

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2014 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui gave the invocation and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Executive Administrative Assistant, Kim McCranie, certified a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

Mayor Eric Barna (arrived at 6:13 pm)
Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ben St. Clair
Councilmember Scott Bradley
Councilmember Betty Nichols Spraggins
Councilmember Bernard Grant
Councilmember Rob Thomas

Councilmembers absent: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marv Williams, 1201 Cactus Path – Mr. Williams thanked Councilmembers Spraggins and Grant for attending the Chamber luncheon. Mr. Williams reminded everyone about the Murphy Chamber of Commerce “Spring Fever” event on Saturday, March 29th from 12:00pm – 5:00pm in the Lowe’s parking lot.

Barbara Harless, 709 Summer Place – Ms. Harless approached the Council in regards to “Experience Murphy”. She expressed her opposition to this event in supporting multi-culturalism/diversity, stating it is not a function of the government and they should not be spending taxpayer dollars to promote it.

Chris Koleber, 411 Woodcrest Circle – Ms. Koleber approached the Council to express her displeasure with the City spending taxpayer dollars on another city event. She would prefer the City to look into freezing City Taxes for Senior Citizens instead of spending more money on developing, maintain and sustaining more parks and events.

5. PRESENTATION ITEMS

(Mayor Barna arrived at 6:13 pm)

A. Finance Director Linda Truitt introduced John Manning of Pattillo, Brown, & Hill, L.L.P. to present the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 2013. Ms. Truitt stated that for the 9th consecutive year the City has received the Certificate of Achievement of Excellence for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Associations and will be submitting the CAFR for the same award again this year. Ms. Truitt presented the following financial highlights from the report:

Pg. 4 – General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance

Pg. 7 – Net Assets

Pg. 9 – Net Position
Pg. 18 – Total General Fund Balance
Pg. 22 – 24 – General Fund Revenues & Expenditures
Pg. 47 – Long Term Debt

Mr. Manning gave an overview of their processes and procedures for the audit and reporting. He was very complimentary of the City's financial procedures and records. He acknowledged the changes requested by Council had been made.

- B. Finance Director Linda Truitt presented the Council with the unaudited finance and investment report as of February 28, 2014.

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.

7. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- A. Discussion with Oncor representatives regarding service concerns in Murphy.

Barry Young with Oncor Electric presented to the Council the maintenance and repairs that have been completed since the December 2013 ice storm. Mr. Young stated that Oncor have reviewed the outages in the Skyline Acres and Travis Farm areas since 2010 with the following items as:

- 60% - Trees contacting lines
- 27% - Storm
- 8% - 3rd Party incidents
- 5% - Undetermined

Mr. Young said that there had been only 1 outage since the December 2013 ice storm, which was caused by a 3rd party truck, on December 23rd that hit a line while picking up debris from the ice storm, until today. He said today a transformer blew at a large customer service area that affected approximately 40 thousand customers.

Mr. Young stated they began inspecting trees and trimming on December 16, 2013 and patrolled the lateral lines at the same time which was completed on February 2, 2014. He said they will continue to monitor the area closely. He said they found some pole issues and have installed wildlife guards. He said they will wait to continue the remaining maintenance/repairs until spring due to possible power outages while work is being completed.

Mr. Young encouraged customers to use the following tools during a power outage:

- Oncor Outage Map
- Stormcenter.oncor.com/default
- Twitter
- Facebook

- Text – Sign up and report outages via text 66267, out.

Mr. Young has been pleased with the work that has been complete since December 2013. He said there will be some power outages from time to time but they will continue to monitor the outages in these areas for patterns, etc. He also encouraged residents to communicate with the City Manager or him directly.

Barbara Harless, 709 Summer Place – Ms. Harless inquired as to how Oncor knew the power was out if the smart meters did not communicate. Mr. Young of Oncor replied that the lack of communication was the notification of a power outage.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.A.):

NO ACTION

- B. Consider and take action, if any, on the approval of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013.

