

MURPHY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 18, 2014 AT 6:00 P.M.
206 NORTH MURPHY ROAD
MURPHY, TEXAS 75094



Eric Barna
Mayor

Owais Siddiqui
Mayor Pro Tem

Ben St. Clair
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

Scott Bradley
Councilmember

Betty Spraggins
Councilmember

Bernard Grant
Councilmember

Rob Thomas
Councilmember

James Fisher
City Manager

NOTICE is hereby given of a meeting of the City Council of the City of Murphy, Collin County, State of Texas, to be held on March 18, 2014 at Murphy City Hall for the purpose of considering the following items. The City Council of the City of Murphy, Texas, reserves the right to meet in closed session on any of the items listed below should the need arise and if applicable pursuant to authorization by Title 5, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. PRESENTATION ITEMS

- A. Presentation of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ending September 30, 2013.
- B. Presentation of financial report 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.
- 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.
- C. Presentation and Discussion on the Evolution of Murphy Information Technology: The Path to Government 3.0
- D. Consider and/or act on amending Ordinance 11-10-897; Water Conservation and Drought Management Ordinance.
- 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.
- F. Discussion on the proposals regarding the Community Survey.

8. CITY MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS

North Murphy Road Construction Update
Murphy Central Park Grand Opening – Experience Murphy- April 5th
May Election

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council will hold a closed Executive Session 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. §551.074 Deliberation regarding the appointment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of the City Manager.

10. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

The City Council will reconvene into Regular Session, 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. §551.074 Deliberation regarding the appointment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of the City Manager.
- C. Take Action on any Executive Session Item.

11. ADJOURNMENT

I certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Murphy City Council Meeting Agenda and that this notice was posted on the designated bulletin board at Murphy City Hall, 206 North Murphy Road, Murphy, Texas 75094; a place convenient and readily accessible to the public at all times, and said notice was posted on March 14, 2014 by 5:00 p.m. and will remain posted continuously for 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Kim McCranie
Executive Administrative Assistant

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, the City of Murphy will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending public meetings at City Hall. Requests for accommodations or interpretive services must be received at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the City at 972.468.4006 or kroberts@murphytx.org.

Notice of Possible Quorum: There may be a quorum of the 4B Community Development Corporation, the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, the Board of Adjustment, the Building and Fire Code Appeals Board, the Ethics Review Commission the Murphy Municipal Development District Board, the Park and Recreation Board and/or the Planning and Zoning Commission may be present at the meeting, but they will not deliberate on any city business.

City Council
March 18, 2014

Issue

Discussion with Oncor representatives regarding service concerns in Murphy.

Background/History

Oncor has completed some maintenance/repairs in areas of the City where there have been issues with service outages/interruptions.

Oncor will give Council an update regarding the work that has been completed since the December 18, 2013 work session.

City Council
March 18, 2014

Issue

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

Background/History

Section 7.18 of the City Charter requires the City Council to call for an independent audit of all accounts by a certified public accountant at the close of each fiscal year.

The certified public accounting firm of Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P. conducted the independent annual financial audit for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P. was selected to perform the annual independent audit through the Request for Proposals process for audit services during 2013. This is an independent auditor's report and analysis of the City's major funds and business type activities with accompanying financial statements. The audit report, with the auditor's recommendations, will be presented to the City Council. John Manning of Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P. and Linda Truitt, Finance Director will present the comprehensive annual financial report and answer questions during the presentation prior to Council officially approving the audit.

Financial Considerations

At the end of the fiscal year, the unassigned fund balance for the General Fund is \$3,556,706 an increase of \$1,027,487 from the projected FY 2013 Fund Balance included in the FY 2014 Budget. Approximately \$500,000 of this increase is the animal shelter which was not constructed in FY 2013. This fund balance represents 32% of total general fund expenditures for the fiscal year. Revenues were greater than budgeted, primarily in the areas of sales tax, property taxes and licenses and permit revenues. Total General Fund expenditures were within 94.4% of budgeted amounts.

Unrestricted net assets of the Utility Fund at year end are \$3,482,901, an increase of \$1,549,347 from prior year.

Action Requested

Approval of the comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2013 as conducted by Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P.

