

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 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

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

3. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Terri Johnson, Interim City Secretary, certified a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

Mayor Eric Barna (arrived at 6:11 PM)
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Bradley
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui
Councilmember Betty Nichols Spraggins
Councilmember Sarah Fincanon (arrived at 6:10 PM)
Councilmember Rob Thomas

Councilmembers absent: Councilmember Ben St. Clair

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

5. PRESENTATION ITEMS:

A. Presentation of MDA funds collected by Murphy Firefighters.

Fire Chief Mark Lee introduced Ms. Jenny Allison, Fund Raising Coordinator for the Dallas MDA. Mrs. Kati Bukolt and her children Avery and Hudson were also in attendance. Ms. Allison explained to those present that the monies raised by the Fill-the-Boot Campaign would assist families such as the Bukolt family whose four-year old daughter, Avery, has muscular dystrophy. Mrs. Bukolt expressed her appreciation.

The Murphy Firefighters presented a check in the amount of \$3,161 to Dallas MDA from their Fill-the-Boot campaign.

B. Presentation of financial report and investment report as of July 31, 2014.

Finance Director Linda Truitt presented the July 31st financial report and investment report to the City Council.

Ms. Truitt stated that there was no change in the interest rate of \$0.10. She reported that the current budget year was 83% completed. Ninety-two percent of the revenues had been collected with general fund expenditures being at 73.25%.

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

Mayor Barna arrived at the meeting and read the following statement:

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 for August 5, 2014 Regular City Council Meeting.
- B. Consider and/or act upon the issuance of a special permit to allow a fireworks display during the Murphy Maize Days celebration on September 27, 2014.

COUNCIL ACTION (6.A. - 6.B.):

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley moved to accept the consent agenda. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

7. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- A. Hold a public hearing on the proposed 2014 Tax Rate of \$0.5500 per \$100 valuation.

City Manager James Fisher reviewed the proposed tax rate of \$0.5500 per \$100 valuation. He stated that the average home value in Murphy was \$283,422 and the estimated tax on a home with this value would be \$1,558.82.

The proposed operation & maintenance tax rate is \$.3363 and the proposed debt service tax rate is \$.2137, making a total of \$0.5500.

Mayor Barna opened the public hearing at 6:13 PM and no one spoke on this item.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:14 PM.

The Mayor announced that the City Council would vote on the proposed tax rate at their regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at Murphy City Hall, 206 N. Murphy Road, Murphy, Texas.

COUNCIL

ACTION

(7.A.):

NON-ACTION ITEM

No action was taken on this item.

- B. Hold a public hearing on the proposed FY 2014-2015 Budget.

The City Manager reported that the proposed budget reflected estimated revenues in the General Fund to be \$12.3 million. The General Fund expenditures, including capital items, were estimated to be \$13.3 million.

Mayor Barna opened the public hearing at 6:15 PM.

William Stansfield, 131 Hillcrest Drive, addressed the Council with questions he had about personnel costs and his concern about spending monies from the reserve fund. He stated that he would like to see management discussion of the proposed expenditures.

Mayor Barna thanked Mr. Stansfield for his comments and closed the public hearing at 6:17 PM.

The Mayor announced that the City Council would vote on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 at their regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at Murphy City Hall, 206 N. Murphy Road, Murphy, Texas.

COUNCIL NON-ACTION ITEM	ACTION	(7.B.):
No action was taken on this item.		

- C. Consider and take action, if any, on the Safe Routes to School bid.

City Manager Fisher explained that TxDOT is funding the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) sidewalk and enhanced crosswalks along the North Murphy Road widening project - connecting Murphy Middle School, McMillen High School, Central Park, PSA, and surrounding neighborhoods. The grant will also help with a new sidewalk in the Rolling Ridge subdivision. Murphy will have sidewalks on both sides of North Murphy Road from FM 544 to Parker city limits.

Mr. Fisher explained that there would not be sidewalks on the west side across from the schools because the space was too narrow.

The City's engineer, Freese and Nichols, prepared the necessary documents for construction and bid purposes and the projected construction cost was \$885,795. Seven contractors downloaded plans but only two contractors submitted bids. The low bidder was 3i Construction, LLC with the bid of \$633,000.

Questions from City Councilmembers were answered by Mr. Fisher.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley moved to award the bid for the Safe Routes to Schools project to 3i Construction, LLC in the amount of \$633,000 and to authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

- D. Consider and take action, if any, on a proposed Interlocal Agreement between the City of Murphy, Texas and Texoma Area Paratransit System, Inc. (TAPS) for demand-response transit services.

City Manager Fisher reported to the City Council that this item was back on the agenda for clarification from TAPS regarding the cost to the City of Murphy.

Mr. Cory Young, Director of Grants and Planning for TAPS was present and answered questions from the City Council. Mr. Zak Kerfai, Director of Risk Management for TAPS was also present. Mr. Young explained that the annual cost of the agreement averaged out to approximately \$8-9 per trip.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley moved to authorize the City Manager to negotiate an Interlocal Agreement with TAPS for demand-response transit service. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

8. CITY MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS

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

North Murphy Road Construction Update
Animal Shelter Construction Update
Water Conservation
Chamber Business Seminar

Texas State Representative Jodie Laubenberg will hold a Town Hall Meeting - September 11, 2014, 7:30-8:30 PM, Murphy City Hall Council Chambers to discuss water issues important to our community.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council convened into closed Executive Session at 6:32 pm 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.
- B. § 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; or (2) to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect described by Subdivision (1).
- C. § 551.072. Deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.

10. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

The City Council reconvened into open session at 8:01 pm 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.
- B. § 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; or (2) to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect described by Subdivision (1).

C. § 551.072. Deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.

D. Take Action on any Executive Session Item.

No action was taken.

E. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

APPROVED BY:

Eric Barna, Mayor

ATTEST:

Terri Johnson, Interim City Secretary