The Council requested action on this item be postponed until the April 1, 2014 meeting in order for the public to have more time to review the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY13.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.B.):

NO ACTION

- C. Presentation and Discussion on the Evolution of Murphy Information Technology: The Path to Government 3.0

I.T. Manager, Wendle Medford presented to Council a broad overview of what the Information Technology Department has accomplished and the direction for the future of Government 3.0.

Barbara Harless, 709 Summer Place – Ms. Harless expressed her agreement with live streaming and archiving of the City Council meetings.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.C.):

NO ACTION

- D. Consider and/or act on amending Ordinance 11-10-897; Water Conservation and Drought Management Ordinance.

City Manager, James Fisher presented Ordinance 11-10-897 proposed amendments to City Council.

- 1st offense not to exceed \$100.00
- Dismissal of a citation upon proof of repair being provided
- Allowing soaker hoses around a swimming pool

Mr. Fisher stated the City is doing everything we can to educate and work with the community on this issue. He stated that post card notices with current notification with current water restriction information have been mailed out and will mail out any updates immediately and new water restriction signs are being put throughout the city.

The Council inquired about the fines, the definition of “proof of repair” and clarification of the time frame for “has committed no prior violations”.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.D.):

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui moved to approve the proposed amendments to Ordinance 11-10-897 Water Conservation and Drought Management specifically with the caveat that verbiage regarding the Calendar Year should be added to Section 82.376 (A)(1) and to change section (2) to read “fine not to exceed \$2000.00”. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

- E. Consider and/or act on the use of the Concession Stand at Central Park by PSA and authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement.

City Manager, James Fisher said during the construction phase he was approached by PSA about the possibility of operating the concession stand at Central Park. He said when the planning of the April 5th event began PSA approached him again about running the concession stand. He explained that an agreement would need to be put together and presented to City Council. He also explained that with the short notice of the request he has not been able to get a draft agreement to present.

Mr. Fisher said in talking with PSA they have operated several of the concession stands located in the City of Plano parks and assumes all liability and would like to provide this service for the City of Murphy.

Council had a brief discussion regarding what interest if any has shown by other organizations in operating the concession stand. Concerns were expressed regarding an exclusive agreement with one organization excluding others from being able to benefit from operating the concession stand at events.

Mr. Fisher said that he would state in the agreement that 4-6 small events would be reserved for other/smaller organizations to operate the concession stand or a revenue share situation with PSA for the event.

Council requested to see an agreement before approving and requested that it be a minimum of 12 months and within the agreement with PSA it is permitted that 4-6 small events would be reserved for other organizations or a revenue share agreement with PSA for the event.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.E.):

NO ACTION

- F. Discussion on the proposals regarding the Community Survey.

City Manager James Fisher stated that City Council requested staff to send out a proposal for a Community Survey. He said they have received the proposals and asked how Council would like to proceed.

Councilmember Grant recommended a 3 person committee to review the proposals and present 2 candidates to the Council to interview.

The review committee will consist of Mayor Barna, Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui and Councilmember Thomas. Mr. Fisher will coordinate the process with the Committee.

8. CITY MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Fisher provided the Council with an update on the following items:

North Murphy Road Construction Update – Concern regarding how the bridge will affect McWhirter Road. Mr. Fisher is looking into this.

Murphy Central Park Grand Opening – April 5th

May Election

Chamber Events – 2 Ribbon cuttings: Park side Dental on March 20th and Sears on March 27th.

CLC meeting on Thursday, March 20th at 7:30 am.

Early Voting will begin on Monday, May 19th and election day May 27th.

SRTS – Rolling Ridge – The State will need a decision by April 2nd.

April 15th meeting, a discussion regarding Public Transit.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council will hold a closed Executive Session at 7:48 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:

- A. §551.074 Deliberation regarding the appointment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of the City Secretary.

10. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

The City Council will reconvene into Regular Session at 8:30 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code, to take any action necessary regarding:

- A. §551.074 Deliberation regarding the appointment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of the City Secretary.
- B. Take Action on any Executive Session Item
No action was taken as a result of executive session items.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Eric Barna, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kim McCranie, Executive Administrative Assistant