Attachments

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) – will send at a later date

City Council
March 18, 2014

Issue

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

Background/History

The Murphy Information Technology Department has worked aggressively to replace aging hardware and software components throughout the city in order to prepare for the next revolution in information governance. The Manager of Information Technology will brief Council on the current state of the city's technology infrastructure as well as propose a migration path that will promote both digital transparency and citizen engagement through the use of interactive technology.

Financial Considerations

Action Requested

Attachments

City Council Meeting
March 17, 2014

Issue

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

Background

The City of Murphy is currently in Stage 3 condition according to Ordinance No. 11-10-897, our Water Conservation and Drought Management Ordinance.

During Stage 3 Conditions, residents are limited to watering once a week (odd numbered addresses on Mondays and even numbered addresses on Wednesdays) and public schools; nonresidential, city and HOA's may water on Friday. During the time period of November 1st through March 31st, watering is limited to once every two weeks.

Last year, during Stage 3 compliance and enforcement management, the City received several complaints regarding the fine amount and notification of drought status. The City is instituting a new educational campaign and the proposed amendments should help with minimizing complaints. The Code Compliance team works very hard to help ensure everyone understands.

Considerations

With ongoing water shortage challenges and continued Stage 3 conditions, it is very likely North Texas will move to Stage 4 before the summer without significant rainfall. NTMWD may initiate Stage 4 for a number of reasons, including if the storage in Lake Lavon is less than 35% full.

As of 3-13-2014 as reported by NTMWD:

- Lake Lavon is 47.7% full; -12.45 feet

The proposed amendments in the attached ordinance address:

- Maximum fine for first time offenders reduced
- Inclusion of verbiage regarding proof of automatic irrigation system in disrepair
- Clarification verbiage on watering within reasonable proximity around swimming pools.

Attachments

Ordinance (showing any edits and amendments)

January 2014 Dallas Morning News Article

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MURPHY, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 82, ARTICLE IX OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MURPHY, TEXAS, BY ALTERING THE MAXIMUM FINE AMOUNT FOR FIRST-TIME OFFENDERS; AMENDING THE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL EXCEPTION FOR LIMITED WATERING OF AREAS AROUND SWIMMING POOLS; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A CUMULATIVE/REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Murphy (“City Council”) enacted Ordinance 11-10-897 on October 18, 2011 adopting a drought contingency plan, attached thereto as Addendum “A,” regulating the irrigation use by water customers within City limits, which was codified in Chapter 82, Article IX of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Murphy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend Chapter 82, Article IX, to alter the penalty provisions providing a maximum fine amount for first-time offenders; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further desires to amend its Drought Contingency Plan, attached thereto as Addendum “A,” to include exceptions for the limited use of hand-held and soaker hoses around swimming pools during Stage 3 and Stage 4 Restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this amendment is in the best interests of the City of Murphy and will promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Murphy and the general public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MURPHY, TEXAS, THAT:

Section 1. Findings Incorporated.

The findings set forth above are incorporated into the body of this ordinance as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. Amendment to Section 82-376

That Section 82-376. Penalties and Enforcement of Chapter 82 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Murphy, Texas, is hereby amended, which shall now read as follows:

Section 82-376. Penalty; enforcement of restrictions

(a) Any customer, defined pursuant to 30 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 291, failing to comply with the provisions of the plan and/or this ordinance shall be prosecuted in municipal court as a Class C Misdemeanor.

(1) Upon a showing that the customer has committed no prior violations under this Chapter, customer shall be subject to a fine of not more than fiveone-hundred dollars (\$1500.00). Proof of

a culpable mental state is not required and a violation of this Chapter shall constitute a strict liability offense.

(2) Proof that a customer has committed one or more violations under this Chapter shall constitute prima facie evidence that the customer's actions present a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the City of Murphy and its resources. Any customer who commits a subsequent violation under this Chapter with criminal negligence shall be subject to a fine no to exceed two-thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Proof of a higher degree of culpability than criminal negligence constitutes proof of criminal negligence.

