered two-year terms. Commissioners must be residents of the City and qualified voters.

The Commission meets at least once a year and then as needed. Two seats on this commission are open.

Murphy Community Development Corporation

The MCDC makes recommendations and approves the allocation of funding for specific types of projects that promote community enhancements such as parks, related open space improvements, and community development that benefit and enhance the City.

This corporation consists of seven residents of Collin County appointed by the City Council for a staggered two-year term. At least three members may not be employees, officers or members of the governing body of the City.

The Corporation meets on the third Monday of the month, if necessary. Three seats are open.

Murphy Municipal Development District Corporation

The MMDDC has a wide area of jurisdiction, including Economic Development, Community and Development, Planning and Zoning and other related departments.

This corporation acts as a separate political entity that reports to the City Council. It is through this corporation's discretion that projects are planned and funded using a portion of the City's sales tax. The members establish a budget every year that must be approved by City council.

The MMDDC consists of five residents of the City or the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) appointed by the City Council with no term limits. The Corporation meets as needed in the City Council Chambers, Murphy City Hall. Two seats on this corporation are open.

Parks and Recreation Board

This board acts in an advisory capacity to City staff and City Council on all matters pertaining to parks and recreation services. The members advise the staff and City Council on present and future maintenance, operation, planning, acquisition, development, and use policies for City parks and recreation services. This board also serves as the City's Tree Preservation Board.

The board generally meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Murphy City Hall. Three seats on this Board are open.

Planning and Zoning Commission

The P&Z Commission acts as an advisory commission to the City Council, making recommendations pertaining to planning and zoning as well as the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission is responsible for reviewing plats, site plans, landscape plans, and zoning requests, and for making recommendations to City Council for their final approval.

The commission consists of seven qualified taxpaying, resident voters of the City, plus two alternates with the same qualifications, appointed by the City Council for staggered two-year terms.

The commission meets the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at Murphy City Hall. Five seats and two alternates on this commission are open.

Individuals interested in being considered for any of these boards, commissions, or committee may obtain more information by contacting Susie Quinn at squinn@murphytx.org or by calling 972-468-4011.

Applications are available at <https://murphytx.civicweb.net/Portal/CitizenEngagement.aspx> and will be accepted until midnight, Saturday, Oct. 31. Applicants will receive an automated confirmation email to verify the application has been submitted.

Applicants or returning appointees will undergo an interview with a panel of Council members during November. Appointments and reappointments will take effect on Jan. 1, 2021.

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ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 20,010, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income well above the state average. With more than 80 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a family-oriented community with a strong sense of place. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.