

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL RETREAT MEETING  
JANUARY 8, 2017 AT 9:00 AM

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Barna called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**2. INVOCATION**

Mayor Barna gave the Invocation.

**3. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM**

City Secretary, Susie Quinn, certified a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

Mayor Eric Barna  
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Bradley  
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui  
Councilmember Jennifer Berthiaume  
Councilmember Betty Nichols Spraggins  
Councilmember Sarah Fincanon  
Councilmember Don Reilly

**4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Continuation of discussions regarding Council's strategic goals.

Overall comments pertained to the ideas and thoughts as relayed from the Board and Commission members who attended. Assumptions are made about the various Boards and Commissions. Boards and Commission members asked who is listening. Staff was complimented for condensing the thoughts from the Boards and Commissions meetings into an issue sheet for Council. Interesting aspect, the Boards and Commission members only touch base on a monthly or less meeting schedule. The flexibility is not present because of legal constraints. Everyone was pleased with the combined meeting and felt it was helpful for all.

The ideas: What, Who, When, How were shared from the various groups.

In presenting the final report, Facilitator Mike Conduff gave the group two choices: Create a team with a councilmember to present final report or present the Boards and Commissions members' joint meeting results from Saturday, January 7, 2017. The group chose the joint meeting results from Saturday, January 7, 2017.

Councilmember Fincanon shared the results from The Ethics Review Commission with the following suggestions:

- Regarding the boards and commission training with positive feedback.
  - Each Board be encouraged to sit together, so they can interact and meet each other.

Other notes taken during the exercise were:

- How Boards can help
  - Publicize Boards
  - Description of duties of the various boards
  - P & Z – public comments to be added to all agendas, in order for everyone to have the opportunity to speak
  - Reliable communications with Council

- Inclusive Parks
- Cameras for security
- Sounds at Sundown – Emerald City Band
- Splash Park
- Movies
- Better Publicity for events
- Events with less walking for older residents or shows with seating, such as Cirque du Soleil
- Senior activities without age limits
- More like Wylie with regard to adult activities
- Santa going through the neighborhoods after dark
  - Possibly on weekends or during daylight hours
  - Breakfast with Santa
  - Christmas in the Park – bring back Hot Chocolate
- Less give away Swag items at events such as the corn cobs, clappers, etc.
- Library – How much is the one at Murphy Community Center utilized?
- Email addresses were discussed with regard to communications with Board and Commission members
- Inclusive parks were explained as being areas that allow for all types of issues, including rolling strollers over wood chips. Wheel chairs create issues as well

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui shared the results of the Capital Projects Advisory Committee (CPAC) with the following issues discussed:

- Special-needs children need better park facilities
- Recreation building to allow
  - Gym
  - Meeting Rooms
  - Classes
- Nice indoor Recreation facility
- Sports fields to include:
  - Mixed use
  - Soccer
  - Baseball
  - Lacrosse
- Tennis Courts
- Bathrooms at all City Parks
- New City signs
- Summer Water facilities
  - Pools
  - Additional Splash Pad Parks
  - Indoor swimming pool
- Full redesign of city jail to repurpose the space for better utilization
- Full irrigation at parks, medians, etc. (to win a landscape design award)
- Full cyber security assessment
- Full cyber security investment
- Charging Stations for cars
- City Wide Wi-Fi at the Parks in order to use electronic devices
- Another Quint Fire Truck

- Better signage for all entrances
- Better crosswalks
- Emergency call boxes all over the city
- Community events and Holiday lights
- Road Drainage
- Master Plan for operation of all city facilities

Councilmember Berthiaume shared the results of the Murphy Community Development Corporation (MCDC), Parks and Recreation Board, and Animal Shelter Advisory Committee which included the majority of new Board members.

- Seasoned members explained that the lawyers were consistent in relating information
- Board responsibilities are what?
- Disconnect between Boards and Council – Liaison’s for each Board was positive and negative
- Each Councilmember should visit each board at least once per year
- Balance to preserve the ambiance and the goats
- Restaurants that are family hang-outs with pet friendly areas
- Street light and street landscaping – well lit
- Parks are not well lit
- Reciprocating with libraries and recreation services in surrounding cities
- Summit for 50+ in Garland
- Surrounding areas activities should be listed on website for seniors
- Self-sustaining - just provide space
- Senior programs have been offered at the Community Center but not well attended
- Sip and Stitch Group now meets at the Community Center
- Seniors in Murphy are relatively active and sign up for programs they like
- Boards should attend Council meetings
- Agendas should be sent to Council as a carbon copy and Board and Commission members carbon copied on Council agendas

