

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2017 AT 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

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

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

Absent:

Mayor Eric Barna

4. PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Presentation of financial report and investment report as of December 31, 2016.

Interim Finance Director Steven Ventura presented the financial report and investment report for December 31, 2016. Account balances ending December 31, 2016 slide included property tax and an interest rate that is at the highest amount in at least a year. Sales Tax slide ending January 2017 reflected a 16% to 17% increase versus same timeframe as last year, 15% through January 2017 versus last year. Council inquired as to the budgeted projection percent for sales tax revenue for this year versus last year? Staff will provide the number to Council.

At the request of Council, the General Fund Unaudited FY 2017 Revenues and Expenditures slides were reformatted to highlight month-to-date and year-to-date revenues and expenditures. Permits and licenses, a total of nine (9) for the year, increased two (2) from last year. Council requested if Staff could provide a report stating the breakdown of insurance proceeds by department. Utility Fund Expenditure slide reflected waste water increase as a true up cost. Last slide was the Investment Report at quarter end for December 31, 2016.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Mortonson, resident addressed Council in regards to section 1.02.041 of the governance Policy. Mr. Mortonson does not agree with the sentence in the governance policy that reads "the city council member may not attend an executive session of a board, commission or committee." Why be restrictive?, if a council member is doing their due diligence and is a top leader of the organization, they should have the privilege to attend an executive session so they have all of the necessary knowledge to make a proper decision.

6. CITY MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS

- A. Radio Systems – Police Chief Arthur Cotten updated Council that staff has settled into the new dispatch room for about two weeks and all seems to be functioning well, had a couple of glitches with the new system but worked through the issues. Currently working to ensure that project remains within budget and have received all items. The final phase is the bump out system at the Fire station, Assistant Fire Chief Greg Werner is to schedule accordingly. Council inquired as to when a tour can be scheduled, Chief Cotten replied they are welcome to come by anytime for a tour either individually or as a group.
- B. Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program – Public Services Director Tim Rogers provided an update to Council that the Ranch subdivision sidewalk rehab has been completed with some minor cleanup to finish. Staff will momentarily stop work on the sidewalk rehabilitation program to complete the street replacement panels on McCreary road. Staff will then move onto the Windy Hill Farms subdivision to continue with the sidewalk rehabilitation program.
- C. South Maxwell Creek Sewer Line – Public Services Director Tim Rogers provided an update to Council that the contractor worked on two (2) manhole connections at McCreary Road, setting one today and the other to be poured tomorrow for the interconnection to the existing line. The contractor has begun to bore under RacTrac driveway on the north side of FM 544 and should be completed tomorrow. Contractor will then move underneath the DART railway section.
- D. FM544 Traffic Safety Update – City Manager Mike Castro spoke with the area TXDOT engineer, Brenan Honey. TXDOT will request federal funding to accomplish several portions of the project. Add additional lighting, place and improve the pedestrian ramps at all four corners of the intersection. On track to repaint the crosswalk but that will be handled internally with TXDOT resources and crews. TXDOT will submit federal funding either late May or early June 2017 with response time of about (6 to 8) six to eight weeks on whether the project will be funded. A score is provided to determine if a location ranks competitively for the improvements, FM 544 at Hawthorne has a high score. Staff to inquire with the area engineer, if they could provide specific timeframe on the repainting of the crosswalks. Council inquired if staff could obtain a list of the estimates for improvements for the federal funding of the FM 544 at Hawthorne intersection from TXDOT. Can the City of Murphy fund the work for reimbursement from TXDOT at a later date? In the meantime, what temporary warning signs could be installed to notify of the imminent danger in the intersection?
- E. Personnel Handbook Update – City Manager Mike Castro stated that staff will be bringing to Council personnel handbook changes, the majority are state compliance related but will have some changes that are discretionary changes. Staff inquired if Council would like to schedule a work session or add the topic as an agenda item to the next council meeting. Council replied that a regular agenda item is fine, but provide a red line version highlight what is state mandated and what is discretionary in the personnel handbook.
- F. Department Director Vacancies – Director of Economic Development and Community Director position – a conditional offer was presented to a candidate. The background checks are in process and a final offer on the position is anticipated by the end of the week. Once final offer has been accepted by the candidate, a press release will be sent out to the press contacts and council.

Finance Director – job posting closed Friday and currently 36 applicants applied. Will conduct interviews, background checks and fill that position as quickly as possible.

G. Upcoming Events –

- Release of the Parks and Recreation Spring Guide – February 2, 2017 to be included in the Murphy Messenger that is sent to all citizens
- Daddy Daughter Dance – Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 6 pm until 9 pm at the Murphy Community Center, 205 North Murphy Road
- Rainbow Trout Round-Up – Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 9 am until 11 am at the City Hall pond, 206 North Murphy Road

7. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- A. Consider and/or act to approve the January 3, 2017 Regular Council meeting minutes. *Susie Quinn, City Secretary*

COUNCIL ACTION (7.A.):

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilmember Fincanon seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0 (Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui was absent).

- B. Consider and/or act to approve Ordinance Number 17-01-1028 amending the Governance Policy.

City Secretary Susie Quinn requested approval of Ordinance Number 17-01-1028 amending the Governance Policy to be in compliance with state law.

Several points were discussed by Council in regards to Section 1.02.041 of the governance policy “the city council member may not attend an executive session of a board, commission or committee.” Discussion regarding trust of board and commission members, confidential information in regards to certified agendas of closed meetings, and the potential issue of a possible quorum of councilmembers in attendance.

Assistant City Attorney Courtney Kuykendall addressed Council that the amendment that was drafted was based on discussions and concerns that were expressed from Council. In the absence of a court case that is definitive on this issue, the city attorney’s office looked to the Attorney General for guidance and persuasive authority on how the city is to operate in this regard.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.B.)

APPROVED

Councilmember Reilly moved to approve Ordinance Number 17-01-1028 amending the Governance Policy as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Bradley seconded the motion. For: Mayor Barna, Mayor Pro Tem Bradley, Councilmember Spraggins, Councilmember Fincanon, and Councilmember Reilly. Against: Councilmember Berthiaume. The motion carried by a vote of 5-1 (Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui was absent).

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was entertained by the Mayor and the Council meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

APPROVED BY:



Scott Bradley, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Susie Quinn, City Secretary

