

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 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 – None

5. PRESENTATION ITEMS –

A. Presentation on the 2014 Annual Event Sponsorship Packet.

Recreation Manager Caitlyn Meehan presented the Council with the proposed annual event sponsorship packet.

B. Presentation of financial report as of January 31, 2014.

Finance Director Linda Truitt presented the financial report as of January 31, 2014. Ms. Truitt stated that the greatest amount of property tax payments were received in December and January. As a result, the City has collected approximately 60% of the total revenues for the fiscal year.

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 minutes

1. January 30, 2014 special meeting minutes; and,
2. February 4, 2014 regular meeting minutes.

COUNCIL ACTION (6A):

APPROVED

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

7. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- A. Hold a Public Hearing and consider and/or act on a proposed amendment to the City of Murphy Code of Ordinances, Chapter 86 - Zoning, Section 86.662, Use Chart, to allow for Martial Arts School in 'O' Office District.

City Manager James Fisher presented Council with the proposed change to the zoning ordinance.

Mayor Barna opened the hearing at 6:16 p.m.

No one signed in to speak in favor of or in opposition to the proposed change.

Mayor Barna closed the hearing to public comment at 6:16 p.m.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.A.):

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui moved to approve an ordinance amending the City of Murphy Code of Ordinances, Chapter 86-Zoning, Section 86.662, Use Chart to allow for martial arts schools in "O" Office District. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem St. Clair seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0. (*Ordinance 14-02-971*)

- B. Hold a Public Hearing and consider and/or act on the zoning category change of approximately 5 acres (Track 35, 1.598 acres of Abstract A0859 and Track 36, 3.216 acres of Abstract A0859): FM 544 between Dublin Road and Heritage Parkway – from Single-Family Residential SF-15 to Planned Development 09-02-785.

Mr. Fisher stated that this item was part of a clean-up that was undertaken in 2012, however, the zoning map was not updated to reflect the change.

Mayor Barna opened the hearing at 6:16 p.m.

No one signed in to speak in favor of or in opposition to the proposed change.

Mayor Barna closed the hearing to public comment at 6:16 p.m.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.B.):

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui moved to approve the proposed zoning category change on the City's Official Zoning Map from SF-15 to Planned Development 09-02-785. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem St. Clair seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0. (*Ordinance 14-02-972*)

- C. Consider and/or act on approval of the low bid award for the seasonal Median Mowing/Beautification Contract to Carruthers Landscaping for \$86,152 and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

Parks Superintendent Matt Foster responded to Council questions with regard to weed control, median beautification and past mowing services.

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui expressed an interest in utilizing a performance based contract for services.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.C.):

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui moved to award the seasonal Mowing/Beautification Contract to Carruthers Landscaping in the amount of \$86,152. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem St. Clair seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0. (CLA 201402001)

D. Discussion on the Safe Routes to School proposed sidewalk in the Rolling Ridge Subdivision.

Mr. Fisher stated that the City had submitted plans to TxDOT regarding North Murphy Road. Mr. Fisher stated that the sidewalks in the Rolling Ridge Subdivision were the next step in moving forward with the project. Mr. Fisher stated that staff had met with the residents of the subdivision to seek their input and one option was to run the sidewalk from Featherwood Drive to Oriole Court with a crosswalk. Mr. Fisher stated that staff was looking at various options and working with TxDOT on how the funds can be spent.

Robert Mims, 1302 Featherwood Drive – Mr. Mims stated that he is proposing two speed tables for Rolling Ridge to cut down on the speeding. Mr. Mims stated that having sidewalks on either side of the road would increase the number of children crossing the street unsafely.

Mayor Barna commented that Hunt Elementary was not originally planned in the Rolling Ridge Subdivision.

Council held discussion with regard to homeowner input, easements and the Safe Routes to School program.

Rex Ramos, 1313 Mayfield Drive – Mr. Ramos stated that he did not expect to have the HOA serve as a proxy to the Council. Mr. Ramos stated the problem with not having a sidewalk on the north side of Rolling Ridge Drive. Mr. Ramos stated that there was money provided by the federal government to allow the city to address the problem.

Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui stated that Council should look at all options available and assess the impacts, including replacing trees if any trees have to be removed. Councilmember Bradley inquired as to if the design was included in the Freese and Nichols contract. Mr. Fisher responded that the design was included in the contract.

Councilmember Bradley suggested a meeting with the residents with available design options.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.D.):

NONACTION ITEM

No action was taken on this item.

E. Discuss, consider and/or act on awarding a contract for a Utility Rate Study of water and sewer rates and authorizing the City Manager to execute contract documents.

Mr. Fisher presented the Council with two proposals for a utility rate study.

Jennifer Berthiaume, 416 Woodcrest – Ms. Berthiaume stated she was a GIS analyst that works for an environmental engineering firm. Ms. Berthiaume stated that she was curious why the previous study firm was not invited back to provide a proposal. Ms. Berthiaume inquired as to where the city would be if all of the suggestions were implemented from the 2009 study.

Councilmember Bradley stated that the city did implement the design from 2009 and realized that the study suggestions were not meeting the projected rates.

Councilmember Grant thanked the companies for their input and stated that he was going to vote for NewGen Strategies and Solutions.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.E.):

APPROVED

Councilmember Grant move to award the contract to complete a utility rate study of water and sewer rates to NewGen Strategies and Solutions and authorize the City Manager to execute contract documents. Councilmember Bradley seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0. (CLA 201402002)

- F. Consider and take action, if any, on the amenity for permanent closure of Grant Street in south Murphy.

Mr. Fisher stated that he met with residents and they preferred the use of boulders and low maintenance landscaping with stone bollards and medium sized trees.

Linda Martin, 142 Moonlight Drive – Ms. Martin thanked the Council for all of the work that had been done for the neighborhood.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.F.):

APPROVED

Move to direct City Staff to move forward with option 2, the tree and bollard option, and authorize the preparation of necessary construction documents. Councilmember Thomas seconded the motion. For: Barna, Siddiqui, St. Clair, Bradley, Grant and Thomas. Opposed: Nichols Spraggins. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

- G. Discussion on benchmark cities for compensation analysis and service delivery.

Mr. Fisher stated that staff was reviewing cities to use as benchmarks and determined that there should be two lists. Mr. Fisher stated that one list to be used in compensation analysis and one in service delivery.

Councilmember Grant stated that he felt there was a broader discussion to be held at a future meeting with regard to personnel. Councilmember Thomas stated that he disagreed with using two lists and would like to see a single list of cities of comparable size. Councilmember Grant stated that he would like to see a list of cities for 17,500 to 20,000 in population and focusing on metropolitan cities.

Mayor Barna indicated that he would like to see the percentage of employee cost in terms of the general fund. Mayor Barna stated he would like to see a large list and filter down.

8. CITY MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS

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

- North Murphy Road Construction Update
- Rainbow Trout Round-Up coming up this weekend
- Grass fire near Boggess Elementary that burned approximately five backyards
- Murphy Central Park Grand Opening – April 5th
- May Election – Deadline to file February 28th

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council convened into closed Executive Session at 7:35 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.
- B. §551.074 Deliberation regarding the appointment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of the City Secretary.

10. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

The City Council reconvened into open session at 8:01 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.
- B. §551.074 Deliberation regarding the appointment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of the City Secretary.
- C. 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 8:01 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Eric Barna, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kristi Gilbert, City Secretary