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley shared the results of the Building & Fire Code Appeals Board and Board of Adjustment:

- South Murphy turned into a golf course
- Operations of the city, what is important?
- What do the other boards do?
- Boards appreciated being invited

Mayor Barna shared the results of the Murphy Municipal Development District (MDD) and Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z):

- Information on the how’s and whys of what they are voting about
- Infamous Neighborhood Services in the Zoning Codes with regards to uses
- Limit nail salons, chicken, sandwich shops, drive-thru places – Ethics inquired about how those decisions are derived
- Potential developers not coming here (What can we do to get developers here?)
- “Trinity Groves” as a model – project for MDD
- No high end stores – perhaps small boutiques
- Turn land into a project to reduce private land sales – bad hotel deal but maybe something along the lines of the Trinity Groves area

- A big restaurant park (develop a walkable downtown)
- Street performers, artists – private development (apartments, townhomes, brownstones)
- Present a concept with public participation
- Council, Murphy Development District and Planning & Zoning interaction is important

Following a short break, the group was encouraged to break out the **What, Who, When** and **How** for various subjects that had been discussed over the weekend. They were instructed to take into account the different problems which might possibly accelerate the needs, use precautions when warranted, be financial realistic but not let that be the overpowering issue to derail an idea or project.

First topic of Discussion:

**WHAT:** Murphy Enjoys a Sense of Place (Capturing the sense of place for Murphy as a “small town feel”)

**WHO:** Murphy Residents

**WHEN:** The following are well maintained:

- Murphy streets are landscaped and interestingly lit
- Monument signs
- Way finding signage, on trail connectivity
- Pedestrians are safe and “can safely use” all sidewalks and trails

**HOW:** To accomplish

- 9/2017 – Budget for ways to accomplish the when
- 6/2017 – RFP for consultant interest to accomplish the when
- 10/2017 – Hire the consultant
- 10/2018 – Study completed with a true feasible plan to follow

*The What, Who, When and How approach quickly fell by the wayside and below are the items discussed by Council and staff. Some are repeated in areas but it is divided more by subject than by the exercise suggestion.*

Areas of focus – first:

- Streetscapes – lighting
- Trail connectivity – Parks
- Library/Recreation – turn MCC into library
- Replace the Quint
- Fire department needs separate from Quint
- Infrastructure

Needs:

- Repaving / Infrastructure Maintenance
- Economic Development Plan
- Long Range Financial Plan
- Land Use – South Murphy Plan and Kinney Property
- Streetscape / Medians (Landscaping)
- Lighting (Streets)

- Trail Connectivity (trails provide North and South connectivity without crossing major thoroughfares and connect to regional trails)

Forward searching:

- What happens regarding staffing
- Where are the dollars coming from – limited to what we have currently – different components cost action to do it and cost for maintaining – bond program only covers one part.
- Library costs for building plus operating costs. Start looking at increase in maintenance and operation to include staff costing.

Major topics:

- Different departments can use additional help
- Overall Organizational Plan – address needs that occasionally versus ongoing
- Budget – April/May begin conversations
- Employee succession plans
- Priorities
- Capital projects with open mind regarding the financial repercussions
- Economic Development - right number of people in the right roles
- Trail connectivity – areas to be completed – connects from north to south – going under to cross Railroad track by DART – trail supposed to reach to Fort Worth

**LAND USE**

- Betsy Lane – Plan it in phases – Certain events have to happen – eminent domain
- Phase 1 would be Maxwell Creek and then South Maxwell Creek Road - Trail along the creek or drop off
- Current Inventory of city owned properties is complete
- Gap Analysis / Future
- Land acquisition / dedication (funding options) (July 2017)
- Connectivity Plan (December 2017)
- 2017 – Have conversation with engineers and planners in regards to drawings, etc.
- Council's mission is to set and determine what to connect – Past the big goal
- 2019 - September or December whatever the goal – acquiring land to move forward – land inventory to determine connections and work around funding and timing of the project
- End of April 2017 - CPAC could have an inventory to help to determine connectivity
- Don't let us commit to a date we can't meet or price we can't afford
- What we want – key pieces to complete it – staff interaction

**INFRASTRUCTURE / REPAVING (prioritized roads as sidewalk repairs)**

- How many streets with black-top? Move from black top to concrete
- North Maxwell Creek and the offshoot streets around it
- Inventory of all roads that have needed road repairs – **DONE** but not prioritized
- Dublin-McMillen-Maxwell Creek-McCreary and others – prioritize the roads that need to be converted and concrete panel replacement – not trafficable – not traveled that frequently – section of town that doesn't want more traffic- public sentiment wants roads left alone.

