

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 6, 2014 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barna called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barna gave the invocation and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

City Secretary, Kristi Gilbert, certified a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

Mayor Eric Barna
Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ben St. Clair
Councilmember Scott Bradley
Councilmember Betty Nichols Spraggins
Councilmember Bernard Grant
Councilmember Rob Thomas

Councilmembers absent: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Greg Matocha, 151 Moonlight Drive – Mr. Matocha thanked the Council on behalf of his neighborhood for their efforts in addressing the traffic on Moonlight Drive.

Keith Patton, 451 Poindexter – Mr. Patton addressed the Council regarding the traffic at Betsy Lane and North Murphy Road. Mr. Patton also expressed concerns regarding parking on Tom Clevenger to access Murphy Central Park.

5. PRESENTATION ITEMS –

A. Mayor Barna presented a proclamation declaring May 4th-10th as Public Service Recognition Week in the City of Murphy, Texas to city staff. Lieutenant Adana Barber was presented with a 10 year service award.

B. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem St. Clair presented a proclamation declaring May 11th-17th as National Police Week and May 15th as National Police Memorial Day in the City of Murphy, Texas to Police Chief GM Cox and Lieutenant Adana Barber.

C. Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui presented a proclamation declaring May 18th-24th as Emergency Medical Services Week in the City of Murphy, Texas to Fire Chief Mark Lee.

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.

A. Consider and/or act upon meeting minutes:

1. April 15, 2014 regular meeting minutes; and,

2. April 22, 2014 special meeting minutes.

- B. Consider and take action, if any, on the approval of an resolution denying the rate increase requested by Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division under the company's 2014 annual rate review mechanism filing in all cities exercising original jurisdiction; requiring the company to reimburse cities' reasonable ratemaking expensed pertaining to review of the RRM; authorizing the city's participation with Atmos Cities Steering Committee in any appeal filed at the Railroad Commission of Texas by the company; requiring the company to reimburse cities' reasonable ratemaking expenses in any such appeal to the Railroad Commission; determining that this resolution was passed in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act; adopting a savings clause; and requiring delivery of this resolution to the company and the steering committee's legal counsel. (*Resolution 14-R-792*)

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

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui moved to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Councilmember Grant seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

7. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

Move to Item 7.F.

Councilmember Grant moved to consider Item 7.F. prior to consideration of Item 7.A. Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

- F. Consider and/or act on proposed guidelines and application for a MCDC Community Enhancement Grant Program.

MCDC Board President Jennifer Berthiaume presented the Council the MCDC's proposed guideline for a community grant program. President Berthiaume stated that the MCDC had awarded small amounts of money over the last year for small projects that beautify the City.

Council inquired as to funding guidelines, the budgeting process, types of projects and the how the previously discussed 501(c)3 program would integrate into the grant program.

Council stated that they though the grant project was a fantastic idea and a great way to get more people involved in the community.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.F.):

APPROVED

Councilmember Grant moved to approve program guidelines and application for the MCDC Community Grant Program. Councilmember Bradley seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Return to Item 7.A.

- A. Consider and/or act on the City of Murphy Water Conservation and Drought Management Ordinance (Ordinance 11-10-897).

City Manager James Fisher stated that the City was still on water restrictions and North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) is still set at Stage 3 which allows watering once every two weeks.

Councilmember Bradley stated there are cities within the NTMWD that are on a weekly watering schedule and inquired as to whether the City should allow weekly watering.

Mr. Fisher stated there was not an easy answer as water needs to be conserved.

Mayor Barna indicated he did not have a problem with keeping the watering schedule at twice per month for the month of May.

Councilmember Thomas inquired as to how other NTMWD member cities were allowing more frequent watering. Mr. Fisher stated that he has not seen anything from NTMWD that indicates how they handle cities that do not follow NTMWD recommendations.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.A.):

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui moved to continue with the current drought management plan. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem St. Clair seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

- B. Consider and/or act on the study request by the City of Murphy to the North Texas Municipal Water District to address the future wastewater needs for the Cities of Murphy and Wylie and authorize the City Manager to participate in the study and proceed with the request.

Mr. Fisher stated the wastewater plant was nearing 70% capacity and the state requires a study on future needs once the 70% mark is met.

Councilmember Grant inquired as to where the money to fund the study would come from. Mr. Fisher and Finance Director Linda Truitt explained that the study was a cost share with the City of Wylie through the Muddy Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant operating budget, ultimately coming from the city's utility fund budget. Mr. Fisher stated the total study amount is \$141,483 to be shared with the City of Wylie.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.B.):

APPROVED

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem St. Clair moved to authorize the City Manager to proceed with the request and to participate in the study to address the future wastewater needs for the Cities of Murphy and Wylie. Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

- C. Consider and/or act upon authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement for Video Streaming Services with Swagit Productions, LLC, to provide video recordings and streaming of City Council Meetings.