(b) Each day that one or more of the provisions in the plan and/or this ordinance are violated shall constitute a separate offense. If a customer is convicted of three or more distinct violations of the plan and/or this ordinance, the city manager or his/her designee shall, upon due notice to the customer, be authorized to discontinue water service to the premises where such violations occur. Services discontinued under such circumstances shall be restored only upon payment of a re-connection charge, hereby established at \$50.00, and any other costs incurred by the city in discontinuing service. In addition, suitable assurance must be given to the city manager or his/her designee that the same action shall not be repeated while the plan and/or this ~~article-ordinance~~ is in effect. Compliance with this plan and/or this ordinance ~~and/or this article~~ may also be sought through injunctive relief in district court.

(c) Any person, including a person classified as a customer of the city, in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator, and proof that the violation occurred on the person's property shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the person in apparent control of the property committed the violation, but any such person shall have the right to show that he/she did not commit the violation. Parent(s) shall be presumed to be responsible for violations of their minor children and proof that a violation, committed by a child, occurred on property within the parents' control shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the parent committed the violation, ~~but any such parent may be excused if he/she proves that he/she had previously directed the child not to use the water as it was used in violation of the plan and that the parent could not have reasonably known of the violation.~~

(d) It shall constitute a valid affirmative defense if the alleged violator presents proof that the automatic irrigation system was in disrepair at the time of the alleged violation and provides proof that he/she has satisfactorily remedied the disrepair within thirty (30) days of the date of the violation. This affirmative defense does not apply to alleged violators with more than one outstanding violation pending in municipal court.

~~(e)~~ Any employee of the city, police officer, or other employee designated by the city manager, may issue a citation to a person he/she reasonably believes to be in violation of the plan and/or this ~~article~~ordinance. The citation ~~shall be prepared in duplicate and~~ shall contain the name and address of the alleged violator, if known, the offense charged, and shall direct him/her to appear in the municipal court not later than either on the date shown on the citation or within twenty days of the issuance of the citation, for which the date shall not be less than three days nor more than five days from the date the citation was issued. The alleged violator shall be served a copy of the citation in person or by certified mail return receipt. Service of the citation shall be complete upon delivery of the citation to the alleged violator, to an agent or employee of a violator, or to a person over eighteen (18) years of age who is a member of the violator's immediate family or is a resident of the violator's residence. The alleged violator shall appear in municipal court within twenty days to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty for the violation of the plan. If the alleged violator fails to appear in municipal court, a warrant for his/her arrest may be issued. A summons to appear may be issued in lieu of an arrest warrant. ~~These cases shall be expedited and given preferential setting in municipal court before all other cases.~~

Section 3. Amendment to Addendum “A,” City of Murphy Drought Contingency and Water Response Plan

That Stage 3 and Stage 4 of Section 3.4 “Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Response Stages and Measures” of Addendum “A” adopted in Section 82-371 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Murphy, Texas, is hereby amended, which shall now read as follows:

Stage 3

Initiation and Termination of Conditions for Stage 3

- The NTMWD has initiated Stage 3, which may be initiated due to one or more of the following:
 - The NTMWD Executive Director, with the concurrence of the NTMWD Board of Directors, finds that conditions warrant the declaration of Stage 3.
 - Water demand is projected to approach or exceed the limit of the permitted supply.
 - The storage in Lavon Lake is less than 45 percent of the total conservation pool capacity.
 - NTMWD’s storage in Jim Chapman Lake is less than 45 percent of NTMWD’s total conservation pool capacity.
 - The Sabine River Authority has indicated that its Upper Basin water supplies used by NTMWD (Lake Tawakoni and/or Lake Fork) are in a Moderate drought. (Measures required by SRA under a Moderate drought designation are similar to those under NTMWD’s Stage 3.)
 - The supply from Lake Texoma, the East Fork Raw Water Supply Project, or some other NTMWD source has become limited in availability.
 - NTMWD water demand exceeds 98 percent of the amount that can be delivered to customers for three consecutive days.
 - NTMWD water demand for all or part of the delivery system exceeds delivery because delivery capacity is inadequate.
 - NTMWD’s supply source becomes contaminated.
 - NTMWD’s water supply system is unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components.
- City’s water demand exceeds 98 percent of the amount that can be delivered to customers for three consecutive days.
- City’s water demand for all or part of the delivery system exceeds delivery capacity because delivery capacity is inadequate.
- Supply source becomes contaminated.
- City’s water supply system is unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components.
- City’s individual plan may be implemented if other criteria dictate.