- Underground utilities under the roads. Like the sidewalk priorities. No public sentiment, just a pure count - traffic counts should be conducted – more traveled roads fail quicker than less traveled.
- Expectations of the inventories and prioritization – some needs to go to CPAC for consideration in the 2016 Bond package – the CIP study has about 80% of this conversation explained. In that report traffic counts are missing. Drainage becomes an issue when roads are changed – April 6, 2017 CPAC discussion item.
- Across the board – citizen study from MESA survey in 2015 – the longer a street is not maintained the more expensive it is to maintain or replace if necessary. Recommendation on streetscapes – Murphy Road and Betsy Lane – FM 544 is where 90% travelers' pass – partial plan – pedestrian safety is important – TxDOT to put in solutions? and city maintain? All the medians should be alike?
- Identify consultant
- More monument signs
- Issue RFP for a study after October 1st, what kind of study – stab at the engineering to prepare RFP – Consultant by end of budget year 2018
- Have residential input
- Scope – landscaping, economical solution for lighting issues, streets
- Signage include "Findage" easy in Murphy since all are centrally located
- Charrettes and public town hall meetings – budget process 2-9-17 CPAC meeting – street scape guidance, Councilmember to attend to give overview that was presented at Parks – no numbers are available at this time.
- Recreational activities will increase more, so people will be asking how do I get there?

#### **PARKS (NEED: Multipurpose Parks)**

- Inclusive (above and beyond ADA) vs. ADA compliant
- Include inclusive components
- Sensory focused
- Q1 2017 – Council presentation (identify 2 – 3 parks and 2 – 3 components for initial integration)
- Q2 2017 – costs (determine costs and funding)
- 2018 – Beyond (long term outlook current park lifecycle replacements and inclusive component integration)
- Be mindful of phases approach
- Inclusive with definition – all the parks are ADA compliant but inclusive does not include just ADA. Rolling strollers across wood chips are difficult – changes can be done but more expensive and more maintenance. Small items regarding the footprints on the parks doesn't allow for a lot of additions. Good on what we have, accessibility and inclusive are different definitions. More sensory, does not segregate to have healthy body playing with special needs. Topic of conversation in all cities, Frisco has one. In Irving no accessibility except for wheelchair ramps – no playability is left. Long term outlook to upgrade all of them. Playground \$250,000 to begin. Parks Board recommendation, is to cycle in items as end of life of the current item approaches. Oldest park is Mustang 2002, Waters Edge 2003-2004 for building. Need parking at Waters Edge if it becomes inclusive, currently 3 soccer fields.

- Flexibility in changing fields. Five year time frame and learn about upgrades to the older parks. Kinney Park – inclusive swings about \$700 per swing. Phases have to be adopted. One park that is family oriented for special needs not to become a destination park for other cities to come to if possible
- Parking issues at central park
- Focus again – Parks are identified, need formal presentation, in first quarter 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2017 to include cost estimates then 2018 long term discussions replacements out of this bond cycle. Park questions – new park – existing parks – end of life parks – list assumptions
- Additional discussion – Kinney land for multi-use fields or discuss the uses and parking at Kinney Property. Determine types of fields – mini or small soccer fields for 6-8 year old. Determine North Hill Park needs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, discussions about Kinney Property
- Get options from Parks Board
- To council by June
- Parks Board Discussion
- Open ended
- Park reservation tracking – field changes for maintenance, repairs, etc.
- Kinney Property If sold what would it be used for, it currently is not a dedicated park only designated as park land
- Kinney Property would like presentation to Parks Board with recommendation to Council? Commissions hates front runners – Parks attend council meeting Kinney is surplus property – could be component of Economic Development – in the totality of the area is why Kinney was never dedicated by Council to be a Park – Quarter 1 – discussion with Park Boards Quarter 2 – joint meeting with Parks by September, 2017
- 

#### **PARKS (Multi-use fields)**

- Determine use or partial use for Kinney Property
- Determine North Hill use plan
- Determine Field type / needs (Staff)
- Discussion by June with Council
- Q1 – Parks board discussion (staff options all use)
- Q2 – Council Discussion
- In 2010 Council voted to require 40% of the team reside in Murphy, only Murphy residents can reserve the park areas. On Saturday and Sunday the fields are used by PSA for soccer games. Includes Baseball fields, too. During the week was supposed to allow maintenance but people use the fields anyway ignoring closed signs.
- What is the guidance to Parks from Council – constraints? Leave Kinney as open land
- North Hill Park – was cut down all natural to not require maintenance – just field space not eligible as a nature preserve as Murphy is to small land space wise
- More park space per resident in Murphy than most cities How much open space is available
- Travis Park completion for trail connectivity

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Big picture of city wide plan – inventory of available space – potential commercial areas and plans.  
Future of the allowed uses on all classifications reducing more uses.

