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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Boards, commissions, committee seeking membership *New Charter Review Commission seeks to fill all seats*

MURPHY (September 23, 2021) Volunteers who serve on the City's boards, commissions, and committee provide the residents' perspective on key municipal decisions. The annual drive to ask citizens to step forward and become part of that decision-making process has begun, according to City Secretary Susie Quinn.

Of the 55 positions on these eight advisory bodies, at least 30 may be coming open. This year, an additional commission is seeking members. Murphy residents, including individuals already appointed to another advisory body, will be asked to conduct a thorough review of the City Charter.

Except for the Charter Review Commission, which is designed to last only six months, appointments to the boards and commissions are staggered, and the new appointments are scheduled for two-year terms starting on Jan. 1, 2022. Appointments will be announced and approved at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Deadline to apply for consideration to an appointment is Friday, Oct. 15, 2021. The online application form can be found at <https://murphytx.civicweb.net/Portal/CitizenEngagement.aspx>. A virtual open house to learn more about the various boards and commissions will be held on Thursday, Oct. 7 at 6 pm. To attend via Zoom, interested individuals should register in advance by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/mpxacev8>. A QR code which points to the open house registration page appears at the end of this news release.

Here is a list of the advisory bodies along with a brief summary of their duties.

Charter Review Commission

This commission, composed of 11 members, will meet eight to 12 times during a six-month period to review and recommend changes to the City Charter. Members of other boards, commissions, or committee, with the exception of the Ethics Commission, may participate in this commission, while still holding their current appointment. All 11 seats are open.

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. Two seats on this committee are open, an animal welfare organization representative, and a City employee.

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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 City Hall. Seven seats on this Board are open, three regular and four alternates.

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. Three 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. Three 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. Four 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 the 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. Three 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 City Hall. Four seats on this board are open.

Planning & 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 City Hall. Four seats, two regular 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, Friday, Oct. 15. 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, 2022.

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Point your phone's camera to this QR code to register for the Boards and Commissions open house on Oct. 7.