Stage 3 may terminate when NTMWD terminates its Stage 3 condition or when the circumstances that caused the initiation of Stage 3 no longer prevail.

Goals for Use Reduction and Actions Available under Stage 3

The goal for water use reduction under Stage 3 is a reduction of ten percent in the amount of water obtained from NTMWD. If circumstances warrant or if required by NTMWD, the City Manager, or official designee can set a goal for a greater water use reduction.

The City Manager or official designee must implement any action(s) required by NTMWD. In addition, the City Manager, or official designee may order the implementation of any of the

actions listed below, as deemed necessary. Measures described as “requires notification to TCEQ” impose mandatory requirements on customers. The City must notify TCEQ and NTMWD within five business days if these measures are implemented:

- Continue or initiate any actions available under Stages 1 and 2.
- Implement viable alternative water supply strategies.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Initiate mandatory water use restrictions as follows:
 - Prohibit hosing of paved areas, buildings, or windows. (Pressure washing of impervious surfaces is allowed.)
 - Prohibit operation of all ornamental fountains or other amenity impoundments to the extent they use treated water.
 - Prohibit washing or rinsing of vehicle by hose except with a hose end cutoff nozzle.
 - Prohibit using water in such a manner as to allow runoff or other waste.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Limit landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems at each service address to once every seven days. Exceptions are as follows:
 - Foundations, new landscaping, new plantings (first year) of shrubs, [areas within a reasonable proximity around swimming pools](#), and trees may be watered for up to 2 hours on any day by a hand-held hose, a soaker hose, or a dedicated zone using a drip irrigation system.
 - Golf courses may water greens and tee boxes without restrictions.
 - Public athletic fields used for competition may be watered twice per week.
 - Locations using other sources of water supply for irrigation may irrigate without restrictions.
 - Registered and properly functioning ET/Smart irrigation systems and drip irrigation systems may irrigate without restrictions.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Limit landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems between November 1 and March 31 to once every two weeks. An exception is allowed for landscape associated with new construction that may be watered as necessary for 30 days from the date of the certificate of occupancy, temporary certificate of occupancy, or certificate of completion.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Prohibit hydroseeding, hydromulching, and sprigging.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Existing swimming pools may not be drained and refilled (except to replace normal water loss).
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Initiate a rate surcharge as requested by NTMWD.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Initiate a rate surcharge for all water use over a certain level.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Prohibit watering of golf courses using treated water, except as needed to keep greens and tee boxes alive.

Stage 4

Initiation and Termination Conditions for Stage 4

- The NTMWD has initiated Stage 4, which may be initiated due to one or more of the following:
 - The NTMWD Executive Director, with the concurrence of the NTMWD Board of Directors, finds that the conditions warrant the declaration of Stage 4.
 - Water demand is projected to approach or exceed the limit of the permitted supply.
 - The storage in Lavon Lake is less than 35 percent of the total conservation pool capacity.

- NTMWD’s storage in Jim Chapman Lake is less than 35 percent of NTMWD’s total conservation pool capacity.
 - The Sabine River Authority has indicated that its Upper Basin water supplies used by NTMWD (Lake Tawakoni and/or Lake Fork) are in a severe drought or emergency.
 - The supply from Lake Texhoma, the East Fork Raw Water Supply Project, or some other NTMWD source has become severely limited in availability.
 - NTMWD water demand exceeds the amount that can be delivered to customers.
 - NTMWD water demand for all or part of the delivery system seriously exceeds delivery capacity because the delivery capacity is inadequate.
 - NTMWD’s supply source becomes contaminated.
 - NTMWD’s water supply is unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components.
- City’s water demand exceeds the amount that can be delivered to customers.
 - City’s water demand for all or part of the delivery system seriously exceeds delivery capacity because the delivery capacity is inadequate.
 - Supply source becomes contaminated.
 - City’s water supply is unable to deliver water due to the failure or damage of major water system components.
 - City’s individual plan may be implemented if other criteria dictate.