Revise future comprehensive land use plan by the end of 2018 – time and community input regardless of when it is done it will be ugly as no election will be in May, 2018. Begin now looking at – Consultant in past created citizen uproar. Consensus of Council is to use a Consultant. If complete by 2018 how soon should a consultant come in – right after May Election 2017. After this election, two years exist before next election.

- Inventory commercial and potential commercial lands
- Review land uses in zoning
- Revise future land use plan (Use consultant) end of 2018
- Select Consultant (after May 2017)
- RFP Out

### **TECHNOLOGY (NEED: Technology / Wi-Fi Cyber Security)**

- Provide plan – Wi-Fi in the parks – how necessary especially for festivals and events?  
Integrate some technology to allow free Wi-Fi
- Analysis of needs / providers / option
- Next Gen – Providers – Frontier
- Council direction
- Toyota supplied Wi-Fi in Plano parks – Corporate partnership

### **LIBRARY – Not a high priority at this time**

### **RECREATION CENTER –**

- Recreation –
  - \$350,000 for renovations - return on investment (ROI) and capacity of services in the facility spaces –
  - Booking rooms and classes – no wiggle room, suggested to charge more
  - Current rental is about \$100 per hour. Revenue loss when voting goes on, Police and Fire banquets, Strategic meetings, etc.
- Murphy Activity Center (MAC)
  - Renovations would include 2 small meeting rooms,
  - No more locker rooms – move cleaning room to old Men’s shower areas
  - Women’s showers to be converted to a Lactation Room for nursing mothers
  - Leave large room for jazzercise and yoga
- Both Buildings are not in a propriety fund
  - Commercial issues include ROI
  - Service issues are different – asked about peak hours which are 3:00-9:00pm following school
  - Rentals on weekends
  - Joint meeting with Parks – land use – capacity of services – ROI if valid

- Possible location change for REC center. Ramadan rented out every night. Other cultures use the building for pre-wedding parties. On the circuit – wedding planners know us
- Building currently meets the needs of those using it. Asked questions about advertising the building. People do a lot of decorating to make it meet their needs
- Staff and land uses around the building. Strategic tactical meeting with economic development – parks – council around February, 2017
- Murphy recreation space is appropriate for the community
- Buildings are modern and have reasonable amenities
- Rents fund renovations
- Tactical conversation land use / economic development / joint discussion
- Quality to accomplish is great.

Break-out additional conversations with other groups.

#### **Expectations – to be exceeded**

- Staff – looking for summary and plan with time lines –
- Staff to go to a retreat to create an action plan for 2017 in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter
- CPAC and plan for bond plus budget – resources in order to meet.
- Priorities need to be established of the overall of the work effort in front of us.
- Sanitized versions needed.
- Other expectations – none –
  - Question of Council – Receptive office – guidance when asked – realistic appraisal of what is asked for.
  - Jumped the gun on CPAC – parallel the output should have gone to CPAC – Not knowing what has been presented to CPAC – quick run down from Chief Cotten as to uses for jail cells
- Direction for staff – Any final direction – come back with a plan – dates have been suggested with no foundation. Want a plan to come back to for clarity
- Follow – through is poor. Only successful one other time. Difficult when no money is supporting the issues
- Don't assume you know the answer, bring it forward and let Council decide if it is best for Murphy

Mayor thanked staff for giving up their weekend. Council for being focused the majority of the time.

Discussion of Mount Rushmore and who is carved on the mount – and why it is appropriate for each one of them to be there. Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and Roosevelt. President Roosevelt was a great reformer and was instrumental in creating city government using elected officials combined with professional staff. Murphy Charter follows model city charter that was created by Roosevelt.

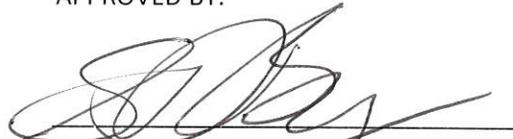
Quote from Teddy Roosevelt: “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms,

the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, a motion was entertained by the Mayor and the Council meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.

APPROVED BY:



Scott Bradley, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Susie Quinn, City Secretary