Mr. Fisher stated that this was a project in the works for a while and he had recently been approached by the Murphy Chamber of Commerce as they had plans to begin video recording the Council meetings on their own.

IT Manager Wendle Medford stated that he had been researching video streaming of Council meetings for the past three years and is confident that Swagit Productions would provide the best product.

Mr. Medford and City Secretary Kristi Gilbert answered questions regarding storage of data, records management of audio recordings and video recordings and search functions.

Mayor Barna stated that he was for the video streaming; however, he would like to consider it during the FY 15 budget discussions. Councilmember Bradley echoed the Mayor's concerns and stated that the robust technology should be considered within the context of the budget.

Alex Acuna, 222 Amanda Court – Mr. Acuna stated that the Chamber of Commerce has already engaged a company to perform the video streaming of Council meetings as part of a larger project. Mr. Acuna stated that the Council videos will be more entertaining than what the Council would use.

Councilmember Grant stated that he had been asking for this particular item for three years and stated that waiting additional three months would not hurt. Councilmembers Thomas and Nichols-Spraggins agreed to wait until budget

COUNCIL ACTION (7.C.):

NO ACTION

No action was taken on Item 7.C.

- D. Consider and/or act upon approval of an ordinance amending the FY 2013-2014 revenue, expenditure budgets and fund balances for the General Fund, Utility Fund, Murphy Municipal Development District and the Debt Service Fund.

Ms. Truitt stated the general fund revenues would increase by \$150,000 reflecting the tax notes. Ms. Truitt stated the expenses in the amount of \$661,000 were as a result of the Grant Road project and the animal shelter.

Ms. Truitt stated the Utility Fund was being increased by \$30,000 for the utility rate study.

Ms. Truitt stated the Municipal Development District budget was being amended to reflect \$850,000 revenue in tax notes and the expenditures would be increased to reflect several miscellaneous items.

Ms. Truitt stated that the Debt Service fund was also being amended as a result in an amendment to the general fund budget.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.D.):

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui moved to approve an ordinance amending the FY 2013-2014 revenue, expenditure budgets and fund balance for the General Fund, Utility Fund, Murphy Municipal Development District and the Debt Service Fund. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem St. Clair seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0. (*Ordinance 14-05-976*)

- E. Discuss, consider and/or act upon the Utility Rate Study as presented by NewGen Strategies & Solutions.

Chris Ekrut with NewGen Strategies & Solutions, discussed with Council prior policy directives, projected financial performance and initial rate adjustment recommendations. Mr. Ekrut explained that the NTMWD fees have been separated to clarify the cost of water from NTMWD.

Mr. Ekrut stated his recommendation would be to reduce the base water meter charge from \$25.00 to \$20.00 and suggested consistent rate block differences. Mr. Ekrut recommended not changing the rate blocks at this time.

Mr. Ekrut stated his recommendation with regard to wastewater rates is to charge all customers the same and reduce the base charge from \$20.00 to \$18.00. Mr. Ekrut recommended maintain the winter average billing.

Mr. Ekrut stated staff must monitor rates on a monthly basis and immediate action should be contemplated if there are variances not foreseen in the study.

Councilmember Bradley recommended a special work session solely to discuss the rate study, Councilmember Grant agreed. Members of the Council discussed reviewing projected fees for FY15 for surrounding cities and reviewing the rate model used to generate the projected bills.

Keith Patton, 451 Poindexter – Mr. Poindexter suggested that the difference between summer and winter months with regard to larger lot sizes be evaluated.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.E.):

NO ACTION

No action was taken on Item 7.E.

8. CITY MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS

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

North Murphy Road Construction Update

CLC Meeting on May 15th

Grant Street project should be complete by the end of next week

City and Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Flag Day Breakfast on June 14th

Update on Personnel

Murphy Middle School celebration on Friday, May 9th

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council convened into Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:

- A. § 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 Regular Session at 8:38 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code, to take any action necessary regarding:

- A. § 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.
- B. Take Action on any Executive Session Item.
No action was taken as a result of Executive Session items.

11. ADJOURNMENT

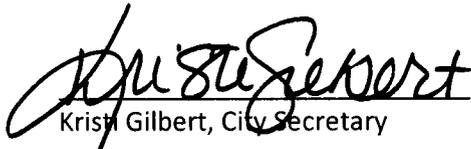
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Eric Barna, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kristi Gilbert, City Secretary