Stage 4 may terminate when NTMWD terminates its Stage 4 condition or when the circumstances that caused the initiation of Stage 4 no longer prevail.

Goals for Use Reduction and Actions Available under Stage 4

The goal for water use reduction under Stage 4 is a reduction of whatever amount is necessary in the amount of water obtained from NTMWD. If circumstances warrant or if required by NTMWD, the City Manager, or official designee can set a goal for a greater water use reduction.

The City Manager or official designee must implement any action(s) required by NTMWD. In addition, the City Manager, or official designee may order the implementation of any of the actions listed below, as deemed necessary. Measures described as “requires notification to TCEQ” impose mandatory requirements on member cities and customers. The City must notify TCEQ and NTMWD within five business days if these measures are implemented.

- Continue or initiate any actions available under Stages 1, 2, and 3.
- Implement viable alternative water supply strategies.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Prohibit the irrigation of new landscaping using treated water.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Prohibit washing of vehicles except as necessary for health, sanitation, or safety reasons.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Prohibit commercial and residential landscape watering except that foundations, [areas within a reasonable proximity around swimming pools](#), and trees may be watered for 2 hours on any day with a hand-held hose, a soaker hose, or a dedicated zone using a drip irrigation system. ET/Smart controllers and drip irrigation systems are not exempt from this requirement.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Prohibit of golf course watering with treated water except for greens and tee boxes.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Prohibit the permitting of private pools. Pools already permitted may be completed and filled with water. Existing private and

public pools may add water to maintain pool levels but may not be drained and refilled.

- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Require all commercial water users to reduce water use by a percentage established by the City Manager, or official designee.
- **Requires Notification to TCEQ** – Initiate a rate surcharge for all water use over normal rates for all water use.

Section 4. Severability Clause.

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation of this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

Section 5. Cumulative/Repealer Clause.

This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of State or Federal law and other ordinances of the City of Murphy, Texas, whether codified or uncodified, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict..

Section 6. Savings Clause.

All rights and remedies of the City of Murphy, Texas, are expressly saved as to any and all violations of the provisions of this ordinance or any other ordinance which have accrued at the time of the effective date of this ordinance; and, as to such accrued violations and all pending litigation, both civil and criminal, whether pending in court or not, under such ordinances, same shall not be affected by this ordinance but may be prosecuted until final disposition by the courts.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and publication as required by law.

DULY PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Murphy, Texas, on this the 18th day of March, 2014.

Eric Barna, Mayor
City of Murphy

ATTEST:

Kim McCranie, Acting City Secretary
City of Murphy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Wm. Andrew Messer, City Attorney

NORTH TEXAS

Another year drier



G.J. McCarthy/Staff Photographer

Lavon Lake, the main reservoir for the North Texas Municipal Water District, sits at less than half of its design capacity and 10 percent lower than it was at the start of 2013. Other area reservoirs are in a similar predicament, thanks to yet another dry year.

Paltry rains leave already depleted reservoirs lower still to start 2014

By MICHAEL E. YOUNG
Staff Writer
myoung@dallasnews.com

WYLIE — The pipelines leap from the ground like living things, brand-new conduits for millions of gallons of water that will help sustain a fast-growing swath of North Texas even during prolonged drought.

A glance at Lavon Lake, just beyond this latest addition to the North Texas Municipal Water District's treatment plant, shows just how critical an ample and diverse supply can be.

Just up the road at a park, it takes a nice stroll down the boat ramp to reach the water. An adjacent floating dock sits high and dry, and a retaining wall protecting a camping area from the lake hasn't been wet in a couple of years.

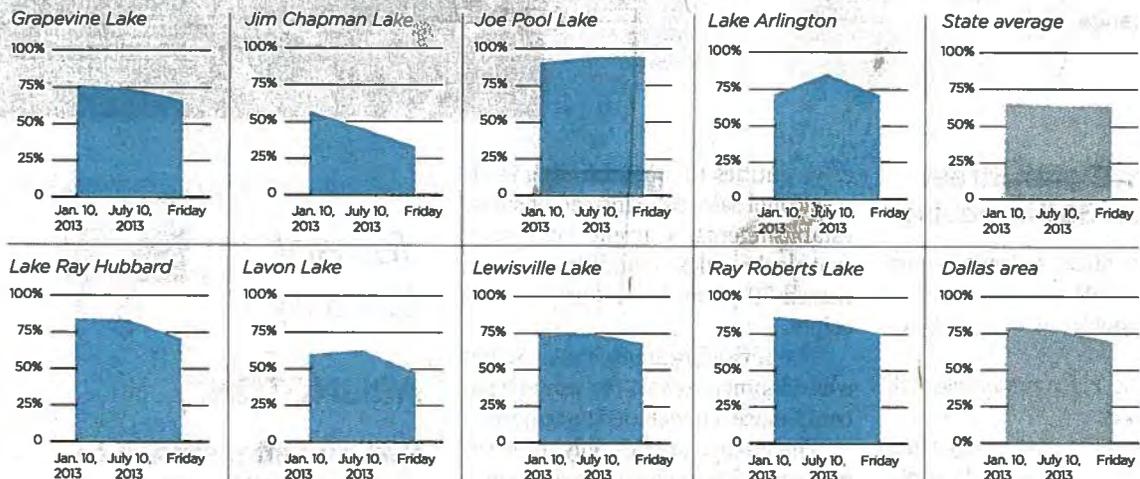
And Lavon isn't the only reservoir in this predicament.

After another drier-than-normal year in 2013, the latest in a string that has left the Dallas area more than 30 inches shy of normal precipitation over the last six years,

Water woes

Reservoirs serving the Dallas area are 10 percent lower than a year ago, and some are in much worse condition.

Percentage of capacity



SOURCE: Water Data for Texas

Staff Graphic

area reservoirs are about 10 percent below their level of a year ago, which was already well below capacity. Some are in even worse shape.

Lake Ray Hubbard and Ray Roberts Lake are both 10 percent lower than they were a year ago.

Grapevine Lake is down 5 percent and Lewisville Lake 4 percent. All are at or below 75 percent of normal capacity.

Lavon, the North Texas Municipal Water District's main reservoir, sits at less than half of its design ca-

capacity, 10 percent lower than it was at the start of 2013 and more than 18 percent lower than in July. Another district lake, Jim Chapman in East Texas, is roughly a third full, more

Lakes' levels 10% lower than a year ago

Continued from Page 1B

than 20 percent lower than a year ago.

The water district's new pipeline connecting its treatment plant with Lake Texoma is part of a \$300 million project that will replenish 28 percent of the water district's total supply, district spokeswoman Denise Hickey said. That should reduce the amount of water pumped from Chapman and Lavon. But it doesn't change the fact that in North Texas, it simply hasn't rained enough to keep reservoirs full.

"It seems like the reservoir levels have been quietly going down over the last year or two up there," said Robert Mace, deputy executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board and group director for water science and conservation. "You've been getting some rain, which keeps things green and gives the impression things aren't so bad — at least if you're not looking at the lakes every day.

"So far, this winter hasn't been good," he said. "That's when we usually see rises in the reservoir levels, so it's troubling to see we aren't getting that."

Some help

The rain that has fallen across eastern and Central Texas has eased drought conditions considerably. More than 28 percent of the state is drought-free, and less than 1 percent is in exceptional drought, the most severe category in the U.S. Drought Monitor. A year ago, more than 11 percent was in exceptional drought, and less than 5 percent was drought-free.

The turnaround has ranchers thinking of expanding their herds after a couple of years of selling off cattle, and it is welcome news for farmers in north-central Texas who have planted winter wheat.

"Fall is typically one of the wetter times of the year, and anytime you can get rain like we've had, it improves conditions in the ground, especially for farmers and ranchers," said John Nielsen-Gammon, a professor of meteorology at Texas A&M and the state climatologist.

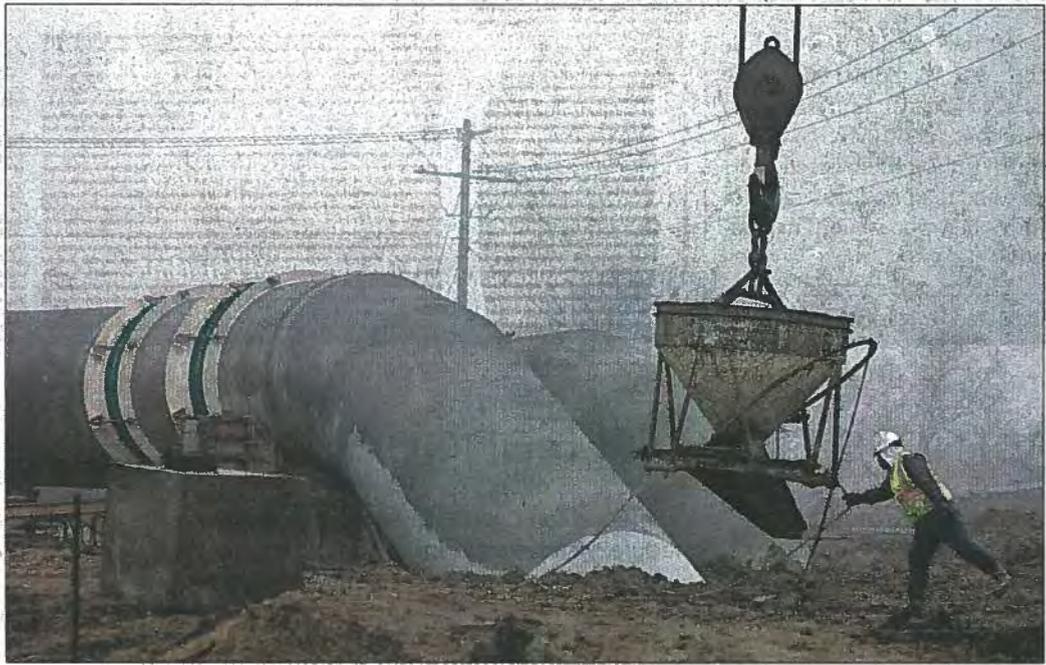
"But we've sort of missed out on major rainfall events that could produce lots of runoff and improve reservoir conditions," he said. "Normal rainfall doesn't seem to do it."

When it comes to replenishing the water supply, not all rain storms are equal.

"If it's spread out in these mellow rainfalls, it easily evaporates" when drier weather returns, Mace said. "You don't get the runoff. You need something that saturates the soil and then another big rain following that."

Hopeful signs

Without much help expected in the short term, Nielsen-Gammon and Mace look to the



G.J. McCarthy/Staff Photographer

A worker guides equipment into place at the construction site for pipes that will carry water from Lake Texoma to a treatment plant near Lavon Lake.

summer and beyond for hopeful signs. They see something positive in the long-range forecasting models, the possibility of an El Niño developing in the central Pacific Ocean later this summer — which typically brings wetter winter weather to Texas.

But in a state that added more than 4.2 million people between 2000 and 2010, and an estimated 1.3 million between the 2010 census and July 1, 2013, hoping for rain won't be enough, especially in western portions of the state where normal isn't very much.

"When you're in a water-supply deficit, certainly normal [rainfall] is better than less-than-normal, but we want to see higher-than-normal," Mace said. "The eastern half of the state looks pretty good, but the western half is either in continuing or worsening drought. And in some parts, that drought goes back quite a ways, even before 2011."

So he expects cities and wa-

ter districts to continue looking at new sources for water.

"The good news is there is water planning going on in the state," Mace said. "It's up to the water suppliers, but there is a look into the future, and the regional planning groups think they've identified ways. If the state grows 84 percent in the next 50 years, there are strategies to get water.

"We just need to get together and pay for it and implement it."

Some of the work has already started.

'Toilet to tap'

In Big Spring, in an area of west-central Texas where the reservoirs are at only about 14 percent of capacity, the city built a new plant that cleans sewer effluent so effectively that the treated water goes right back into the city's water system — from "toilet to tap," some say.

Wichita Falls, where the reservoirs are only about a quarter

full, is building something similar, Mace said.

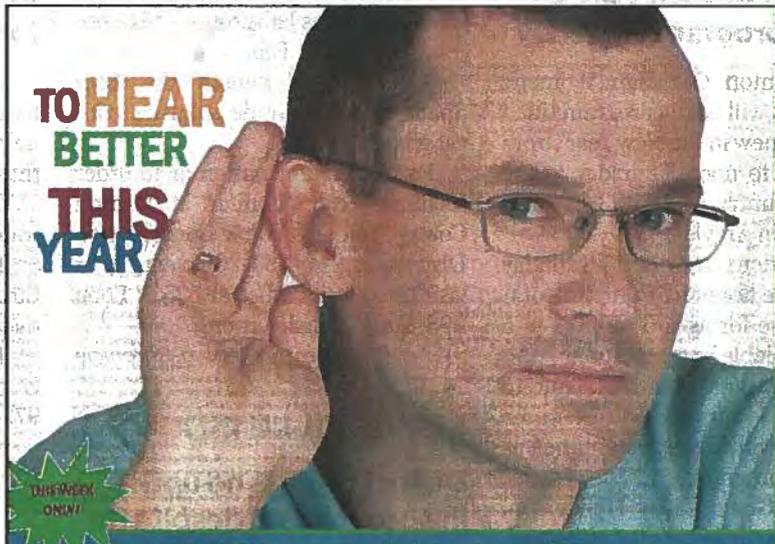
Several cities — most notably El Paso, Brownsville and San Antonio — are at various stages in tapping the state's large supply of brackish groundwater — saltier than fresh drinking water but perfectly acceptable with a bit of cleaning.

"There's quite a bit of groundwater desalination in El Paso, and San Antonio is building a plant," he said.

Other water districts, including the North Texas Municipal Water District, have created manmade wetlands to clean water for reuse.

But the reality, Mace said, is that the state needs more reservoirs, and northeast Texas is the likely place for them.

"You can't go west — the reservoirs out there aren't doing great," he said. "So you need to have conservation, recovery in conjunction with surface water resources, and then new major reservoirs in the wetter east."



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3205 Medpark, Dr., Ste. 101
Denton, TX 76208

City Council
March 18, 2014

Issue

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.

Background/History

Plano Sports Authority has approached the City about operating the concession stand at Central Park. This idea was originally brought up during the discussion of PSA Murphy, but was put on the back burner until the completion of Central Park. PSA operates similar concession stands in Plano and is in discussion with McKinney as well. PSA would assume all aspects of operations, provide all of the food and equipment (Murphy may have some minor things) and would operate the facility when events are occurring at the Park. I believe that this could be a win-win for both entities.

Action Requested

Consider a motion authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Plano Sports Authority, Inc. for the operation of the concession stand at Central Park.

City Council Meeting March 17, 2014

Issue

Discussion on the proposals regarding the Community Survey.

Background/History

During the November 15-16, 2013 Council Work Session, Council directed Staff to bring forth options for a Citizen Survey for the Council to discuss.

At the January 7, 2014 City Council meeting, Council gave direction to the City Manager reach out to various companies to determine what their suggestions would be for survey methods for the City.

The last Citizen Survey was conducted in 2007 by the Survey Research Center at the University of North Texas.

Considerations

Staff sent out a request for letters of interest to six firms and organizations; including NRC, Wilson Perkins Allen Research, UNT Office of Research, UTD, ETC Institute, and Decision Analyst.

Staff communicated to these firms that the City of Murphy is looking for the right firm to conduct a citizen survey to measure residents' satisfaction levels with city services and to gather opinions on specific policy questions and issues facing the City of Murphy. We want to know what residents are thinking about everything from quality of life and neighborhood safety to the city website and communication outreach.

We also communicated that this is an important and forefront project for the Murphy City Council and we are looking for options in not only creating a survey unique for Murphy but a variety of information gathering methods (email, phone, mail, online, etc...). If their firm was interested, to please send a letter of interest summarizing how their firm would be a fit for Murphy (including general methodology and timeframes).

Financial Considerations

Council budgeted \$50,000 to conduct a citizen survey and Comprehensive Plan update in FY 2014. Estimates of actual cost of the survey will be available after Staff/Council meets with consultants and we establish what type of survey, including the report of the survey.

Action Requested

Staff is requesting that two members of Council, the City Manager and staff review the letters of intent received by four firms and interview two.